Official Beginning of LifeWord Sunday Season

Your church should have received the 2017 Lifeword Sunday/Walk packet during the week of July 31 - August 4, marking the official beginning of Lifeword Sunday season. The packet includes a letter from Executive Director Donny Parrish, a sample bulletin insert and two posters for promotion. When you register your church at lifeword.org/lifewordsunday, you can request additional inserts and posters for promotion.

October 22 is Lifeword Sunday (or whatever day works for your church), an opportunity for church members to understand how Lifeword helps them fulfill their Great Commission calling. We ask churches to show the 2017 Lifeword Sunday video, pray for and give to Lifeword on that day.

Since 1980, the flagship fund-raiser for Lifeword has been the Walk, but many churches have discontinued it in favor of other types of events, often very creative ones. Many churches include Lifeword in their budgets, and we are honored by that partnership. We especially encourage those churches to at least have an emphasis day informing their congregations about what Lifeword is and does. The 2017 Lifeword video will be available for download or by DVD at the end of August. The Lifeword Team just returned from Peru with footage of visionary leader Pastor Paul Tinoco and Lifeword Programming Director Luis Ortega in the mountain village of Quelicani as they develop a partnership to broadcast the gospel to thousands in that region.

For up-to-date information about Lifeword’s ministry, please use the following sources:
- lifeword.org for viewing videos about current initiatives and future vision and reading articles and blogs
- Facebook pages: Lifeword, Lifeword Community Radio

Another Great Camp at Garwood!!

God has blessed us with a great campground with good facilities and then sent beautiful weather, wonderful speakers, singers, and workers in addition to over 300 young people who were ready for God to work in their lives throughout the week of July 31st - August 4th. The result was A GREAT CAMP FOR THE GLORY OF GOD!

At least 11 young people accepted Christ as their Savior during the week and many other decisions were made about our relationship with Jesus and one another.

There are pictures from camp throughout this paper and issue to follow, and we hope you enjoy getting a glimpse of the people and activities of Camp Garwood.

At Camp Garwood we always emphasize that Jesus lives in our Heart. This picture was made to show J-E-S-U-S in our heart, but it wasn’t too plain. This is a reminder that we need to live so people see Jesus in our lives each day. We need to work on our picture taking but more importantly, we need to work on letting Jesus be seen in us!

2017 Annual Meeting of the BMA of Missouri
Camp Garwood
October 28, 2017
9:00 a.m.

This is a great opportunity for all our churches to take care of God’s Business and see the great camp God has provide us to use in reaching others for Him!

7th Annual BMA of Missouri Brotherhood Fall Retreat
September 29 - 30, 2017
at Camp Garwood

Make Plans to attend & Bring a Friend!
Watch for more details coming soon.
Abundant Life in Christ, Charleston. Our business meeting of July 2nd took an unexpected turn and it was decided we would not be returning to our rented location. Our building is not nearly finished—our “front doors” are sheets of plywood—but it’s finished enough we are making a go of it. We tied our record Sunday School attendance during the month, and for the first time in a few years averaged more than 30 in attendance for morning worship. We praise God for the professions of faith of Santavia Townsend and one other during Vacation Bible School. We also praise God for the additions of Eli Dunlap, Rachel Dunlap, Mike Pratt and Santavia Townsend via baptism.

Roden Dunlap, Pastor

Greetings once again from Bethany, St. Louis. We are gearing up to elect teachers and officers for the next church year. As with many of our churches, we are small and need ready and willing bodies to make this possible. I’m convinced that we all have a job to do in the Lord’s Church and His will is to be done by willing hands. Please continue praying for Sis. Beeler as she has had a couple of small strokes and is recovering from those. Also pray for Bro. Fred as he stands by her side during therapy and recovery. Bro. Dunn is preaching a series of sermons on Sunday mornings on the 23rd. Psalm. This has been such a blessing and we praise God for being our Great Shepherd. He is preaching on the book of James in the evening service and we are enjoying that also. I am praising God for good news from my kidney doctor. No more stones!!! And my sister Carolyn does not have liver cancer!!!!! Keep her in your prayers as she awaits other tests. Our ladies are looking forward to the ladies retreat. This is always a great time of fellowship and fun. Ladies, you will not be sorry if you go. God bless.

