

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

“Holding Forth The Word of Life”

Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXX

St. Louis, MO • March 14, 2017

Issue No. 3

It's Time

To Make Your Reservations for the 2017 BMAA Meeting in Arlington, Texas

The 2017 session of the Baptist Missionary Association of America will meet May 1-3 at the Arlington Convention Center in Arlington, Texas.

The Committee on Arrangements has made its review and plans for the 2017 annual Association meeting. The facilities and hotels are looking forward to our meeting there. There is plenty of space for all of our meetings and lodging. We hope that you will make your reservations early. Most of the hotels can make your reservations either by phone or online, but you must identify that you are with the Baptist Missionary Association of America.

- **Sheraton, Arlington (Headquarters Hotel):**
\$135 per night (Single & Double) (800-325-3535)
- **Hilton, Arlington:** \$135 per night (King & Double)
(817-640-3322)
- **Crown Plaza:** \$109 per night (817-394-5200)

Bro. Pastor, we need your help. When the BMAA Committee on Arrangements contracts with a convention center to host our annual meeting, the rental fee is normally tied to the number of hotel rooms we expect our attendees to use during the meet-

ing. The rental fee in Arlington is contingent upon our use of rooms blocked at the designated hotels. The rental fee will increase by the daily cost of each room not used.

The Committee on Arrangements has negotiated terms in Arlington that will allow the conference center space to be greatly reduced if we use the total number of rooms blocked at the designated hotels/motels. Please help us fill these first to cap the cost of the rental space.

Our association has had to pay extra in the past years because many of the blocked hotel rooms were not used. Please help us avoid a situation like that this year.

We appreciate your help.

Jerome Cooper, Charles Attebery, Jackie Manasco,
BMAA Committee on Arrangements

68th Annual Meeting of the BMA of America

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 (Page 7). 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.

In His Service, *Paul White* BMAA President

Landmark Missionary Baptist Church
Invites you to join us in celebrating
55 years of ministry
of Pastor Wayne N. Gibson and his wife Ruth

Lunch provided. As a courtesy, please
RSVP to Sharon Page (314-520-6368)

If unable to attend, you can send a note or special memory
c/o Sharon Page
4633 Wyldwood Dr.
Barnhart, MO 63012

BMA of Missouri Mission
Symposium & Mid-Year Meeting
Mission Symposium - 6:00 p.m. - May 19th
Mid-Year Meeting - 9:00 a.m. - May 20th

Landmark Baptist Church
1215 Boyd Street
DeSoto, MO 63020

Symposium Offering Goal - \$5,000.
To be split between Camp Garwood and
The Grant Fund of the
Missouri Missionary Baptist Loan Association

Revival

Ohlman Baptist Church
Bunker, MO
April 19-20, 2017
7:00 P.M.
Evangelist: *Scotty Rayburn*
Wiggins, MS

Bethel Baptist Church Presents an Easter Walk:

An End to the Beginning

A live, outdoor, walking theatre production of the life & last steps of Jesus.
Includes live animals, Roman Soldiers & an ending that could change your life forever!

For more information, please call (636) 629-2978
OR visit www.BethelEasterWalk.com or
www.facebook.com/BethelEasterWalk

Where:
Bethel Baptist Church
569 Bethel Church Road
Lonedell, MO 63060

When:
Friday, April 7th - Sunday, April 9th
6:00 - 8:30 PM nightly
(45 min. guided tours every 10 - 15 min.)

Directions:
From I-44 take exit 239 to Hwy 30 E
(8 miles), turn left onto Bethel Church Road,
¼ mile to Bethel Baptist Church on left.

FREE Event for All Ages
Complimentary snacks & drinks
(Handicapped Carts Available)

Remember to Send In DEW Funds

It's past time to send in your 2nd Quarter DEW Funds and almost time for the 3rd Quarter! Please gather yours and send to me:

Cathy Beardsley • 36 west street • Sikeston MO 63801

Thank you who support in donations and prayers. Any questions?
Message me on Facebook or call or text me at 573-380-9502.



NEWS BRIEFS



Landmark, DeSoto's, Action team has been busy this month. We appreciate the things that they plan for anyone who wants to be involved. There was a chili dinner on the 4th, at which the community could come buy a dinner along with church members, too. We've been able to meet with and get reacquainted with some old friends. On the 25th those that attended enjoyed movie night with the showing of "Fireproof." Such a good movie especially for young married couples to see. They've also got a couple of things planned for March. By the way, one of our members is now putting our Sunday morning services live on Facebook. So if you want to watch it and see what's going on at Landmark, go to Landmark Missionary Baptist Church on facebook and like it. Also, it is in the plans to have a celebration for Bro. Wayne's 55th year in the ministry on April 8th, at the church. Look for a special announcement elsewhere (on page 1) in this edition of the paper. Glenda (Thornhill) Perry's husband, Jim passed away on the 21st. We certainly extend our most heartfelt sympathies to her and her family. Praise the Lord, our Bro. Jim was ready to meet his Lord and Savior and there is so much comfort in that. His funeral, with Bro. Wayne having the service, was on the 28th. Also, we sympathize with Don & Angie Winschell on the death of Don's nephew. Don is Bro. Wayne and Sis. Ruth's son-in-law. His nephew was killed in the storm that went through Perryville Tuesday night, the 28th, when the pickup he was riding in was blown off the road. I don't know his parents, but God does, and they definitely need our prayers. Until next month or the Lord's Return
Wayne Gibson, pastor • Sharon Page, reporter

