

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

“Holding Forth The Word of Life”

Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXX

St. Louis, MO • April 11, 2017

Issue No. 4

From President, Paul White.....

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 we have an 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 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.

This year we will have a special ceremony to recognize those who have served in the ministry for over sixty years. It is only proper that those (preachers) who have given a lifetime to serving God be honored by receiving a Life-Time Achievement certificate.

Remember, this years' theme, "Brick by Brick," is built around teamwork with the emphasis on increasing our attendance for 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

Greetings From Garwood

Ahhh Springtime! It's the time of year all of Gods critters get busy. And so do we! Work has begun on the new dorm. Hopefully we can send some pictures next month. We are working on the directors apartment. We've also done some work on the paint

ball area preparing for our retreat this weekend.

Looking back, We had such a wonderful time at the Renewal Retreat. I believe it was helpful for all who attended. It certainly was for me. Thanks to Bro. Ben Kingston and all that helped.

Looking forward we are expecting another great **Men's retreat May 12th-13th**. Please encourage your men to attend this retreat, and bring the boys (young men) with them. We always have a great time of fellowship. It's Spring so we will have skeet shoot-

What Is The BMA of Missouri Mission Symposium??

I am so glad you asked!!

This meeting should be one of the best attended meetings of our association each year. It was started many years ago as an effort to increase our interest in, and encourage more mission work here in the state of Missouri and to raise funds to bolster our mission program. It was also an opportunity to meet and visit with our brothers and sisters from all over Missouri and enjoy each other's fellowship and friendship. Those goals are still, perhaps in a greater way than ever before.

This meeting has evolved into another "thing" to fit into our busy schedules and has lost the interest of many workers across our state. We need to restore interest in the work of the Lord and in encouraging one another in His fields of service.

Bro. Jeff Swart is preparing to come and give us encouragement and instruction that will strengthen and challenge us to do all we can in these days in which we live. He will be speaking in two sessions on Friday evening starting at 6:00 p.m. and another at 9:00 a.m. Saturday before we begin our

ing, Door prizes and Lots of food.

Ladies don't forget! The **GMA retreat is July 7-8**. For more information concerning this retreat or if you would like to help. Please contact Shelia Polk 573-380-4064.

As Spring gives way to Summer we will try to get camp ready early this year. There are always little jobs that get pushed back until camp week. I can't do that this year. Due to a conflict at work I am unable to get off for camp week. Not to worry though, my trusty assistant is on board and ready to take my place. I'm really hoping to make it over for the evening services. We have plenty of time, 18 Saturdays to be exact!

There's a ton of stuff happening at camp this year. **Not one but two** super men of God! Shawn Hammontree and his son-in-law Jordan Bowen will be there. **Not one but two** great wor-

Remember to Prepare & Attend the....

BMA of Missouri Mission Symposium and

Mid-Year Business Meeting

Mission Symposium - 6:00 p.m. - May 19th

Mid-Year Meeting - 9:00 a.m. - May 20th

**Landmark Missionary Baptist Church
1215 Boyd St. • DeSoto, MO 63020**

**Symposium Offering Goal - \$5,000
to be divided between**

**Camp Garwood & The Grant Fund of the BMA of
Missouri Loan Association**

**Prepare: by Praying & Bringing An Offering
Attend: All sessions Friday & Saturday**

mid-year business meeting.

Landmark Baptist Church is preparing to host this meeting and will go beyond our expectations in making us feel welcome. Lunch will be served Saturday and all are encouraged to attend.

Two worthy outreach ministries will benefit from the offerings that are given in this meeting. The Missouri State Loan Association has established a "Grant Fund" to help our churches in times of emergency needs. This help is not a "loan" but a grant that does not need to be paid back! Your offering will assure we have funds to help when the occasion arises.

The other ministry that will benefit from your symposium offering is Camp Garwood. In order for us to maintain a camp where there are no "fees" we must keep offerings coming in to provide food, facilities, programs, essential personnel, utilities, and other things that are necessary in such an operation.

Let's make this years Symposium "one to remember" with great attendance, good fellowship, a wonderful spirit, a great offering, and REVIVAL among our work in Missouri.

All it takes is for each of us to do our part as God leads. We look forward to seeing you at Landmark Baptist Church in DeSoto to May 19th and 20th!

ship groups. The Harpers you all know and love and Central Baptist Church/Conway's youth band, Crossroads is coming to help with filling in the gap after evening services. They will also be helping with some of the recreation activities. But that's not all, We are working on train cars to haul 35-40 people around camp. But wait! No really, you have to wait. Because, Sorry I can't

• See **CAMP** Page 5 •



NEWS BRIEFS



Spring blessings to all from **Stony Point, Mineral Point.** Monday, March 20th Sis. Dorothy Thompson was called home to Glory and will be missed by family and friends. She was laid to rest Friday, March 24th. Sunday, March 26th Bill Crippen and Cheyenne Lucher were baptized and given the hand of Church Fellowship. We welcome them with open arms. We are so thankful for God's forgiving love. Claude Evans, Pastor • Debrah Coleman, Reporter

Greetings once again from **Bethany, St. Louis.** We are enjoying the time change and the blessings that spring brings. We have started having fellowship lunch once a month after the morning service. This is a fun time with loads of good food. The month of April will be foods from our missionary families. Each one will choose a country where our missionaries are working. Might be quite interesting. Our dear sister Hazel Roemmich recently had heart surgery and, praise God, is recovering quite well. Another sister, Virginia Williams, is home after being in rehab due to a stroke. Our new sign is almost complete. We are looking forward to seeing this job complete. We thank God for Bro. McCanness working with Bro. Dunn on this project. We have had a young man from the neighborhood visiting and express that he wants to serve the Lord and we praise God for him. The Johnstons are having some health issues. Please keep them in your prayers. Continue to pray for Bethany as we try to be a light in the Overland area. Nick Dunn, Pastor • Kathy Chapman, Reporter.