Nick Dunn, Pastor • Kathy Chapman, Reporter

Blessings to all from Bethel, Sikeston. Great things have been happening here at Bethel during the month of July! July 1st Brett Hurst came forward requesting to be baptized and join the church. He gave his testimony of being saved the week before. After baptism he was given the hand of fellowship and welcomed into our Bethel family. God is so good! Thank you Jesus!! July 9th, we were blessed to have Bro. Ted Martin with the Gideons in our evening service. He gave a wonderful testimony about his wife being healed of cancer, praise God!! He also informed us of his Bible ministry with the Gideons. What a great ministry to be involved in! There have been many souls saved from picking up one of those Bibles and reading God’s Word! Bro. Billy has been teaching in Ephesians 6, “Putting on the Whole Armor of God” on Wednesday nights. What a blessing it has been as we are in a spiritual battle each and every day! Once a month on Wednesday night the ladies and men go to separate classes to discuss things that need to be done or new ideas for outreach. A float for the Cotton Carnival parade is in our plans and, a stand to hand out water and tracts as a witness to people. One Sunday night each month we have a special prayer service, with a room designated as a prayer room for the ones who desire to pray before or after church in private. July 28 and 29 the youth had a lock-in, with approximately 13 teens attending. They had good fellowship and fun. Our youth and adults had a wonderful time at camp this year and what a blessing to see 11 young people come forward for salvation, all representing different churches. This is what camp is all about! All the glory goes to God! We are getting prepared to fill our Christmas shoeboxes in order to get them sent in September.

Have a blessed month!
Billy Davis, Pastor • Joan Wood, Reporter

Landmark, DeSoto, entered a float in the July 4th parade at DeSoto. Sounds to me like they had a lot of fun. It was a pretty warm day, but I think it was enjoyed by all that participated. We held our VBS the 10th - 14th with the commencement on the 15th. We would have had it on the 16th, but that was the first night of Meramec Camp. We had a good VBS with the theme being “The Redeemer”. The kids enjoyed the classes, the snacks, crafts and, I think most of all, the music time. Sis. Smith was our VBS Director and she does a very good job. We had some go to both the younger kids camp and the teen camp. They always come back enthused about serving our loving God. Denver enjoyed preaching at Landmark the morning and evening of the 23rd. Bro. and Sis. Gibson were away for a week. We sure do miss them when they are gone. Debbie Conyers lost a brother-in-law to cancer. He had been on hospice for about 3 weeks so and Debbie stayed with her sister during that time. We extend our sympathy to that family. We had our 5th Sunday fellowship dinner on the 30th. As usual, we had good food and good fellowship. Then that evening, we observed the Lord’s Supper. Until Next Month or the Lord’s Return
Wayne Gibson, Pastor
Sharon Page, Reporter

Greetings from Faith Baptist Church in St. Charles! This year has been, so far, a year of growth for our church. We have had many (almost two dozen!) new members by both baptism and letter, and several of those souls are brand new to church. Since the beginning of the year, there have been over 20 baptisms, resulting in an unusually high water hill. Of course, we gladly pay the bill! Not only has our number increased, almost all the new adult members have stepped up to serve the church in some capacity or another. We were excited to send a bus-load (and then some!) of campers to Camp Garwood. It was truly a time of refreshing, and some of the youth of our group showed signs that they are moving from a head-knowledge of Christ to a heart-knowledge of Him. Our Fall Festival is coming up in October, and we are thankful for the opportunity to reach out to so many in our community. We look forward to seeing what God has in store for our local body!
Justin Arender, Pastor • Annaliene Wagner, Reporter