Greetings once again from **Bethany, St. Louis**. It's been a busy month for us. We have started having a fellowship once a month with soup and salad along with Sis. Wilma's delicious chicken and dumplings. This was a fun time. Bro. Tom McCanless and his wife were with us as he is making our new sign. He preached for us and we enjoyed that. Sis. Erin Johnson was recently baptized. Bro. Dunn and Bro. Josh will be attending a soul winning conference and we are excited to see what God has in store for them. We sadly said good-bye to Bro. Harliss Cooper as God called him home. He was a godly man, father, loving husband and a good friend. We will miss him but he is enjoying all the treasures of heaven. Bro. Hoffmann and Bro. Dunn were privileged to bring the message of hope and comfort to the family. Thank you to all who helped serve the meal to the family. We ask for your continued prayers for Bethany as we serve God in our community.
Nic Dunn, Pastor • Kathy Chapman, Reporter

Stoney Point, Mineral Point, rejoices in another soul saved and then Nathan presented himself for baptism Sunday, March 5, 2017. Nathan was given the hand of Christian fellowship. That makes 3 in line waiting for baptism. We praise God for all his grace and goodness. We still have many members having medical testing done and thank you for all your prayers for our church.
Claude Evans, Pastor • Debrah Coleman, Reporter

Greetings from the members at **Lower Doe Run, Ellington**. We praise God for the sweet fellowship in our church family. Through the winter sicknesses our gathering together has been difficult. Yet God blesses. Especially pray for the Don Hoffmann family. Others that are having tests and doctor visits need our prayers. One dear sister has spent the month in Florida. She will be refreshed and back by the time this report is published. We missed her song leading, her bringing children to S.S. and in our Monthly WMA Bible Study and

the fellowship at Sis. Frieda's home. Two of our ladies and one from Charity, Bismarck, were able to go together to the State WMA at Kewanee. We experienced God's blessings throughout the day. We were blessed to hold services at the Riverways Manor in Van Buren with dear Sis. Irene once again. We appreciate our Sunday School materials, the teachers and their dedication to the study of God's Word. Our pastor has led through the Book of Romans for the past few weeks. We have learned so much.. We have been blessed to have several visitors recently and hope they come back. They encourage us as we hope we encourage them in their walk with the Lord.

Melvin Meade, Pastor
Carolyn Meade, Reporter

Greetings from **First Baptist Church, Potosi**. Once again we have had a very busy month of activities, group meetings, and great worship services. Now that UPWARD is over, we need to begin preparing for Bible School and church camps. Time has passed so quickly this year that June will be here before we are ready. Also, we need to remember to prepare our hearts for each service so that we are blessed by God's word. Members are signing up for Bible study groups; we want each group to be diverse in age, gender, etc. so that there will be input from all areas of thought. This is something new for us as a whole church so it is something like an experiment; hopefully, these prayer and study groups will build strength in the prayer and Bible study of our members. You do not have to be a member to attend. While it is new for the church as a whole, it is not a new concept in our church. For some time now we have had small group prayer and Bible study groups meeting every week. Celebrate Recovery is getting ready to finalize the first full year of work. It doesn't seem

like a year, but it has been a difficult, and joyful journey. I was not sure I could dedicate every Friday to teach in Celebration Place; however, I have done it and don't feel as though I have missed anything else. GMA has been having great attendance and they will have to prepare for district meetings held in other parts of the state. God is doing great things in our church and Satan is ever lurking to try to sneak in to destroy all the goodness. Thankfully, we have great prayer warriors to help keep him at bay. Please pray for us as we pray for you.

Jim Ainley, pastor • Deborah Rauhut, reporter

Greetings from **Bethlehem of Doniphan!** Well, as February is the shortest month of the year, this letter may be short also. We were able to attend the Youth in the Harvest which was very uplifting at Zalma M.B.C. It is such a fun time of fellowship with our Christian brothers and sisters. Once again I was unable to attend the third Sunday singing. I was told it was a wonderful singing. Praying I am able to attend the singing in MarchSo tired of being under the weather. For the month of February we were blessed with messages from the following preachers: Bro. Rob Duckett and Sis. Jo, Bro. Rocky Houston and Sis. Debbie and Bro. Don Adams.

For the month of March Bro. Rocky Houston and Sis. Debbie will be with us for the entire month. We ask that you keep both Bethlehem and Bro. Rocky in prayer as we are all praying about him becoming our Pastor, if it is the Lord's will. Keep the faith and until next month may the Lord bless and keep us all!

Yvonne Hill, Reporter

Church Bones

by Brother Ritechus N. Dignation

There is one subject I have always wanted to preach on: bones. I have heard a few scattered thoughts on church bones over the years, but now offer my wisdom on this matter.

There are lots of bones. There's chicken bones, ham bones, lazy bones, and bones of contention. Then there's neck bones, jaw bones, nose bones, tail bones, wish bones, funny bones and knuckle bones. And don't forget "dem dry bones" of Ezekiel. Just as every human body has a skeleton of bones inside, every church body has many different kinds of bones, with some more valuable than others. The following is a partial list of church bones, some of which are honorable, others not so honorable.