"The **Grandview Baptist Church in Springfield** had the opportunity to host singer, song writer and preacher, Squire Parsons in their morning service on Sunday March 12th. The church and a great number of visitors were blessed by Squire's music and testimony of God's faithfulness. Mr. Parsons has written about 1000 songs including "Beulah Land", "He Came To Me" and "Look For Me At Jesus Feet".



Squire Parsons

Pastor Gary Longstaff and Rev Parsons have been friends for over 30 years and says, "I have seen this man on concert stages and in private settings and he is truly a Godly man and Christian gentleman." Gary Longstaff, Pastor

Greetings from **Bethlehem of Doniphan!** Wow! Where has the first quarter of 2017 gone? It has certainly passed by quickly! For the month of March I had asked everyone to join us in prayer as Bro. Rocky Houston came to Bethlehem in view of a call. We are sad to say that God did not want Bro. Rocky to be our Pastor at this time. So we are still looking and praying for God to send the man He wants for us to have. We hosted Youth in the Harvest and we had a fun time looking up scripture verses and quoting or reading our favorite Scripture verse. A good time was had by all the youth in attendance from the youngest to the oldest. It was followed up with hot dogs, chips, dips, desserts and drinks! The devotion was brought to everyone by Bro. Dale Fish. For April the YITH will be at Black River MBC. May has been postponed until June due to area schools having Graduation. The 3rd Sunday Singing was at Springhill MBC. We had more singers than we had time! If you were one of the ones who didn't get to sing, please, bring your song and come to the April singing. As always we enjoy spending time with our brothers and sisters in Christ and giving praise to God our

Father! Please keep praying for Bethlehem and the Pastor the Lord has reserved for us. Keep the faith and until next month may God bless and keep us all! Yvonne Hill, Reporter

Abundant Life in Christ, Charleston. We had enough money saved that in March we were able to begin working on our building again after a hiatus of several months. Pictures of some of our progress can be found on our facebook page. We will be continuing to work as long as we have funds available. We praise God that going into April, we still have money left and so the work is continuing. Rodney Dunlap, Pastor

Hello from **Briar, Doniphan!** Who can believe that the 4th month of 2017 is here! We're drawing closer and closer to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ! Hallelujah! We sure are blessed to have Bro. David Grubb and his wife, Linda coming by our way to preach the Word. We're also very grateful to West Doniphan for "sharing" with us. Thank y'all so much! We call Bro. David our "circuit riding preacher". Maybe some of you are old enough to remember the day when this was the norm instead of the unusual. Briar lost a special member January 22, 2017 when Bro. Don Lyndal Miller went home to be with the Lord. Bro. Lyndal was a faithful member, a wonderful Sunday School teacher, and loved the Lord with all his heart. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. Our ladies enjoyed a "girls night out" on the 3rd of March. There were 13 adults and 2 children in attendance. We even had a special lady, Louise, who came all the way from Springfield! We played games, had a devotional, and of course plenty to eat. If laughter is the best medicine, we all left much healthier than when we arrived. Sunday the 5th of March was a celebration of Bro. David's birthday. We

thought to cheer him up since he turned 99! lol Lots of fried fish and all the fixing were enjoyed by all. We didn't light the candles on his cake because of the fear of fire! Love you Bro. David! Till next time--Keep Looking Up David Grubb, Circuit Preacher • Phyllis Williams Reporter

March has been a busy month at **Landmark, DeSoto.** The Action Team had set up programs for almost every weekend. The 4th of March they had a game night with lots of games for adults and kids to play. I understand that they had a good group to come and was enjoyed by all in attendance. Denver and I didn't attend as we had gone to the State WMA & Brotherhood annual meeting at Kewanee. That was a very good meeting, with Bro. Wisely bringing the morning message that spoke to us all. Of course, they served a wonderful meal. March 18th, a time of Fellowship was held and that too, was well attended. The 25th found Elvis in the house. One of our own impersonated Elvis and there was probably 50 people that came and enjoyed this program. We heard a couple of rock and roll songs, but we really enjoyed the Gospel Songs that Elvis was so popular for, especially in the later part of his career. We had lots of fun and shared lots of laughs. There is a rumor that Elvis may come for a repeat performance some time in the future. I won't tell who Elvis was, but he brought along his band and backup singers. Lots of fun!! We have finished our study of Revelation and have started studying again "I Am A Church Member." We all need to be reminded ever so often just what our responsibilities are of being a church member. We are at this time looking forward to Bro. Wayne's 55th year in the ministry celebration this coming Saturday, April 8th. This has been in the planning for several months and we are anxious!! Til Next Month or Christ's Return, Wayne Gibson, Pastor • Sharon Page, Reporter