Greetings from First Baptist Church, Potosi. What an exciting month we had during July. It was very busy, but worth all of the effort everyone put into each project. Kids camp was the first week and around 70 children went to Richwoods Retreat Center. The children had a wonderful time, coming home singing some new songs (at least new to me), and told about their camp adventures. Then the weekend was spent by the GMA embarking on a journey to Camp Garwood for the yearly retreat. Alisia Wright and I joined the excursion; Michelle Knebel was greatly missed by all. The topic this year was understanding and knowing that we are priceless. God loves us no matter what. July 11, the Celebrate Recovery Leaders traveled to a three-day summit in Tennessee where there were over 3,000 attendees. I was told it was a great experience and while I am happy for them, I was disappointed I was unable to attend. Kevin Smith, our youth leader and Celebrate Recovery pastor has been very busy during these weeks. The next week was Teen Camp at the Richwoods Retreat Center where two from our church were saved. Thirty teens from our church attended camp. What a blessing. It is great when the teens come home and talk about the friends they made from other churches. It made me think about all of the once-a-month youth meetings I used to attend many years ago. Then the last full week of July was VBS. Raven Porter had volunteers who came two different nights before VBS to make decorations. Wow! The decorations were awesome as the theme was Cave Quest. It took a lot of team work to get this program underway. We had 165 attendees at VBS and the songs they sang on Sunday were fantastic. In the last couple of months we have received several new members by letter and by baptism. Our services have been so full of the spirit that sometimes you feel like you are going to be lifted off your feet. Sometimes you feel as though you are going to burst. Our services are like that every Sunday morning; members are actually going outside their comfort zone to serve God. While all of this is good, there are still many...
The highlight of this past month was our State Camp the last day of July and first few days of August. What a blessing to attend this event and see God working in the lives of many young people as well as adults. Thanks to everyone who works so hard all year long to keep our camp in shape and making improvements each year. God has graciously provided the funds through various means as the needs arise each year.

The new dormitory was utilized this year and new activities for recreation time were introduced and everyone loved the progress.

The greatest blessing was the salvation of at least ten young people and many who rededicated their lives to the Lord. Our churches are rejoicing in the spirit of revival resulting from the camp. Bro. Shawn Hammontree and Bro. Tom Foster Jr. did a wonderful job of addressing the needs of all present through God’s Word and each challenged us to a closer walk with God.

We are still burdened that we have churches without pastors and churches who are struggling to keep going. Each of us need to be praying for these and doing what we can to help wherever God opens the doors.

Once again I have been invited to attend the Annual Meeting of the BMA of South West Missouri in Springfield this month. I look forward to the fellowship at the meeting and appreciate the support of the state work.

Please join me in prayer that we can find someone whom God is leading to start a new work in our state this year. If you know of an area where we need a new work or if you know of someone who is interested in planting a new work please let me or a member of our Special Missions Committee know.

I look forward to our annual meeting at Camp Garwood October 28th. We hope to have more information about this meeting in the September paper. I hope many who have never been to Garwood will attend this meeting and see what God has blessed us with in this campground.

Please make every effort to attend and participate in planning our work for the Lord for this next year. Come with a prayer for unity and cooperation among our churches as we do His will.

Thank you for allowing me to serve the Lord and His churches.

**SOAR 2017 Ministry For Every Believer**

Church vans piled in to the Gaylord Texan Resort the afternoon of July 5 for three days that would change lives forever. Nearly 2,000 students came together for the first session that evening, where Ryan Storey, Jordan Bowen, and McKenna Marlow hyped up the youth and kicked off the conference. Afterward, the keynote speaker, Dustin Wisely, entered the stage to give the students a foreshadowing of the sessions to come: that all followers of Christ are called to ministry, no matter what. The evening was concluded with a worshipful set from We the Union, then students emptied out of the Texas Ballroom and filled the SOAR Village.

Thousands of students roamed the different stations in the

**Summer on the Navajo Reservation**

Hello, supporting friends. We have had an awesome summer of ministry at Mexican Water Baptist Church. In June we had Back Yard Bible Clubs, July we had VBS, Revival, started remodeling the church, a wedding, and baptism service, and in August we are looking forward to another baptism service, ladies shopping trip and a church camping trip. It has been a blessing to be part of God’s work on the reservation, and we are so thankful for all of the groups who came and supported to make all of the ministry possible.

