

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

“Holding Forth The Word of Life”

Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXX

St. Louis, MO • December 12, 2017

Issue No. 12



Like The Shepherds We Glorify & Praise Him

Luke 2:1-20

“And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that

all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great JOY, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly

hosts praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning the child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.”

Merry Christmas from your Editor and His Wife



The Birthday

A Christmas Story by the late Marie Gordon for a GMA Class

“No one seemed to realize I overheard the arrangements they were making for my birthday. I was not trying to eavesdrop either, but it just seemed everywhere I looked or turned people were talking about the plans they had to celebrate my birthday. Surely NO ONE had ever been so highly honored for so any people to observe the date of his birth!

“Being courteous I tried not to show that I’d overheard them, nor that they might have the date a little mixed up; I just could not help being happy for all the loving thoughts of me and, I admit, I began to look forward with a great deal of anticipation to the big day they were planning.

“Almost every family seemed to plan something special; some scheduled parties, and I even overheard quite a few churches saying they MUST plan something special for my birthday. Well, who wouldn’t be excited?!!!

“Everyone was rushing about, decorating, baking goodies, whispering secrets, buying and wrapping gifts. My, how they all must love me!

“Then at last the big day arrived. I stopped by the home of some dear friends and, oh, you would not believe how beautifully they had decorated their home for my birthday. It was really touching. And the huge pile of gifts almost took one’s breath away.

“Strangely though, no one seemed to realize I was there. First,

the family gathered around the gifts under the pretty tree they’d trimmed and lighted for me (instead of a birthday cake, I guess) and they began reading THEIR names off my gifts and one by one the gifts were all distributed to the others and MY name never was called. I was sure they’d just overlooked my name for NO ONE ever had a birthday party when everyone else received all the gifts, did they? So, since no one seemed to be aware of me, I quietly walked around among the group and read the name tags myself. Sure enough, there was not a single gift for me, and everyone was too busy seeing their gifts to notice, so I slipped out the door. As I walked sadly down the street, I meditated on such a strange birthday. I’ve seen others’ birthday parties and the honoree always received the gifts.

“As I stumbled tearfully along I heard music and suddenly realized I was passing one of the churches which I’d heard planning to observe my birthday. I thought, ‘Oh well, no use to be hurt about my other friends and disappoint this good church who wanted to honor me.’ So I entered just as

the classes were taking their places.

The Juniors looked so happy and their teacher seemed so kind and devoted that I followed them and unnoticed, I slipped into a back seat in order not to disturb the teacher as she opened God’s Word to teach. But someone said, ‘What about the gifts?’ And I noticed each one HAD brought me a gift and actually they must have seen me come in after all. I thought, ‘THEY didn’t forget me.’

“The teacher hadn’t noticed me yet for she said, ‘Let’s study God’s Word first. To honor Him we must worship Him FIRST AND ABOVE ALL ELSE,’ and I agreed with her. The class was all excited though and kept mentioning the gifts every few minutes, until the teacher finally gave up and let them give me my gifts.

“My heart beat with joy as one girl started toward me, but she stopped and handed the gift to another person, whom I expected to pass it on back to me, but she began tearing the wrapping off and before you could say, ‘Happy Birthday’ all of them had handed their packages to each other and were opening them, completely ignoring me. Some were saying, ‘Thank You’ to each other, and one said, ‘Oh, I didn’t want THAT’ while another answered, ‘Well, I didn’t want YOUR NAME either!’ What do you suppose they meant by that?

“If anyone knew I was there they quickly forgot me, and as I eased out into the cold, crisp air I wondered if I’d been such a bad Savior and Friend that NO One wanted to remember me on my birthday”

May each of us REMEMBER Whose Birthday we are celebrating at Christmas and give Him our BEST all year!!