Greetings from **Faith, St. Charles.** Since our last correspondence our church has been working diligently and, thanks to God, growing spiritually. During the first three months of the year we have baptized 12 and in addition to the new believers have had requests from numerous attendees to join our church family. We feel very blessed that God led them to us and pray we can show Him the love and joy the growth of our church means to our members. We will be holding a garage sale at the church on Saturday April 29th if anyone would care to check it out. We would also like to inform all the readers that our church has a service on the last Sunday of every month during our 6:00 p.m. gathering that we call "sing-spir-ation." It is a time for all members, who wish to lift their voices to the Lord, to perform also for those in attendance. They are always • Continued on Page 4 •

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FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS • March 2017

General Fund:

Balance February 28, 2017		\$	138,556.01
Interest on Savings	\$.02		
March Offerings	\$ 3,342.19		
Total Income:	\$ 3,342.21	\$	3,342.21
Total Available:		\$	141,898.22
Disbursements:			
Renewal Retreat Expenses	\$ 350.00		
Assistant Director's Salary	\$ 500.00		
Total Disbursements	\$ 850.00	\$	(850.00)
Balance March 31, 2017:		\$	141,048.22

From Our Assistant Director...

The Pastor and Staff Renewal Retreats at Camp Garwood and Richwoods Retreat Center were great and we look forward to combined Retreat sometime in the future. (See Bro. Kingston's report on page 5).

Please read the article on page 1 about the Mission Symposium and Mid-Year BMA of MO meetings and make plans to attend all sessions and bring a generous offering to apply to our goal of \$5,000.

Each pastor and church needs the support and fellowship

of other pastors and churches and these meetings give each of us the opportunity to have many needs met, but we must attend and participate to get the benefits we need.

I hope many go to the National Meeting in Arlington May 1-3 and the State Meeting in DeSoto May 19-20.

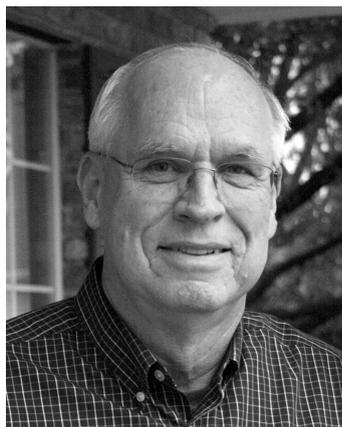
BMA Director of International Missions to Step Down

After serving for the past four years as Director of International Missions, Bro. Phil Knott shared with BMA staff and missionaries his decision to retire from his position in May 2017. He will continue to serve in his current role through the BMA national meeting (May 1-3) and beyond as the transition takes place.

Bro. Phil said, "As we all know, in leadership you never work alone. Time and space fails me in order to mention all those who have had key roles in shaping and nurturing our global mission effort in recent years. I would, though, like to mention particularly David Dickson in Latin America, Charles Costa in the Middle East, Doyle Moore in Southeast Asia, Jeff Franks in Eastern Europe, and Buddy Johnson, our training coordinator. Going far beyond their own unique missionary experience, they have all taken on larger roles of coordinating, equipping, encouraging and mobilizing many others. Their ongoing contribution to BMA Missions is invaluable, and it is my great joy to serve alongside them.

"Obviously we owe a lot to Dr. John David Smith. Leading change in an organization is one of the most challenging aspects of leadership, and I think he has done it remarkably well. Personally I also owe a great deal to Jerry Kidd, who first gave me the opportunity to help lead this great global endeavor. I am humbled by the trust that I have been given," said Knott.

Bro. Phil began his career in ministry at the age of nine-



Bro. Phil Knott

teen, serving churches and doing pastoral work in Texas throughout the 1970's. He was commissioned as a BMA missionary to Costa Rica, a ministry lasting eighteen years. After phasing out of this ministry in 2000, he began working for BMA Missions as an assistant to International Director Jerry Kidd then as Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean, and four years ago he took on the leadership role of International Director.

"My plans are to continue in missions 'post-retirement,' taking on some field assignments for which I have developed an affinity and calling. If the Lord continues to lead in that direction, LaJuana and I will be joining the ranks of all of you who go out there and raise support funds. I'll have an opportunity to 'practice what I preach.' Whatever our future ministry may be, I look forward to the new and exciting challenges ahead. We desire your prayers," said Knott.

Word Missions Weekend - Training for Volunteer Student Missionaries

This weekend nearly 100 students and leaders going on 12 different international/national mission trips gathered at Petit Jean Mountain for World Missions Weekend. This is the new name for the training of Volunteer Student Missions. The time was divided into team times and lessons on how to prepare our hearts spiritually, how to be respectful of the various cultures we will be encountering, and how to serve and encourage the long-term missionaries in any and every way.



Bro. Donnie Parrish speaking to entire group

This was the first time and only time teams met together to plan before heading to the mission field. This weekend was vital for teams to learn how to work together, despite differences, to accomplish their goal of encouraging and aiding the missionaries in any and every way possible. Many teams used this time to plan for the activities, such as Vacation Bible Schools, that they had scheduled for their trips. Other teams used their time to really get to know each other and to form bonds and friendships that would enhance their experience on the mission field.

During the course of the weekend we heard from great disciple-makers and missionaries: Bro. Donny Parrish, Dr. John David Smith, Bro. Phil Knott, Bro. Eric Johnson, and Bro. Andy Comer. We were challenged to be global Christians, to seek service and not glory while on the mission field, and to have a heart rooted in the Gospel. We were encouraged and challenged to be "on mission" in our communities while preparing for our mission trips. We were also taught important protocols and procedures for traveling to foreign countries and to being respectful once there.