The church has collected over $2,500 towards our Building Fund. Several of the members have been faithfully giving towards this area and we were able to begin remodeling with one of our groups. They worked so hard during the day and we conducted revival services in the evening. They were such a blessing. We were able to paint the inside of the church, hang new lights and fans, install a shower in the bathroom and Ms. Wendy even refurbished our back wall for us which looks awesome. We will continue saving to replace the flooring and move the cooler as soon as we raise enough funds.

We want to thank all of those who have been praying for Ms. Sophie and Bro. Herman. Please continue to pray for Sophie’s Cancer treatment, she is half way through and the doctor is happy with the progress that he is seeing with the treatment. We were able to conduct their marriage ceremony last weekend. That gave us the opportunity to share Christ with over 50 traditional Navajo family members!!! Many of their family, including Sophie and Herman, had never been to a Christian wedding. It was such a special opportunity. While many of them had questions, they were very respectful during the ceremony and reception. It was awesome to be part of something that honors God and shares Christ.

Ms. Sophie and Bro. Herman asked to have their baptism Service the following day, and we planned accordingly, we also had Nan and Gavin (brother and sister) join them for baptism. This is the first baptism service to take place at Mexican Water Baptist in approximately five years!! After seeing their example of following in Believers Baptism we had several others come and talk with us about being baptized this coming Sunday!!!

We had five walk the Isle for salvation this past week. Many of you may remember Alberta, the teenage girl who often ask prayer for. She was saved as part of our Bluff Ministry. This is the first baptism service to take place at Mexican Water Baptist in approximately five years!! After seeing their example of following in Believers Baptism we had several others come and talk with us about being baptized this coming Sunday!!!

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**BMA of Missouri Website:** www.bmamissouri.org
Ministers Resource Services Director Retires

Ron Chesser announces his retirement after over eighteen years of service....

As confident as I was in December, 1999 of becoming the Executive Director of Ministers Resource Services, the retirement agency of the BMAA, I am equally confident that it is now the time for me to announce my retirement. My retirement will be effective May 31, 2018. I am allowing this time frame, from my announcement to the effective date, so our board of trustees can receive resumes and have a candidate to submit as nominee for Executive Director at the BMAA national meeting in Jackson, MS next April.

Let me express my sincere appreciation to the churches of the BMAA for allowing me to fulfill my call to the ministry of retirement. God has allowed me to help pastors, church staff, missionaries and department personnel plan financially for the future. For this opportunity to help others I am extremely thankful and can firmly say, “To God Be the Glory.”

This mission I have been on for the past eighteen and one-half years as Executive Director would have been impossible without our MRS office personnel. Upon my retirement in May, 2018, Alice Griffin will have finished 38 years in her position as Administrative Assistant and serving in the same position Sharon Daniels will have completed over 34 years. Jane Hoy will have been with us for 4 years. These ladies have made my job not only easier but I simply could not have done it without them. A huge word of gratitude for a job well done goes out to each of them.

Words are inadequate in expressing appreciation not only to our current board of trustees but to those who have served faithfully down through the years during my time as Executive Director. Every board member fills a significant role as a trustee but Kenneth Lott has served longer as chairman of the board during my tenure than any other individual. His administrative and financial expertise has been a strength and encouragement to me.

The name Gloria Hudson Chesser may not mean a lot to you but to me it means everything. For over fifty-five years she has faithfully been by my side, first, as a pastor’s wife for forty years and then as a director’s wife. God knew what He was doing when He gave her to me. To me she is priceless!

Psalm 37:4, “Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.” Indeed, God has proven true to His Word many times over during my almost 60 years of ministry!
Deacon Ordinations

Faith Baptist Church, St. Charles

Pastor Justin Arender and the members of Faith invited their sister churches and their ordained preachers and deacons to come and assist them in ordaining Bro. John Hutchinson to the office of Deacon at 2:30 in the afternoon on Sunday June 11, 2017.

Several members of Faith and her sister churches were represented in the congregation with the following ordained men participating in the Presbytery: Justin Arender, Ernest Ward, Tom Pruett, Brian Meade, Don Crawford, Ken Shell, David, Wright and James Hoffmann.