1. **Jaw Bones.** In every church, there always seem to be
• See **BONES** Page 4 •

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See the MMB online at bmamissouri.org

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FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS • February 2017

General Fund

Balance January 31, 2017		\$	137,613.92
February Receipts:	\$	<u>1,463.87</u>	\$ <u>1,463.87</u>
Total Available		\$	139,077.79
Disbursements:			
Assistant Director's Salary	\$	500.00	
Office Supplies	\$	<u>21.78</u>	
Total Disbursements	\$	<u>521.78</u>	\$ <u>(521.78)</u>
Balance February 28, 2017:		\$	138,556.01

From Our Renewal Retreat Coordinator

Dear Meramec and Missouri State Associations:

My name is Ben Kingston, and I have been associated with the BMA all of my 51 years first as a preacher's kid and then as a preacher and now as a pastor. I attended Central Baptist College and served my internship at Bethel, Lonedell in the summer of '87 which led to a full time position in January of '88 and I served as their youth and music director till Sept. '95 I then served two years at temple Jonesboro as their youth pastor till Nov. '97 and became pastor of Bethel, Lonedell on Dec. '97 till the present.

We are closed communion, we require all of our folks to submit to Scriptural Baptism if they have not experienced that already. We require a profession of faith and scriptural baptism and yes, in that order, to be considered for membership. We take a loving stand on the social ills of our day. So why? You might ask have I gone down this litany of facts about myself and Bethel.

Bethel nor I am an outsider I am one of you; we are kinsmen and like minded, so I humbly ask you to pray with me that these upcoming renewal retreats this weekend, the 10th - 11th and next weekend the 17th - 18th, be just that for our associations.

The only reason that this is happening is because both the Meramec and State associations in annual general session accepted my proposal to host these renewal retreats. So why am I "leading" them? One reason and one reason only; 19 years ago I felt led to orchestrate something like this but had no direction. Now I do! I do not believe that I am the key, I believe the Holy Spirit is and the humility of each pastor and myself as we come together to grapple with the current situation of our associations and do our best to corroboratively seek the Lords renewal of His churches and lead these associations to the Greatness that He has for them. So here is what I am asking each reader of this open letter to do.

Pray for your specific pastor and all those that come, to come with no expectations, just a willingness to seek His face which will lead to renewal and direction. Then for humility for our churches to follow their pastors.

were so different back in the 1970's. The Moore's, have been used of God, in His most miraculous way, to affect the spread of the Gospel in the Philippines and all of Southeast Asia as well. Over 50 churches started and everyone of them pastored by a graduate of the Bible College. To say the school is an asset is an understatement to say the least. While back in the US they will continue to serve the work here by helping to raise funds for the Bible College. Due to cuts backs the school will experience close to a \$40,000 deficit. We can't be deterred, we must make up the difference. Please consider helping us and even having Doyle and Linda in your church. They will be home in June and can be contacted at: mooredoyle46@gmail.com.

com or lindamoore48@yahoo.com. Also, missionaries Doug and Diane Lee will be in the US during the months of April and May to raise money too. Please contact them to visit in your church at 601-427-0128.

From Doug & Diane Lee in the Philippines...

We cannot imagine these students not having a place to continue their studies!

Through no fault of our BMA Missions Office, funds for Bible Institutions such as the BMA Bible College in the Philippines (BMABC) have been cut. Because of the deficit, drastic measures must be taken to keep the BMA Missions program operating. Those measures also apply to the BMA of the Philippines.

• See *MISSIONS* Page 4 •

From Our Assistant Director...

Plans are underway for our Annual Missions Symposium and Mid-Year Meeting for the BMA of Missouri.

These meetings will take place May 19-20, 2017 at Landmark Baptist Church in DeSoto, Missouri.

Pastor Wayne Gibson and I have invited Bro. Jeff Swart to be with us again this year. Bro. Swart is a student of prophecy and will be speaking three different times on "End Time Events." Those who attended these meetings last year learned a lot from Bro. Jeff and we look forward to learning much more this year that will equip us to live in these days in a way that will bring glory to God.

The Symposium will begin at 6:00 p.m., Friday, May 19th. There will be two sessions on Friday evening and a third session will take place at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, May 20 before our Mid-year business meeting starts.

Please do your best to attend all three sessions.

Our Special Missions Committee has set a goal of \$ 5,000 for our symposium offering and this money will be equally divided between Camp Garwood General Fund and the Church Grant Fund of the BMA of Missouri Loan Association which provides grants to our churches as provided in the Loan Association By-laws #10 on page 18 of our 2015 Minutes.

Both of these are worthy of our support and it would be a blessing if we could double our goal and give \$ 5,000 to each!

If you have any questions please contact me.

Please pray for these meetings and attend both days and enjoy the fellowship of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

My wife and I have been attending Temple Baptist Church in Belgrade for a few weeks as we try to encourage them as they search for a pastor and try to help them as they wait upon the Lord.

We pray for them and ask you to pray for them and our other churches who are searching for someone to lead them in their ministries.

We attended the State WMA and Brotherhood Meeting at Kewanee and enjoyed the fellowship of several from around our state. The WMA has been a wonderful support of the Missouri Missionary Baptist paper and have chosen it as one of the recipients of their offerings during 2017-2018. Thank you, Ladies, for your support and encouragement.

I am praying we will see some positive results of renewal among our associated work as a result of the Renewal Retreats in the Meramec and State Associations this month. Pray for God to start a revival in our work for Him that will result in stronger churches, souls being saved and growth in all areas of His work. Pray for Bro. Ben Kingston as he leads in this effort. Pray for our staff workers in this effort.

From Stan & Donna Scroggins in the Philippines...

One of Donna's main ministry jobs is the 11th and 12th grade academy to be added to our program at the Bible College. The Philippines education program only went through the 10th grade. Now they are mandating 11th & 12th, but it will take years to fully implement. We see this as a great opportunity to reach students for Christ and recruit for the college. About two weeks ago we received word that the school was NOT approved by the Department of Education. So a huge disappointment. A friend of the school who works for the local Education office, sent our application directly to Manila, got it reexamined, andwait for it.....APPROVED!! And approved to begin in June 2017 instead of 2018. So this means a lot of work to get ready.