World Missions Weekend is a time of training, fellowship, and worship that is indispensable for the students and leaders going on these trips all over the world. Going into a different culture can shock all of us and we must be prepared for those circumstances before they come. This weekend is all about preparing our hearts and minds as we go into these new places and without it, we could not be effective on our trips.

Emily Brantley
TEAM Washington Leader

Dr. Ladd Resigns after 52 years of service

Today, March 31, 2017, marks the last day of my employment with the BMAA. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the churches and individuals, who have made it possible for Shirley and I to live the past 52 years with great joy being a part of God's plan for us in His kingdom work in Nicaragua and Mexico. We plan to continue working with Dr. Izard in BMMI as well as the Good Samaritan Clinic in Mexico. Thank you once again.

John Ladd, M.D.

• NEWS From Page 2 •

very uplifting and touch many hearts. Following the singing we have great food prepared by the members and a time for fellowship downstairs. Everyone is invited.

Justin Arender, Pastor • Chris Pruett, Reporter

Greetings from **Zion, St. Louis**, to her Sister Churches. Spring is here and we are looking forward to the warm weather. Several from Zion attended the State Auxiliaries last month at Kewanee Baptist Church. The ladies enjoyed a really good meeting and were blessed by Bro. Wisely's message. The host ladies served a delicious meal and it was so good getting to fellowship with friends. Bro. Baker just finished preaching on Revelation and has now started a series of messages out of Galatians. Zion appreciates her pastor and the good messages he prepares week after week. Bro. Baker reported a good meeting with the men at the Renewal Retreat last month. There are several from Zion planning on attending the BMAA in Arlington, TX the first of May. Looking forward to seeing many of you there. Prayers for safety in travels and praying for the Lord's blessings on this meeting. God Bless you all is our prayer.

Dennis Baker, Pastor • Norma Womble, Reporter

At **Lower Doe Run, Ellington**, we are looking forward to the great meeting in the air! Life gives us so many curves and rough spots, but how wonderful it is to know God is there to hold us up and to give strength to keep on keeping on. We are enjoying three new voices in the church choir. The members want so badly to attend all the association meetings but we can only pray and support. It's all we can do to keep going with all the regular activities throughout the church and community to God be the Glory. We enjoyed the Nursing Home Service in Van Buren and look forward to this month's event at the Ellington Facility. Just seeing the faces of the dear older saints that can't attend regular services thrills our souls. The April 5th Sunday singing will be at Ohlman again with Lower Doe Run in charge. The association has decided to hold that event at a central location every quarter in hopes more can attend. We pray you all celebrate a blessed Easter and always remember the reason for the season! Jesus died and rose again for our salvation. We are looking forward to having Brian Buckley fill the pulpit on Mother's Day while our pastor and family attend a grandson's graduation in Magnolia, AR. You are always welcome at Lower Doe Run. New signs are on the highway pointing our way.

Melvin Meade, Pastor • Carolyn Meade, Reporter

Hello from **Black Creek Missionary Baptist Church in Poplar Bluff**. We have had a great month in March. Bro. Don Stone who has been a member for many years celebrated his 84th birthday and Bro. Troy performed a wedding ceremony for Bro. Matt and Sis. Stephanie Turner. Matt was saved within the last six months and was baptized in Black River April 2nd. Yes, it was a bit chilly but well worth it. His wife joined by letter. Pray for us as the flu has kept many out of services. We are looking forward to another great month. May God bless all.

Troy Sisk, Pastor • Ellen Boxx, Reporter

Greetings, to our brothers and sisters in Christ from **First Baptist Church, Potosi**. We have been blessed with the baptism of Gene Mercer, daughters Caytlin and Mecayla, and wife Sandy by transfer of letter. We have had several baptisms in the past several months. Our Girls Missionary Auxiliary went to the state meeting down in Kewanee; Michelle Knobloch took fourteen girls for this meeting and they all had a great time. Those who participated in the SHINE Conference (speaker Jaclyn Rowe) also had a wonderful time. Then Raven Porter and Kayla Smith took young girls to a Sunday afternoon conference that was also amazing. A MAN AND HIS FATHERHOOD

Master's Builders Go To Camp!



The Smithville Work Crew

March 3rd, The Master's Builders gathered in Smithville, Arkansas, at Stone Ridge Baptist Camp. We were there to help with remodeling the ceilings in the building that houses the kitchen, lunchroom, lounge, bunkrooms, evangelist quarters, and cooks' quarters. Sheets of white metal roofing were used to brighten up the interior ceilings. The men also worked on several smaller jobs that Camp Director, Scott Small, needed done.

Thirteen men and eight women enjoyed spending time together in an atmosphere very similar to our "Retreat," except the men WORKED! We really enjoyed being together! Scott and Myrtie Small took such good care of us. This couple loves the Lord, each other, and all the souls that come through this camp. They are hard workers, and they say the work is a blessing. They certainly were a blessing to us!