The Presbytery (Council) organized with the following being elected to serve in the ordination:

- Bro. James Hoffmann • Moderator
- Bro. Ernest Ward • Clerk
- Bro. Tom Pruett • Present the Candidate & his Wife
- Bro. Brian Meade • Question Candidate & Wife
- Bro. Ernest Ward • Ordination Prayer
- Bro. David Wright • Present Bibles
- Bro. Justin Arender • Deliver Message and Charge
- Bro. Brian Meade • questioned the candidate and his wife and also gave the members of the council an opportunity to ask any questions they wished. When the questioning was completed the council voted that they were satisfied with the response of the candidate and his wife and recommended to the church that they approve the completion of the ordination, which the church voted to do. Following this the council participated in laying their hands on the candidate and praying with him.

- Bro. David Wright presented some Bibles to the candidate, which had been furnished by Faith Church, and challenged him to give these Bibles to someone who did not have one.

- Pastor Justin then preached the ordination message and presented a charge to the candidate.

Stony Point Baptist Church, Mineral Point

Pastor Claude Evans and the members of Stony Point Baptist Church invited their sister churches and their ordained personnel to attend and assist them in ordaining Bro. Michael Bourbon to the office of Deacon at 2:30 in the afternoon on June 23, 2017.

The Presbytery (Council) organized with the following participants:

- Bro. James Hoffmann • Moderator
- Bro. Lee Miller • Clerk
- Bro. Jim Douglas • Present the Candidate & his Wife
- Bro. Claude Evans • Question Candidate & Wife
- Bro. Len Young • Ordination Prayer
- Bro. David Hughes • Present Bible
- Bro. James Hoffmann • Message & Charge

Following the questioning and approval of the Council the church voted to continue the ordination. The ordination prayer followed by the laying on hands was led by Bro. Len Young.

- Bro. David presented the Bible and Bro. James Hoffmann brought his message and charge.

Fellowship and refreshments followed the service.

What We’re Doing/Where We’re Going at Lifeword:

Lifeword Community Radio and the Lifeword Cloud

by Holly Meriwether

There are 16,000 people groups in the world, and 7,000 of them are considered “unreached” with the gospel. A people group is considered unreached (UPG) when there is no indigenous community of believing Christians able to engage them with church planting. Generally, that means less than 2 percent have heard the name of Jesus. Lifeword’s goal has been and always will be to seek out those people groups and present the gospel via the airwaves and all available technology.

In 1965 Harvest Gleaner Hour (as Lifeword was called for almost 30 years) began its gospel programing from a high-wattage St. Louis radio station. This traditional “broad” casting from high wattage stations was its primary transmission method until four years ago when a BMA lay leader and the Lifeword team began exploring the idea of using “narrow” casting through low-wattage, inexpensive equipment that, for the most part, did not require government licensing. Once an antennae was installed from the highest point in a village, on a church, or at the top of a mountain, broadcasts could be heard in a five- to seven-mile radius. In a small village where people live and work within that distance, it has proven to be an incredible gospel tool for indigenous pastors, churches, church planters and missionaries.

From its fledgling beginnings broadcasting Kekchi-language Bible reading into a Guatemalan military base from a nearby Kekchi church, the idea has taken root and Lifeword Community Radio (LCR) stations are now scattered from Faith Baptist Church, St. Charles and assist them in ordaining Bro. sister churches and their ordained pastors to come and assist them in ordaining Bro. Michael Bourbon to the office of Deacon at 2:30 in the afternoon on Sunday June 11, 2017.

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Burma Buddhist Baptized

Chile to Mexico, from the western coast of Liberia all the way across Africa to Tanzania, and across Asia from Cambodia to remote mountains of the Philippines. BMA churches and missions are now using LCR to touch the lives of people in ways that pastors and missionaries say they never could have without radio.

The process begins when Lifeword’s visionary leaders in the Philippines, Africa and Central and South America find people groups who have never heard the gospel in their heart languages. Sometimes their searches include difficulties like flood-swollen rivers, mosquito-infested jungles, muddy roads, dense mountain foliage, carabao (and other animal) transportation and uncertain weather conditions. Once they’ve discovered unreached areas, these leaders will make contact with nearby pastors or churches who pay the $350 for LCR equipment, which is a necessary part of the process: If they “own” it, they’re more likely to use it.