After 40 years of ministry in the Philippines. Doyle and Linda Moore will be coming home to the US. This is a huge change for them and let me say that their real home is here and they will miss it and be missed. Doyle and Linda Moore are the William Carey and Lottie Moon of the BMAA. We will never know all the struggles, trials, joys and triumphs they experienced. Things here

• **BONES From Page 2** •
 some Jaw Bones. They are always a jawin' about something. With a tongue that runs faster than the Mississippi River, these jaw bones slander, hurt, tear down and destroy just about everything the church tries to do for the Lord. Samson used the jawbone of an ass to slay the Philistines, and the devil sometimes uses the same to kill the character of good people, especially the character of Godly preachers.

2. Funny Bones. Then there are the Funny Bones. These bones are not a detriment as the Jaw Bones, but help to keep things together in the church. They are happy believers, full of the joy of the Lord. They spread joy and sunshine and make the bad bones bearable. These good folks always look on the "Sunny" side of life, refusing to be discouraged and encouraging those who are down, binding the wounded, and lifting up the fallen..

3, Tail Bones. The Tail Bones are next, sometimes known as the Lazy Bones, because they usually just sit on their tail and don't do nothin'. These bench warmers make great pew quarterbacks, always able to tell how things should be done, but with nary a bit of participation on their part. If left up to these goldbricks, the church would close its doors in a month from lack of workers, tithers, and participation.

4. Nose Bones. These bones are found in every church. They are snoopers who can't keep their long noses out of other people's business. They are the tale toters and busy bodies, volunteering their advice when not asked and always eager to hear and tell the latest bit of news, with no regard to truth. They traipse up and down the phone lines hot with their malicious tales and hurtful words and accusations.

5. Back Bones. Well, my Pappy taught me that it's always good to end on a positive note, if possible, so I have saved one of the good bones for last: the Back Bones, Just

68th Annual
BMA of America
National Meeting
May 1-3, 2017
Arlington Convention Center
Arlington, Texas Program

<p style="text-align: center;">Monday Morning, May 1</p> <p>8:30 Display/Exhibit Set-up 2:30 Registration Set-up: Enrollment and Finance Committee</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monday Evening, May 1</p> <p>7:00 General Session — 1 President's Message Paul White</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday Morning, May 2</p> <p>8:00 Brotherhood Meeting Room: M7 & M5 9:00 WMA Meeting Room: Grand Hall Salon A 9:30 Committee Meetings: DiscipleGuide Room: M1 LifeWord Room: M2 Missions Room: M4 Moral Action Room: M9 Seminary Room: M10 Nominating Committee Room: M11 10:00 Women's Conference Topic: "When Life Gives You Lemons... Grace Wins" 11:00 Breakout Sessions 1: Missions Spending in the Local Church Room: M1 2: Disciple-Making Churches Room: M9 3: Honoring God With Our Finances During Life & Beyond Room: M5 4: BMA Retirement at Ministers Resources Services Room: M7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday Afternoon, May 2</p> <p>2:00 Breakout Sessions 1: Missions Spending in the Local Church Room: M1 2: Disciple-Making Churches Room: M9 3: Understanding the Times Room: M3-4 4: So You Want to Go to School Room: M12-12</p> <p>3:00 General Session — 2 Reporting: BMA Foundation Master's Builders DiscipleGuide Brotherhood</p> <p>5:30 Seminary Dinner Room M5-8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday Evening, May 2</p> <p>7:00 General Session — 3 Congregational Singing Special Music Samantha Parrish Introduction of Speaker Terry Kimbrow Annual Message Donny Parrish Hand of Appreciation Richard Smith</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday Morning, May 3</p> <p>8:30 General Session — 4 Reporting: Seminary Lifeword Ministers Resource Services</p> <p>11:00 Breakout Sessions 1: Understanding the Times Room: M1-4 2: Defending the Faith with Ancient Documents Room: M9-12 3: How Individuals and Churches can Influence Their Legislators Room: M5 4: The Future of Latin Ministry in the United States Room: M7</p> <p>12:00 Missionary Wives Lunch and Session Lunch Room: M6 Meeting Room: M8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday Afternoon, May 3</p> <p>2:00 General Session — 5 Reporting : Coordinating Council WMA Moral Action</p> <p>3:00 Guest Speaker Jack Graham, Pastor Prestonwood Baptist Church, Dallas, TX</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday Evening, May 3</p> <p>7:00 General Session — 6 Missions Report Missions Commissioning Service</p>
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General Sessions	Grand hall Salon A
Registration	Outside of Grand Hall
Exhibits	Grand Hall Salon B

Enrollment Committee Schedule

Monday	2:00-4:00 p.m. 6:00-7:00 p.m. and 30 minutes after session
Tuesday	8:30-9:00 a.m., 2:00-3:00 p.m. 6:30-7:00 p.m. and 30 minutes after session
Wednesday	8:00-8:30 a.m.

as you can't stand up without the support of your backbone, so churches must have the backbones for strength to carry on the Lord's work. These Back Bones take a stand for God, show up faithfully, tithe, love, pray, forgive and win souls to Jesus. They go the extra mile, seldom complain (and repent when they do), sacrifice for the Lord's work and support their preacher. God bless these Back Bones! Now, which Bone are YOU?

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

• **MISSIONS From Page 3** •
 We have 46 first, second and third year students that want to continue their education and graduate from the Bible College. We also have

many prospective students in the Philippines and Asia that have expressed a desire to enroll.