The Master's Builders have a very busy Spring ahead of us. We will be at Daniel Springs Camp, Gary, Texas, April 10th;

Jacksonville College, Jacksonville, Texas, May 8th; and Summers Baptist, Summers, Arkansas, June 5th. **Please pray for safety for our men as they work and please pray for the Lord to send more workers.**

If you have questions about this ministry or if your church has building needs, contact our Office Manager, Bro. John Mangum, at 318-202-5155 or cell 318-607-4100 or our Field Manager, Eddie Sikes, at 903-725-6549 or cell 479-462-1675.

is the title of the study the men are attending on Sunday nights at 5:30. The community-wide Ladies Bible Study continues each Tuesday 9:30 - 10:00; GMA meets on Mondays after school until 5:00; COW meets on Wednesday evenings along with the adult service, and Celebrate Recovery is each Friday at 6:00. A new outreach has begun called Surrendering the Secret - Healing the Heartbreak of Abortion; all contacts are confidential. Our community groups begin the first Sunday in April with thirteen hosts and 140 people signed up to attend. We will be studying the book of Acts and there are lessons for the children led by teens. The Kairos Prison Ministry Team will be here April 20 - 23; we are getting ready for Youth Super summer in June, Kids Camp, Teen Camp, and Vacation Bible School all in July. There is a place for each person here, so no one should ever feel left out. Please pray for us in our endeavors as we pray for you. Jim Ainley, Pastor • Deborah Rauhut, Reporter

First Missionary Baptist, Matthews, sends greetings to all of you! We have started a new ministry at Matthews. On Wednesday evenings, we have begun a food ministry by serving a meal before Refuge begins. This new ministry has been successful and has brought in more kids for Refuge. We plan to continue Refuge and Wednesday night meals throughout the year. In the past, we have taken a break from Refuge in the summer months, but we plan to keep going this year. Please be in prayer for the children who attend Refuge and their families that they will accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. One of our members recently made a trip to China! Most of you know Allison Bisher. She had the opportunity to travel to China on a mission trip with a group from Central Baptist. We haven't gotten to talk with her yet about the trip, but we look forward to hearing all about it when she comes home for a visit. We are so proud of her for seeking after God and serving Him where He leads. Our WMA will host the SEMO District WMA in April. We invite all ladies to join us. The meeting will be April 18 at 6:30 PM. Our GMA girls are preparing for National GMA camp. The girls are working to raise money for camp. If you need any odd jobs done around the house or in the yard, contact Shelia, Karen, or Kari! The GMA group is growing. We have about 10-12 girls weekly. They work hard to finish their lessons and memorize scripture. We look forward to taking a big group to camp this year. Please be in prayer for Eugene Adams and family. Eugene's mom, Sis. Vernell Adams, recently passed away. She was a great woman of God who led many souls to Christ. She will be greatly missed. Sis. Vernell worked with a man once who claimed to be an atheist. She continued to share Jesus with him, and one day he told her that he was no longer an atheist. What a testimony! I pray that we all have the boldness to share Christ with everyone. We pray that God will continue to bless each and every one of you. Give every day to Him, and you will be blessed!

Chris Polk, Pastor • Kari Hartlein, Reporter



The 13 attending the BMA of MO Renewal Retreat at Camp Garwood

Report to Our Churches about The Renewal Retreats

This is a report of our two Renewal Weekend meetings that took place March 10th – 11th at the Meramec Retreat Center and March 17th – 18th at Camp Garwood. Both were well attended, each having 11-14 Pastors at each meeting. Some could not stay for the entire meeting, thus the discrepancy in the number. I do want to thank all the Pastors that were able to be present and humbly beg those that were not able, to please make plans to attend the next one when it is announced.

The spirit of both meetings was tremendous. I was asked if I would give a report, thus the article you have before you.

Nineteen years ago, when God brought me back to Bethel, I came back not only with a burden for Bethel, but also for the local and state associations that she was a part of. These two meetings were a culmination of that burden.

My Father taught me that, associationally we can do more together than we can do apart. I truly believe that still today.

There were 11 elements to go over in the booklet we used. It was made clear to everyone to come with no expectations and with a humble spirit. That request was beautifully carried out.

These are the 11 elements:

- 1) Sharing personal history and ministry
- 2) Healing possible fractures
- 3) Connectedness
- 4) Association core values
- 5) Non-negotiables
- 6) Conflict resolution
- 7) Association focus
- 8) State VS. Meramec (Yes, we went there)
- 9) Reaching out to the churches not there
- 10) A possible strategy to reach Missouri
- 11) Where to from here

Now, you may look at that and say, “Wow! They got a lot done.” You would not be wrong; just probably not in the way you are thinking. You see, those elements are the areas we must deal with and hammer out. However, I assure you, one 13-hour retreat is not going to allow enough time to exhaust those areas.

So, what did we accomplish? At both retreats we spent the entire Friday evening on the 1st element (Sharing personal history and ministry). Those men shared from their hearts. It was heartbreaking and glorious to hear where they come from and how God has richly blessed them. Hear me, please: your Pastors love the churches to which they have been called.

Next, we enjoyed enriching discussions on our core values and how we can stay better connected.

Just a note on element 8: Both retreat participants shared their absolute desire for past wrongs to be forgiven and forgotten on both sides. So that everyone knows, I purposefully planned the retreats separately not to continue the division, but to give us our space and freedom to speak openly about end-



**Camp Garwood Cook
Rick Garza kept us fed and
refreshed throughout
the conference**

ing the division and received unanimous approval to bury past wrongs and unite for the greater glory of God. Thus, when we have a “Renewal” Retreat again, it will be as a whole state association because the Meramec is a local association and we know that.