Next, in a perfect example of the multiplication process, visionary leaders identify, train, and coach other leaders in installation, maintenance and operation of new LCR stations in their areas of ministry. This is where ministry support partners are needed: The cost of this training can be as high as $1,800 for travel, transportation and accommodations. Expenses are greatly reduced, however, when indigenous broadcasters, station managers and engineers can do the training, but Lifeword USA is always available for support and coaching.

At present there are about 80 of these little stations on the air. While most are able to operate without licenses, that is not always the case. Three stations (that we know of) are in the final stages of being formally licensed by their country’s governmental communications authorities.

Lifeword Community Radio is reaching the unreached through “broad” and “narrow” casting, and now the vision continues with the Lifeword Cloud. Plans are in the works for a repository of broadcasts and discipleship materials accessible in the heart languages of unreached people groups. In the coming months, the specifics of those plans will be released, so pray for the Lifeword team as we seek God’s guidance in this effort.

• SOAR From Page 3 •

Village, which included a bookstore, a café, a “Built to Build” station which helped students discover their natural ministry gifting, a VSM Experience and Prayer Walk, a blogging center where students shared their hearts, and many other stations from impactful ministries. The Village Stage featured music from Raquel, smooth acoustic tunes Tyler Sellers, and even Youth Pastor Karaoke, through which Dave Vandergriff emerged as victor.

The following sessions walked through Philippians 1 and 2, and Dustin Wisely explained how even though Paul was in prison when he wrote these letters, he was ecstatically joyful in Christ. Why is this? Because God was his true treasure, and his only desire was to make Christ known. Paul had full...
State WMA Project

Ladies, this is a report from Missionary Andy Lahmann whose work is part of our state Project:

“We had a great week of revival services, fellowship and getting some church updates done. We are so thankful for Bro. Kerry Jordan, his wife and the group for all that they did this week.

Bro. Jordan brought the message every evening, and we had wonderful attendance and responses at invitation. The group worked very hard every day to help us with the church updates. We were able to paint the interior of the building, hang new lights and fans, and install a shower and water heater for our groups to use.

We are so thankful for all the Lord did spiritually and physically for Mexican Water Baptist this past week!”

SOAR From Page 5 •

confidence that God was in complete control, and in life or death his circumstances would work out for his good and Christ’s glory.

Session three brought a panel of people who grew up going to SOAR, and who are now living a life that serves the Lord outside of vocational ministry. The panel included foster parents, an NFL football player, a businessman involved in training up godly men, and a short-term missionary. All of these people built upon and solidified the calling that all Christians must live a life of ministry, even if they don’t enter vocational ministry.

The final session drove home an essential point for students: faithful Christians should not be the exception. Followers of Christ should live a life of sacrificial, joyful ministry because they live for something greater than this world. They have the BEST news: the gospel. Wisely closed out with a challenge for SOAR students: how are you going to live a life of ministry when you leave SOAR? Because, as a follower of Christ, it’s what you’re called to do.

SOAR 2017 had several other opportunities to learn and grow, including five different SOAR Workshops, which were a smaller, more focused time of discipleship. SOAR Serves included three different mini mission trips, which served communities and BMA church plants in the area, reinforcing the concept of living a selfless lifestyle.

The results left in the wake of SOAR 2017 are salvations, commitments to ministry, and many lives impacted for Christ. Disciple-Guide is excited about the impact from this year, and is looking forward to SOAR 2018, when the theme will be “Local,” challenging students to get involved in their local church.

Song of Solomon

A Love for All Seasons

Marie is a young, single woman who has recently come to know Christ, and is working her way through studying the Scriptures. She is learning the value of God’s heart for her, and how he pursues her daily with an endless love. Jacob and Caroline have been married for forty-two years, and are still striving after God’s perfect will for their marriage. Michael has been widowed for years, and isn’t searching to get remarried soon. How would a study about love benefit all of these people?