While we are working to solve the future financial needs of the college, we are asking for immediate help to keep the school operating for the next two years. The cost of operating the BMABC is approximately \$7,000 per month.

Your prayers and financial help is needed to keep the doors of the school open so that our students' education will not be interrupted. This is a big challenge, but we know God will supply the needs for BMABC through His people. We are working on plans for the school to become financially independent.

We will be in the U.S. on furlough in April, May and part of June. We have dates available and would love to visit your church and share our ministry. In May, we will be at the National BMA meeting in Arlington, Texas. See you there! (doug@musicervicesinc.com)

LifeWord Trustees Nominate Executive Director

LifeWord's board of directors would like to announce Donny Parrish as the nominee for executive director of LifeWord. Dr. Steve Crawley announced his resignation on February 1 after serving six years as executive director.

Parrish has been serving BMA churches almost 40 years. His relationship with LifeWord began in 1990 when he was hired to create LifeWord's video ministry. Parrish also led the conference division of DiscipleGuide for over 25 years and the student missions division of BMA Missions for ten years, all the while continuing to provide creative content and serve as a radio personality for LifeWord.

In 2012 he returned to BMA America from Fellowship Church in Forney, Texas, as BMA Productions team leader. In September of 2016 he was reassigned to the LifeWord team full time to focus on broadcast outreach to the United States.

Donny and his wife Datha have been married for 38 years. They have two daughters: Brittany, who moved to heaven in 1992, and Samantha, who lives in Queens, New York.

His nomination will be presented at the BMA National Meeting May 1-3.



Donny Parrish

Student Ministers Benefit From Great Escape

By *Jeff Herring*, Student Pastor, Oak Park Baptist Church, Little Rock, AR

Who wouldn't love to escape the cold of winter and spend a few days in the sun while also gaining a renewed passion and purpose for ministry?

My wife and I have been attending the Great Escape conference since it began. It is something we look forward to every year. Many would say this is because the conference takes place on a cruise ship, but that is not the primary reason. From the beginning, this conference has been focused on providing an "escape" from the overall pressures and demands of ministry. There is no better place for this to happen than on a cruise ship in the middle of the ocean. My wife and I can truly "unplug" and spend time being renewed in our passion and purpose for ministry. What we look forward to the most every year is connecting with old and new friends that are in ministry and can relate to the challenges and struggles we all face in ministry. The time we are able to spend together during the conference simply encouraging and praying for one another is without a doubt the main reason we look forward to the Great Escape conference every year.

As I listen to the speaker each year, I am always challenged, and God seems to show me just what I need to hear and why he allowed me to attend the Great Escape. Over the years, the subject of the conference has varied from foundational ministry truths to keeping your marriage a priority in the midst of a busy ministry schedule. This year's conference emphasized very practical ways to incorporate family ministry into the culture of the church. Dr. Timothy Paul Jones shared the biblical foundation for the role of families and how the church must come alongside to equip and hold up the family unit as the primary discipler of children. I was challenged to be more intentional in equipping and challenging the parents of our church to take up their God-given role as disciple makers.

I would encourage any church leader to strongly

Faithful Soldier Called Home

Harliss Cooper, was born April 1, 1926 in Baldwin, Mississippi; and passed on to glory March 1, 2017 at Delmar Gardens On The Green in Chesterfield, Missouri at the age of 90.

Harliss was born into a family of 4 girls and 10 boys plus one sibling who died in infancy. He was the last of this family's children to pass away. His generation is still represented by two spouses that survive: Harliss' wife, Margaret Evelyn Cooper and the late R.C. Cooper's wife, Doris Cooper.

Harliss and his twin brother served our country in the U.S. Navy during WWII and were allowed to be assigned duty together and were together the whole time in the service.

Following his time in the



Harliss (Sharp) Cooper

Navy, Harliss returned to Mississippi but later moved to Missouri where he worked on and off for the Ford Motor Company and eventually took a steady job at Continental Can Company from which he retired.

In addition to his loving wife Evelyn and his sister-in-law, Doris, Harliss is survived by three sons: Danny (Nancy) Cooper, Terry (Judy

Cooper, and Michael (Kim) Cooper; by six grandchildren: Traci, Amy, Jason, Jennifer, Katelyn, and Madelyn; 10 great-grandchildren and many other relatives and friends.

Harliss was a faithful member of Bethany Baptist Church in St. Louis for 22 of his last years on earth and it was very evident that Harliss loved his wife and family as well as his church and His Savior, Jesus Christ. In 2007 the pastor asked the members of Bethany to write down some of their most precious memories and here is what Harliss wrote: "My most favorite memory came January 15, 1995 when I accepted Christ as my Savior. Another was January 29, 1995 when I was baptized." That is a vivid summary of Harliss Cooper, a man whom many refer to as one of their best friends.

A Letter to ALL BMAA Churches

To: Churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of America

Brethren,

We need your help. Our roster shows that we have 1,260 churches who are affiliated with the BMAA. However, the representations in our Annual Meetings reflect the participation of only about half of them.

We recognize that the Association is the servant of the churches. Each church is autonomous and participation is voluntary. However, there are many benefits offered to the member churches. Below is a list of some of those benefits.

1. Legal certification that the church is a registered member of a non-profit association, (The BMAA is a registered non-profit organization with the IRS.)