Is it wrong for each local association to have their own retreats? Absolutely not, and I greatly encourage it for fellowships and strategy. But as far as state association renewal, we will be doing it together from this point forward. That was the plan all along. If you have any questions for me, please do not hesitate to call me at (636) 629-2526.

I look forward to God’s blessings upon the state and local associations of Missouri and her churches, to the glory of His Name.

Ben Kingston

Editor’s Note:

I am sorry that I do not have pictures of the Meramec Renewal Retreat but I was unable to find someone who had some to send me. They also had a good number present and a productive retreat.

An Occasion 60 Years in the Making!

We want to invite you to join us for a very special dinner celebrating the 60th anniversary of the BMA Theological Seminary.



When? Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.
(in conjunction with the BMAA Annual Meeting)

Where? Rooms M5-M8 - Arlington Convention Center

Cost? \$30/ticket

Deadline: Tickets must be purchased by April 20, 2017.

Every guest will receive three (3) very special gifts. It will be a wonderful opportunity to rejoice in what the Lord has done for BMA Seminary and to look forward to where He is leading.

Please contact Keri Southern at the BMA Seminary for more information. She can be reached by telephone at 800-259-5673 and by e-mail at president@bmat.edu.

• CAMP From Page 1 •

give any details yet. But it’s gonna be Gggreat! I’m really excited about this year’s camp. AND I CANT GO! (Yes, I’m crying just a little)

As I was typing this I received the proofs for our promotion posters. Looks good! They will be included in the packets that should be mailed in early May. **Be sure to get your adults screened. Everyone 18 and over has to complete the form every year.** It’s not too early go ahead and get it out of the way. Blessings,

Chris Polk

P.O. Box 271 • Matthews MO 63867

First Half 2016-2017 Financial Report

Kenneth Gibson Seminary

Student Grant Fund

October 2016 – March 2017

Balance: October 1, 2016	\$	15,565.47
Receipts:	\$	31.30
Total Available:	\$	15,596.77
Disbursements:	\$	(1,468.48)
Balance: March 31, 2017	\$	14,128.29

First Quarter 2016-2017 Financial Report

Missouri Missionary Baptist Paper

January 2017 - March 2017

Balance: January 1, 2017	\$	5,697.28
Receipts:	\$	5,678.61
Total Available:	\$	11,375.89
Disbursements:	\$	(4,728.16)
Balance: March 31, 2017	\$	6,647.73

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

These pictures are a reminder that it is time once again to help children like these have some “Everlasting Smiles.” Read this article and start making preparations to make many “Everlasting Smiles around the world.



Making Everlasting Smiles



The meaning of “Everlasting Smiles” has taken on a new meaning for me since becoming personally involved with the Short Term Missions department of BMA Missions. I’ve had the privilege to work with the Everlasting Smiles Shoebox ministry of Baptist Medical Missions Inc. (BMMI) for many years. My daughters and I have had the joy of packing shoeboxes to send to our missionaries around the world. This year, I’ve seen the full impact of “the life of a shoebox” and how each one is used to not only bless the children that receive them, but to open the door for the missionaries to have many new ministry friends.

After you pack your Everlasting Smiles Shoebox, it comes to the BMA Missions Office where teams of volunteers go through each box carefully to make sure that they have the correct items in them. The boxes are sorted and are placed into larger boxes to ship. We have limited space in our office warehouse, so the boxes are kept at a storage facility until shipping time. Shoeboxes are collected until September 1. In October, BMMI rents a large cargo container and ships the shoeboxes to our missionaries around the world.

This year the shoeboxes were sent to the children of El Salvador and Jordan. I visited with our missionary in El Salvador just after he passed our boxes to children in villages and hospitals all over his country. He reported that many children came to get a shoebox and that they were able to tell them about Jesus and play with them. This opens a door for him to make further relationships with the children and their families.

I’ve always wondered what it would be like to watch the faces of children who are receiving the gift of a shoebox. In February, I was blessed when God provided a way for BMA Missions Office Manager, Paige West and I to go to Jordan to help deliver the boxes.

The first day in Jordan, we had an event at the Zarqa Baptist Church. Many people came. Children flooded in the doors of the church. We had to ask parents to stand at the back and outside as the church filled with children of all ages. The student team from the church lead them in songs and worship. They played games and listened to a Bible story. BMA Missionary to Jordan, Pastor Sam Jordan, told us that 98% of the children there were Muslim. I watched in awe as the children listened and participated in the activities. We gave out about 400 shoeboxes that day. As we finished, I started watching a few children open their boxes and look at the things inside. They didn’t take things out, but carefully put the top back on so as to protect the box from someone that might take it. They held them tightly as they left with huge smiles.

The next time that we handed out boxes, we went into the desert near the Syrian border into a Bedouin community. As we pulled up, the people were waiting in the streets for us. We handed out boxes to many children at one camp and continued

to the second camp. The children were waiting for us there also. They took us into a tent. When the tent was opened I was shocked to see that there was a classroom. The children piled in and sat on the floor with their “desk” which was a small step stool. There were charts and worksheets covering the walls of the tent. School started in January for these students. Some of them were 10 years old but could not write their name. As a former teacher, I was so blessed by this ministry of the church. We gave out shoeboxes at the school and followed the children outside where they were huddled around their boxes. I realized why this ministry was given the name, “Everlasting Smiles.”