We know from 2 Timothy 3:16 that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, but does that mean it’s all worth studying? What about Song of Solomon? Is it just a book for newly weds, or would it apply to Marie, Jacob, Caroline, and Michael?

Compass Literature’s fall edition, A Love for All Seasons, takes its readers through the greatest song, the Bible’s book of love poetry, and applies it to people in every stage of life. The study will dive deep in to studying allegory and parallelism in the lines of poetry, while also taking time to look at the big picture of God’s ceaseless pursuit of his church.

No matter if you’re single, widowed, divorced, or have been happily married for many years, the flowing whole of the Song of Solomon will come alive to you, as it studies the mystery and power of the love of the Father, and our love for one another.

Compass Bible Studies is produced by the Disciple-Guide, a department of the Baptist Missionary Association. You can find out more about Compass at discipleguide.org, or by calling 800.333.1442.
Sometimes we faint because of a lack of nourishment. Matthew 4:4, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

The National Brotherhood of the BMA met May 2, 2017 in Arlington, TX. We had a great turn out to hear Bro. Steve Clark of Pearl, MS bring the message. He spoke from II Timothy 4 entitled “Will He Find Us Faithful.” He encouraged us ALL to go out and do God’s work. He ended by telling us to stand up, stand up for God. Then he asked the question “What is your ministry?” Every Christian and Church Member has a Ministry. After the message we went into business by electing our officers. They are as follows:

President - Mark Jones
1st Vice President - Van Widger
2nd Vice President - James Lammae
3rd Vice President - Chris Hamilton
Secretary/Treasurer - Roy Caldwell
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer - Jimmy Thompson
Editor & Promoter - Richey Hester
Song Leader - Bill Thornton
Assistant Song Leader - Matt Hudson
Galilean Director - Kenneth Covert
Assistant Galilean Director - Dan Williams

After hearing from Dr. Doug Lee, we voted to accept the BMAA Bible College in the Philippines as our national project. At the end of our meeting, we thanked Robert Bynum for his 34 years of service as the National Brotherhood Treasurer. After the message we went into business by electing our officers. They are as follows:

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Assistant Song Leader - Matt Hudson
Galilean Director - Kenneth Covert
Assistant Galilean Director - Dan Williams

Please help with our national project.


A Letter to the Editors

The Duties and Powers of an Association

Historically, duties have been understood as obligatory tasks, conduct or functions that arise from a position of membership in a group or in life in general. Powers have also been viewed as the abilities or attributes of control or authority.

As the BMAA approaches its season of state and local associational meetings, we look forward to re-establishing and enjoying our relationships with other churches and hearing the different ways God is advancing the Great Commission through our associational work. However, while enjoying these blessings we must remember our duties that must be attended to and powers that must be exercised in responsible and ethical ways.

As BMAA churches and officers prepare to meet, we could benefit by hearing what the leaders of America’s original Baptist association, the Philadelphia Baptist Association, understood as their responsibility and authority as the representatives of Christ on earth. Specifically, it is good for us to be reminded of associational duties in regard to erroneous teachings within member churches.

The following are selections from an essay commissioned by the Philadelphia Association in 1748 and adopted by the association the next year. These selections appear in contemporary language for ease of understanding. The full text of the original essay may be accessed by visiting http://baptisthistoryhomepage.com/phia.minutes.essay.1749.html.

Many thanks to Dr. David Hellwig (BMATS Professor of Biblical Studies and pastor of First Baptist Church, New Summerville) for his assistance in modernizing the language of these selections.

Dr. Charley Holmes, President
BMA Theological Seminary

Minutes of the Philadelphia Baptist Association, 1707-1807
By A. D. Gillette, editor, 1851

The Association unanimously approved and agreed to an essay by Benjamin Griffith, concerning the power and duty of an Association, to be inserted in the Associational book.

At our last annual Association, which met on September 19, 1749, an essay on the power and duty of an Association of churches, was proposed, as mentioned above, to be considered by the Association. After careful discussion and consideration, the essay was approved and adopted by all the churches. The contents of the essay was ordered to be transcribed as the judgment of the Association, in order to be inserted in the Association book. The purpose of the essay was to determine what power an Association of churches possesses, and what are the responsibilities of an Association and prevent the contempt with which some are ready to treat such an assembly, and also to present any future generation from claiming more power that they ought - lording over the churches.