2. Certification to assist if the church chooses to incorporate for legal or tax purposes.

consider attending the Great Escape conference next year. The balance of "getting away" and solid biblical teaching will provide rest for those weary in ministry, renewal of purpose for those who are feeling inadequate, and relationships with others who can relate to the life of a ministry family. We are thankful for our church that not only allows us to attend but also provides the means to make it possible. Without a doubt, this is one of the best investments our church makes in our ministry, and I would encourage churches to consider not only allowing but also providing the means for their church leaders to attend. Either way, the Great Escape is a great conference for ministry leaders, and I can't wait for next year!

3. Gives the church a voice in the actions and decisions of the BMAA.

4. Encourages and strengthens the voice in their stand on moral, political and doctrinal issues.

5. Offers fellowship with other churches of, "Like Faith."

6. Opportunity for involvement in fulfilling the great commission on a world wide scale.

Please remit funds for meeting and minute expenses.

All expenses for facilities, equipment and supplies for the annual meeting plus travel expenses for several committees and the printing of the yearbooks are paid from this fund. The total cost is \$35,000-\$40,000 each year. It is imperative that we increase contributions to this fund. Thanks to your response last year, we made it. However, our balance is dangerously low. We still need extra help.

Brethren, you are our first line of communication with our churches. Your help will be deeply appreciated.

If you have suggestions for helping us communicate with the churches, we invite your input. Please know that we are praying for you, and stand ready to serve in any way possible.

Even when attendance is not possible, the letter of registration affirms their membership.

Please forward the registration letters to: James Ray Raines: PO Box 17872, North Little Rock, AR 72117. 501-231-4204

Sincerely,

James Ray Raines, Recording Secretary
Baptist Missionary Association of America

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

Serve
with your
whole
heart
as if serving the
Lord, not people.
Ephesians 6:7

Missouri GMA State Meeting
Saturday, March 25, 2017 • 10:00 a.m.

Kewanee Baptist Church
Kewanee, MO

House Party
Friday, March 24

Dwell in realm of service
Ephesians 6:7

Please come join us!!

From The National WMA

We are trying to create interest in the Women's meeting for the National BMAA meeting in May.

The WMA is offering a conference type meeting for the ladies on Tuesday of the association. We would love for all women to attend this.

Charlotte Johnson, 2nd Vice President

Prisoners Bible Crusade

P.O. Box 696 • Picayune, MS 39466-0696

Free Bibles to Chaplains for Prisoners

A Ministry of Lee's Chapel #2 Baptist Church

First, I want to ask again for your prayers for this ministry, and then my wife, Ms. Gretchen. She has some health issues also, plus the added work of helping me both in the ministry and in my personal health and then finally pray for me.

To date this year (2017) we have given 1,200 N.T.; 2,200 Scripture Portions (John & Romans); 1,600 Study books; 353 Study Helps; 96 sermons on CD & DVD's. Our Field Rep., Chaplain Donald Brown has traveled 1,330 miles representing the PBC. We can use Bibles and study books (new or used) in this ministry, Just remove any names. Used work books with answers to questions are Okay. We are now sending out

48th Annual Meeting of the Missouri State WMA

The 48th Annual Meeting of the Missouri State Women's Missionary Auxiliary met Saturday, March 4th, with the Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church. Kewanee did a wonderful job in welcoming everyone and serving a most delicious meal.



BMA of MO WMA Officers for 2017-2018

Sis. Juanita May, President, opened the meeting with prayer.

Sis. Ladonna Baker and Sis. Deiatre Gillam did a wonderful job in leading the congregation in song.

Our devotional was given by Sis. Liz Fikac of First Baptist Church of Bourbon, MO. She shared her testimony with us and then spoke on "WOMAN" reading from Psalms and II Corinthians. As Christian women, we should exude God's fragrance.

There were 12 churches represented at the meeting with 19 messengers and 24 visitors present.

The officers for 2017-2018 are:

President – Juanita May

1st Vice-President – Barbara Williams

2nd Vice-President – Janet Widger

Secretary – Norma Womble

Asst. Secretary – Liz Fikac

Treasurer – Connie Reifsteck

Asst. Treasurer – Ruth Gibson

Bible & Tract Distributor – Sharon Page

Historian – Tracy Goede

Youth Promoter – Shelia Polk

Asst. Youth Promoter – Karen Magee

The Ladies Retreat will be September 8-9, 2017, at the Drury Inn in Arnold, MO. The Guest Speaker will be Valarie Meade Fish from Emerson, AR. The ladies serving on the Retreat Committee are: Kate Adams (Matthews), Terri Adams (Kewanee) and Chris Griggs (Emmanuel in St. Louis).

The Project for 2017-2018 will be 40% Missouri Missionary Baptist Paper; 30% Andy Lahmann Work Fund with the Navajo Indians; 20% General Fund and 10% Youth Fund.

Next year's meeting will be with Zion Baptist Church in St. Louis, MO. The annual message will be by Bro. Dennis Baker with the alternate speaker being Bro. James Hoffmann.

The annual message this year was given by Bro. Dan Wisely. He preached on the Woman at the Well, reading John 4:28-42. Bro. Dan brought out that this woman had a past, she met Jesus, she left her water pot, she went back to the city, she compelled the men to come and meet Jesus. Because of her testimony, many came to know Jesus. As Christian women, we are to share our witness so others will come to know Jesus.

After Bro. Wisely fed us on God's Word, the Kewanee ladies fed us a most delicious meal.

The program, "Leading Ladies" was presented by Janet Widger. This was a history, in pictures and narration, of the

Bilingual Scripture portions of John & Romans and also the booklet of "How to deal with sin in daily Life" by Dr. E. H. Henderson. We support 6 new first-time chaplains this year.