Yes, when they open each present there were huge, happy smiles. But there was much more to this ministry than just smiles. A seed has been planted in the hearts of these children. The gospel of Christ was given an opportunity to grow in little hearts and minds. Those shoeboxes that cost us very little money, time and effort were the vehicles of an invaluable gift. They provide an opportunity for each child and their family to come to know Christ. **And THAT’S the Everlasting Smile!!**

I want to challenge you...

Pray for those children that received those shoeboxes in El Salvador and Jordan.

Pray that they will remember the people who gave the shoebox to them and that they will seek a relationship with the missionaries.

Pray that they will attend church.

Pray that they are saved.

Make plans to pack an Everlasting Smiles Shoebox! I’ve already started packing boxes. Will you join me? What a great way to open many doors for our missionaries for just a little time and effort on our part. For more information on what to pack in your box, visit bmamissions.org. Information will be coming to your church soon on how you can get involved. If you have more questions, contact angela@bmamissions.org or 501-455-4977.

Angela Rice,
Short Term Mission
Coordinator, BMA Missions

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

Prayer:

The Power of the Local Church

I Timothy 2:1-8

by Dennis Baker, Brotherhood President

The focus of the text is prayer for all men in relationship to the preaching of the gospel message. Paul encourages Timothy to make supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks on behalf of all men. This included praying for all that are in authority. Then he emphasizes, "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour."

No one is outside the influence of prayer. This means that we pray for the unsaved and saved, for people near us and people far away, for enemies as well as friends. We must pray for those in authority. Even when we cannot respect men or women in authority, we must respect their office and pray for them. When we face opposition and persecution it is wise to pray for those in authority. It is good that we pray, "so that we might live peaceful and quiet lives in holiness." The word "quiet" has reference to a calm attitude within us. The calm attitude is the result of turning over what is on our heart to God.

Paul stresses the reason for prayer, "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."

The purpose of prayer is not to get our will done in heaven, but to get God's will done on earth. It is God's will that we pray for "all men" because as stated in the text, God would, "have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." We must pray for all people, Jews and Gentiles, rich and poor, religious and pagan. We have the responsibility of praying for lost souls and making ourselves available to share the gospel with others.

The basis for prayer is the work of Jesus Christ as Savior and Mediator. There is only one God, therefore there is a need for only one Mediator, and that Mediator is Jesus Christ. No other person can qualify. Because the death of Christ is efficient only for those who trust Him, but is sufficient for the sins of the whole world we must pray for all as we become a part of God's world program to reach all people before it is too late.

The posture of the heart is more important than the posture of the body. "Holy hands" refers to a holy life. It is symbolic of a blameless life. If we have sin in our lives we cannot expect God to answer our prayers. Psalms 66:18, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." The phrase "without wrath and doubting" requires that we be on good terms with other believers. Christians should learn to disagree without being disagreeable.

Effective praying is demanding. It requires a right relationship with God and with fellow believers. How much more effective would the ministry of the local church be if we spent more time preparing to pray and getting our heart right before God? Do you think it would help us to quit looking at past hurts and disappointments and cause us to be focused on praying for "all" that they might be saved?

I would like to close by sharing a blessing I receive the first Wednesday night of the month at the church I pastor. The entire service is focused on prayer. There are no classes or preaching, just the church praying together. We have a prayer

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.

**National Brotherhood at the
National BMA Meeting**

by Richey Hester

National Brotherhood Editor and Promoter

The National Brotherhood of the BMA of America will meet at the 68th annual BMA meeting in Arlington, TX. We will meet at the Arlington Convention Center in Room M5&M7 on Tuesday morning May 2nd at 8:00. The speaker for the meeting will be Bro. Steve Clark from Skyway Hills Baptist Church in Pearl, MS. We hope see you all there.

President Mark Jones has asked me to remind you that if your brotherhood has not sent in their project money for this past brotherhood project year please do so. The National Brotherhood project for 2016-17 was the Moral Action Agency. Please send your offering to Dr. John Adams at P.O. Box 305 • Mantachie, MS 38855. We will be electing a new project for 2017-18.

One last thing to mention is our National Galileans. They will have their National Galilean Camp in Smithville, AR on June 29 - July 2, 2017. Please pray for these young men who will be future leaders of our great churches. Please continue to support the Galileans.
Note: All men are encouraged to attend the National Brotherhood meeting.

**He Laid Aside
His Garments**

by The Late Glenn W. Fox

"He (Jesus) riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded." John 13:4-5.

Jesus never did wear a garment which He did not have every right to wear. He never took anything from anyone by force. He never did unjustly or unfairly take what belonged to another. Yet He was willing to give up His rights and privileges in order to be a blessing to us. Let us follow His example.

Jesus laid aside His garment of Heavenly Glory.

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Phil. 2:5-8.

Any ordinary person who was enjoying the glory which Jesus had with the Father would surely have clung to that position and would not have come to earth as a man, leaving behind all that he enjoyed in the presence of God. But Jesus left it all. He came willingly. "He did not think His being on an equality with God a thing to be selfishly grasped, but He laid it aside..." (Williams Translation)

He laid aside the garment of His heavenly glory that He might take "on the nature of a slave and become like other men." Jesus was willing to sacrifice. His was not a selfish sacrifice which was calculated to be to His advantage. He had sinners in mind. He had the honor and glory of His father in mind. He sacrificed Himself and His joys for the benefit and blessing of others.

Jesus laid aside His garment which represented a Master's privilege.