Philadelphia Baptist Association, 1749
Essay

On Doctrine and Order in the Association

An Association is not a superior ecclesiastical body, having such superior power over the churches of an association. Each particular church possesses a complete power and authority from Jesus Christ to administer all gospel ordinances, provided, they have a sufficient number of qualified officers, or that the officers of another sister church or churches assist them in the proper administration of baptism and the Lord’s supper; and to receive members and exercise church discipline. Each church also has complete power to examine and ordain their own officers, and to exercise every part of gospel discipline and church government, independent of any other church or assembly whatsoever.

And that several such independent churches, where Providence allows their situation to dictate, may, and ought to (for their mutual strength, counsel, and other valuable advantages, by their voluntary and free consent) enter into an agreement of cooperation, as prescribed in our printed Narrative of Discipline.

Such churches must agree in doctrine and practice, and be independent in their authority and church power, before they can enter into cooperation. They should choose delegates or representatives, to associate together. Furthermore, the several independent churches being the constituents, the association, when assembled, is not deemed to possess superior jurisdiction, as having authority over the churches, but subservient to the churches, in what may concern all the churches in general, or any one church in particular. If the foundation of an association is a mutual understanding of sound doctrine, and regular practice, then it must naturally follow, that a deviation in doctrine or practice in any church in the Association, or any party in any such church, is sufficient grounds for an Association to withdraw fellowship from such a church or party and to exclude fellowship from them in some formal manner. The Association should make the action known to all the churches in the Association, to the end that the erring church may be ashamed, and that all the churches may discontinue fellowship, and bear testimony against those who have erred.

Churches, as they are pillars of truth, may, and ought to endeavor to promote truth among others also. If such endeavors prove fruitless, they may be withdrawn. An Association ought not to assume a power to excommunicate or deliver a defective or disorderly church to Satan, yet it has enough authority to exclude the delegates of a defective or disorderly church from an Association, and to refuse their presence at their meetings. Additionally, the Association should advise all the churches in association to follow in the same manner. A godly man may, and ought to withdraw, not only from a heathen, but from such as have the form of godliness only, but lack its true power (2 Timothy 3:5). By the same way of thinking the saints, in whatsoever capacity they may be considered, may withdraw from defective or disorderly churches or persons; but they cannot excommunicate them as they have no authority to do so. But in associational capacity, dealing with her own members, an Association, then, of the delegates of associational churches, may exclude and withdraw from defective, unsound, or disorderly churches or persons, as previously mentioned. This is normal and justifiable by the light and law of nature as observed in the conduct and practice of all orderly civil or political organizations. All such bodies have rules to exclude trouble-makers from their societies.

Obviously an Association may disown and withdraw from a defective or disorderly church, and advise the cooperating churches to withdraw from, and to discontinue fellowship as previously mentioned, without exceeding the limits of their power. Additionally, an Association of the delegates of cooperating churches may declare any person or party in a church, who are defective in principles or disorderly in practice, to be deserving of reprimand, when the affair comes to their knowledge. An Association should advise the church how to deal with them, according to the rule of gospel discipline. An Association should also strengthen such a church and assist her, if need be, by sending able men of their own number to help the church in executing the power vested in her by the ordinance of Jesus Christ, and defend her against the insults of such offending persons or parties.

Page 8 • Missouri Missionary Baptist • August 8, 2017

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 Association. 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.

Caleb Houston, youth minister of Kewanee is available for weekend revivals, youth events, and pulpit supply. Contact him at 573-521-7826 or calebthouston@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.

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.

Len Young, a member of Lakewood Baptist Church, Potosi is available to preach. Contact him at home 573-786-2485, by cell 573-247-6623 or e-mail libertybooksd4@gmail.com.

If you are a preacher and a member in good standing of a Baptist Missionary Association of America church and would like your name added to this column, please contact the editor using the information on page 2.

James Hoffmann, is available for pulpit supply. Contact him at 314-277-8644 or by e-mail at jmhoff@charter.net.

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