Our supporters know that I very seldom ask for extra funds. We take what funds we receive and carry on the ministry with the amount that comes in. I want to ask one more time for any extra offerings that you can give to help with

Missouri State WMA from the beginning up to the present. The program was well presented and Janet did a wonderful job with the precious pictures that brought back so many sweet memories and many ladies that are no longer with us.

Sis. Barb Williams did a fun Officer Installation showing how we are to share the burden and pull together in our service to God.

The day was full of blessings and sweet fellowship.

Norma Womble, Secretary

the printing of the bilingual John & Romans Book. If you can help, please mark the offerings as B-L J&R printing. Prisoners Bible Crusade, PO Box 696, Picayune, MS 39466. Phones: Office, 601.798.1341; Cell, 601.916.2486. On a ministry note: As our Missionaries practice Matt. 22:9 which is Door knocking, I practice it by writing letters and making phone calls to Chaplains.

For a presentation of our ministry please contact Chaplain Donald Brown. His Contact info: Donald Brown, 2212 Stonecreeper Rd, Lucedale, MS 39452. Phone 601.508.4199. E-mail: donaldandlynn7577@gmail.com. Please give Him a call and set up a time that he can come and report in person because as you know by now I cannot travel any more. But, Praise the Lord I can still carry on with computers, phones and letters from the office. If you know of any prison or jail volunteers that needs Bibles, let me know.

Serving His Servants,

Bro. Paul

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

Collision Course With Eternity

by Dennis Baker, Brotherhood President

One only has to observe the religious, political, and commercial system of today to see that Satan is working very hard to expand his kingdom. Satan has been building a system of evil in the world since the beginning of creation. Have you noticed how arrogant Satan has become? Sin that used to be frowned on by society is now strutted down Main Street. People are becoming bolder in their immorality and their rejection of God. As we get closer to the second coming of Christ, the rapture, and the rule of the Antichrist, we can expect an increase of sin, corruption, and demonism. However, soon and very soon, Jesus Christ will come again. Therefore, the world is on a collision course with destiny.

As Judah, one of the two divided kingdoms of the nation of Israel, faced God's judgment for the sin of idolatry, the prophet Habakkuk asked God two important questions. Habakkuk asked why God would allow evil to dominate Judah. When God responded by saying that the Babylonians would soon put an end to the domination, Habakkuk asked why should people who were less righteous than Judah judge God's people. The book of Habakkuk affirms that God is holy and just. God will eventually punish the wicked and in fact has an appointed time in history for revealing His justice and judgment of evil. Habakkuk confirms that the current situation is never to be interpreted as the ultimate state of affairs. Many are putting their trust in the religious, political, and commercial system of the world. But in the end, faith in Jesus Christ is what really matters.

The book of Habakkuk closes with a wonderful prayer-song where Habakkuk says in effect, "I will tell you the truth: I do not look forward to the days which apparently we must face. The Babylonians are coming upon us; they are so wicked; they worship the 'net,' their military might; they go after gods like Marduk and others, the sun and moon gods. The Babylonians and the days of judgment must come. It feels as if my bones are coming apart, as if rottenness is coming into my soul." But the song concludes "Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior. The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights," Habakkuk 3:18-19. Habakkuk speaks of a deep, settled inward joy, while outwardly he says, Frankly, I am disturbed!

Annual Meeting of the Brotherhood of the BMA of MO

At Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church, Kewanee, MO

March 4, 2017 – 10:00 a.m.

At 10:00 a.m. we met with the State WMA in the sanctuary of the Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church for the welcome, a song, announcements, and prayer. We then went to another room for our business meeting.

President Dennis Baker called the meeting to order and appointed Bro. James Hoffmann as Secretary since Bro. Roy Callahan was absent due to his job. Bro. Van Widger led in prayer.

Bro. Baker then asked each man present to introduce himself.

Following the introductions, a motion and second was made to retain the present officers for this year. The motion carried and Bro. Dennis Baker will continue to serve as Presi-

Missing Heaven by Eighteen Inches

Does this startle you?

How can anyone get so close and yet in the end hear the Lord say, "I never knew you; depart from me." (Matt. 7:23)?

However, this will be the terrible result of many in our churches who are professing Christians, often with respon-

sible positions, but who have had only a head acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ. Tragically enough, even teachers, preacher and religious workers are not exempt from the possibility of this chilling indictment.

The distance between the head and the heart is eigh-

teen inches. Unfortunately, a head knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, fully knowing and giving mental assent to the plan of salvation, without also a heart acceptance that brings the personal relationship that the Bible demands, avails nothing to any man.

Listen to Paul's heart cry concerning Israel as he spoke under the guidance of the Holy Spirit: "For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge" (Romans 10:2).

He was speaking about misdirected efforts -- energies expended in the strength of the flesh but not under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

The lack of power today in many of our churches as well as the lack of power in the lives of any professing Christians can be laid directly to this.

It is only as we see ourselves in the mirror of God's Word as without excuse and without hope, utterly lost and undone, that the truth of the Scriptures convicts us; for the Bible clearly reveals that this is how God sees man (Romans 3:10-18).

Then when the glorious truth of the Gospel brings us to a recognition of our own sinfulness and we cry out to God asking forgiveness and help, asking Him to come into our hearts, not our heads, we experience the new birth.

Jesus Christ said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" John 14:6).

The Bible also tells us, "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (1 John 5:12). Furthermore, the Bible promises,

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Romans 10:9-10).

Christ wants your heart, not just your head, because "the Lord seeth not as man

•See INCHES 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.

dent with Bro. Roy Callahan serving as Secretary/Treasurer.