Just prior to His death Jesus laid aside His garments and

• See **GARMENTS** Page 8 •



SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE • BRANSON, MISSOURI



DON CHANDLER



STEVE GREEN



DAVID ATTEBERY



NEIL DUMAS



SIGHT & SOUND

November 13-15, 2017

Senior Adult Conference Details Announced

DiscipleGuide's annual Senior Adult Conference is your opportunity to catch up with friends in the beauty of the Ozarks. Join seniors from around the BMA **November 13-15, 2017** at the Hilton Convention Hotel in Branson, Missouri. Enjoy the powerful preaching of Don Chandler, inspirational music of Steve Green, and encouraging ministry of the Central Baptist College Singers. Plus, Neil Dumas and David Attebery will lead everyone in singing! This year's conference includes tickets to Sight & Sound Theaters' special Christmas show, *Miracle of Christmas* when you register by October 19. Plus, enjoy a fully catered breakfast each morning. And in your free time, walk across the street to Branson Landing for food and shopping.

For more information about the conference, or to register your group, visit discipleguide.org/senior or call 800.333.1442

• GARMENTS From Page 7 •

washed His disciples' feet. Even in the shadow of the cross He was thinking of others. He had every right as Master to have His servants, the disciples, to wash His feet; but He was willing to forego that privilege. They would not have done it willingly and on their own initiative anyway. He did not want personal service

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.

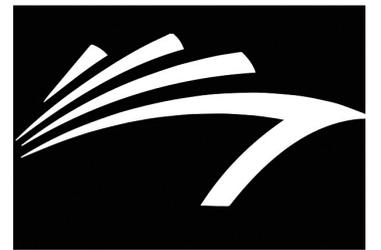
which He had to ask for, but He did accept that which was lovingly and freely given.

By laying aside His garment, taking a towel and girding Himself, and washing the disciples' feet, the Lord shocked the disciples. They were all seeking preeminence among themselves, He sought an humble place of service. He did the work of a common household slave. He did a task which made Peter so ashamed that he at first refused to let Jesus do it for him.

Jesus showed His disciples the need of daily cleansing. They had all been washed except for Judas, who was never saved. They did not need the thorough cleansing of hands and head as Peter suggested. In other words, they did not need to be saved all over again; they needed only the daily cleansing of forgiveness which maintains fellowship with the Lord.

By laying aside His garment which represented His position and privilege as a Master, and by taking up the garb of the slave, Jesus taught His disciples that they should help each other. They should wash each others' feet; that is, they should help each other avoid temptation. They should help each other in trials. They should help to restore each other to the Lord's fellowship

CHURCH LEADERS CRUISE



Church Leaders Cruise

DiscipleGuide's Church Leaders Cruise, Jan. 13-18, will provide an opportunity for vocational and lay leaders to rest, relax and recharge. Church Leaders Cruise combines the best of the former Great Escape conference and Pastors Oasis conference in an environment from which any church vocational and lay leader can benefit. According to DiscipleGuide's Director, Scott Attebery, "We wanted to find ways to serve those who serve our churches, and we felt that branching out in this way would accomplish that goal."

Three conference tracks and a flexible schedule allow leaders to customize the experience for their particular needs. The cost for the conference is \$80 per person until Sept. 1, and \$100 per person after that date.

The five-day Western Caribbean cruise will depart from Galveston, Texas with ports of call in Progreso and Cozumel. Cruise reservations may be made with Carnival Cruise Line at (800) 819-3902, ext. 85267. Remember to request "Church Leaders' group with early dining," and book early for best rates.

For more information visit discipleguide.org/cruise.

Conference Speakers

• **Inspiration Track** — Do you need to be refreshed by God's Word? The Inspiration Track aims to uplift and strengthen leaders struggling with discouragement and burnout. Join Brent Summerhill, pastor of First Baptist Church in Magnolia for encouraging messages from God's Word.

• **Family Ministry Track** — Dr. Timothy Paul Jones will equip leaders to reach children, students and parents in a biblical model. Jones is a popular speaker, author of *Family Ministry Field Guide* and serves as a professor at the Southern Baptist Seminary. He has been featured on American Family Radio and The Gospel Coalition blog.

• **Leadership Skills Track** Matt Perman, author of *What's Best Next: How the Gospel Transforms the Way You Get Things Done*, will help you become a more effective leader. He's been featured in Christianity Today and The Gospel Coalition blog. Matt will share insights for ministry leadership and productivity.

when they sinned against the Lord. We must not insist upon our rights all the time.

"If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet."

Jesus laid aside His garment of Perfect Righteousness. John 19:23-24.

At the cross Jesus laid aside the perfect righteousness of the Son of God and took up the sins of all the sons of men. His own garments were laid aside, including the one woven throughout without a seam. The righteousness of Jesus was not cut, patched and spliced. At the very best our lives are a patchwork of good intentions, failures, and second efforts to do right. We do not turn the "seamy" side of our lives to the world, but our faults are evident even though we try to hide them.

Jesus knew our nakedness before God. He knew that God could see right through our rags of righteousness. He was willing to suffer our shame, bear our sins, and die in our place. *"For he (God) hath made him (Jesus) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."* II Corinthians 5:21. He wore our garment of sin and sham that we might wear His garment of righteousness. He bore our sins in His own body on the tree. I Peter 2:24. Some day we will wear a heavenly robe (a new body) because He was willing to take a body like ours. We can now live for God and serve others because He became a servant among us.