Bro. Baker expressed appreciation to the men of Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church for the special offering they sent to the men's retreat last year. He reported that as of October, 2016 there was a balance of \$ 260 in the Brotherhood Treasury and some other offerings have come in. These funds pay for the Spring and Fall Men's retreats and each retreat costs approximately \$500. Therefore, funds are needed. So far, the funds have been available to cover each retreat.

The offering from this meeting totaled \$36.

Bro. Baker spoke briefly of our hope in Christ in this mixed-up world as he emphasized that we have hope beyond this world that can carry us through this world and all it throws at us.

Bro. Denver Page dismissed our meeting in prayer and we rejoined the WMA for the worship service. Pastor Dan Wisely preached on "Leading Ladies" using John 4 and the story of the woman at the well. Following the awesome message we enjoyed the delicious meal provided by the "Leading Ladies" of Kewanee Baptist Church.

Submitted by James Hoffmann – acting secretary

Camp Garwood

Hello from Camp Garwood:

We are counting it down, brethren! As of the paper deadline (March 7th), we have 145 days left until Camp Garwood 2017. That is only 20 weeks; 20 Saturdays to accomplish all that we aspire to do in order to make Camp better physically and to pray for the souls, lessons, and messages sent by God, to not only enjoy the facilities and recreation, but also experience the wonderful bounty He has in store for us through His Word and messengers concerning our worth through Him.

As many may have seen and heard through Facebook updates, much has been done to prepare for the dorm construction and trail/boundary completion. Also, unforeseen but necessary, reconstruction of the director's apartment is underway. Temps drop, pipes freeze, water stands, and mold grows. So, if you were afraid that all the good jobs were taken, here is yet another opportunity to get involved. We are hopeful to soon send pictures and updates of the dorm foundation.

Our next scheduled Camp Garwood gathering is the BMA of Missouri Renewal Retreat for Pastors and Pastoral Staff. This is set for March 17th and 18th (ONLY TEN DAYS FROM DEADLINE!). As Bro. Ben Kingston has already indicated, please make this a priority. Success can only be achieved by attendance. In our day of "connectiveness," we hardly know each others' names, much less each one's needs or concerns. God will bless.

So, take this reminder as an opportunity to set aside some time to participate in an incredible outreach of our association. Work is ongoing continually; a place can be found for all to contribute. Pray for Bro. Shawn Hammontree, Bro. Jordan Bowen, ALL the camp staff and teachers, and especially for the lost around each of us. Then, go and invite them to Christ and to Camp Garwood. This can be the best year yet. And for those who accept Christ, it will be life changing!

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10

Chris Polk

P.O. Box 271

Matthews, MO 63867

(submitted by Matt Bolen)

National Meeting Time Survey

In an effort to better serve the churches of our Association we are asking for your help. While due to the cost and time limitations it is hard or impossible for each church to attend. Yet any team functions better when her members are involved. That is why the Association needs you and your input. Please take a minute to fill out the registration letter and to answer this brief questionnaire.

In an attempt to facilitate our meeting to best serve her members we have enclosed the following for your consideration.

We need each church to fill out and return this questionnaire with your church's letter.

Question # 1

If you are not currently attending the national meeting would you or someone from your congregation be more likely to attend if it was scheduled when public schools are not in session?

- 1-(definitely)
- 2-(more likely)
- 3-(likely)
- 4-(unlikely)
- 5-(no, wouldn't change our situation)

Question #2

If the national meeting could be scheduled to where committee meetings could be held Friday afternoon and business begin after the welcome and Presidents address Friday night and conclude Sunday afternoon with the Mission's Commissioning service would you or someone from your congregation be more likely to be present to represent your church?

- 1-(definitely)
- 2-(more likely)
- 3-(likely)
- 4-(unlikely)
- 5-(no wouldn't change our situation)

Question #3

I feel that the present schedule for the National Meeting is satisfactory and that no change is necessary.

- 1- (I prefer to leave like it is)
- 2- (I would be receptive to a change if it would allow more of our churches to attend the meetings.)

Remember, this is simply a survey to help us best serve the churches of our Association. Further action if deemed necessary will be brought before the body for their consideration.

Thank You,

Paul White, President • James Ray Raines, Clerk

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.

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.

Brian Adams, a member of First Missionary Baptist Church of Matthews is available to preach. Contact him by e-mail at 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.

• INCHES From Page 7 •

seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart. (I Samuel 16:7)

It is vitally important that you make sure it is not just head knowledge and mental assent you have given to Jesus Christ. He needs the complete surrender of your heart so that you may be born again.

Eighteen inches can mean an eternity with Christ or an eternity without Christ. Are you sure of your personal relationship to Him?

Why not settle the question in your heart once and for all right now!!

selected -- via Sword of The Lord

Don't Like Fill-in Blanks

DiscipleGuide Offers a Choice

One of the most popular items coming from the recent updates to Compass is the addition of Compass Commentary. This new quarterly can be used in place of Compass or as a supplement to Compass. Either way, it works in sync with the Compass Leader Guide. That means each Sunday school class has options: An entire class may choose to use Commentary for their lessons, individuals may choose to use Commentary while the rest of the class uses Compass, or individuals may want to use Commentary strictly for extra study at home.

Compass Commentary mirrors the Compass Study Guide lesson without fill-in-the-blanks and discussion questions. The Commentary content is more extensive and features the full lesson Scripture text printed in KJV. Classes who prefer the previous Compass format have found Commentary to be a great fit for their needs. To learn more about Compass Commentary and the entire line of Compass products, go to discipleguide.org or call 800.333.1442.