Reprinted from the December 16, 1976 Missouri Missionary Baptist

Remember to Pray For

ALIVE Student Conference

December 28-30, 2017

Doubletree Hotel - Chesterfield, Missouri

For more information go to <http://alivestudentconference.org>



NEWS BRIEFS



Blessings from **Stony Point, Mineral Point**. October 8th Heaven's Echoes blessed us with singing and 2 souls were gloriously saved! October 21st we hosted the Washington County Annual Meeting with lunch served after the meeting. October 28th Pastor Claude and Sis. Bea went to Camp Garwood for the Annual State Meeting. October 29th Pastor Claude was surprised with "This Is Your Life" presented by Sis. Jo Gillam. Later that day we had our fall harvest hayride and fun day with 81 in attendance. Our walkers raised \$586.00 for Walk for the World. November 10th we hosted the Washington County District WMA meeting. Rebecca Son presented her slides and talked of her volunteer work in Ecuador. November 26th our youth and leaders presented our Christmas program with puppets and guitars. We are blessed with our youth and leaders. November 29th Sis. Opal Wilkerson was called home to be with our Lord.

Claude Evans, Pastor • Debrah Coleman, Reporter

Lower Doe Run, Ellington, sends Blessed Christmas Greetings to each and everyone of you. We are so thankful that God the Father in His Grace and Mercy gave His Only Begotten Son to come to Earth through an humble beginning and in a simple little stable with a manger for His bed. And all that for us sinners. We are so Thankful that He has given us our church family where we can meet together in sweet fellowship to worship Him. We may be very few in number but still He blesses when we gather to praise and pray. We are also so thankful that everywhere we go we find those believers with like faith. Some attended the Mid America Gospel Music Association in Farmington. Some celebrated Thanksgiving with big family gatherings. We were blessed to have Doyle and Linda Moore in our home for a couple of days. They also joined us with Bates Creek Missionary Baptist Church at the Bearfoot Cafe in Potosi to celebrate Thanksgiving. We are holding our Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinner December 10th. We look forward to our Nursing Home Service at Van Buren on the 17th. We are preparing for a dedication service with the George and Betty Rayfield family as soon as Sis. Betty can travel back to Ellington safely. We have a plaque to place on the sound booth wall. We also have ordered new hymnals in his memory. Our pastor built a kneeling altar with a cushion to match our new pew cushions. God has blessed with a new sound system and we have a new roof on our fellowship hall and classrooms. We are praying that our visitors will become regular attendees.

Melvin Meade, Pastor • Carolyn Meade, Reporter

Zion, St. Louis sends Greetings to our Sister Churches. This year is flying by fast. Hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving and now it is time to prepare for the Christmas Season. Christ is the reason we celebrate this time of year. Back in October, I had surgery and had a total knee replacement. I am thankful for my new knee and that I am getting around nicely. Thank you, to those that remembered me in prayer. During the past year, Zion has had several out with health issues and are thankful the Lord has been with each one. We ask prayers for Sis. Wanda Flowers who recently lost her husband Leroy. He will be missed by his family and the church. We send our sympathy to the Opal Wilkerson family in her passing. Sis. Opal was a wonderful Christian lady and will be missed by all that knew her. Bro. Baker's father recently suffered a stroke but he is home and comfortable. Bro. Baker took a quick trip to Arkansas to be with his father and mother. We were thankful for Bro. Roy Callahan being available to preach in Bro. Baker's absence. The ladies plan to have a Christmas Cookie exchange at their monthly auxiliary meeting. Sis. Ladonna

has gotten several people together to meet at The Villas in DeSoto to sing Christmas Songs for the residents. After singing at The Villas, several will be heading to the Festus Manor in Festus to sing Christmas Songs to the residents there. Sis. Jacqueline Baker's mother is a resident at Festus Manor and she and the other residents always enjoy singing along as we spread Christmas cheer and share God's love for them. At Zion we are so thankful for all of our members and especially for a pastor that preaches God's Word and teaches and encourages us to always seek after God. We wish a New Year of God's blessings on ALL!

Dennis Baker, Pastor
Norma Womble, Reporter

Greetings and Christmas blessings on you and yours from **Bethany, St. Louis**. God continues to bless our endeavors here at Bethany. We are not giving up in spite of what Satan keeps throwing at us. We said good-by to our dear sister in the lord, Eileen Lewis, as God called her Home. Then we said good-by to the Dunn family as they have moved back to the country. Please continue to pray for them as they follow God's leadership. We will miss them and little Ezra and Ms. Raylen. Bro. Tim Boatright filled the pulpit the last Sunday in November. On the 3rd. We had Bro. Sam Reddin fill the pulpit and we had our Christmas lunch and a time of fellowship to get more acquainted with him. We covet your prayers as we seek God's will in seeking a shepherd. God bless each and everyone and may we be ready to do God's will more in the New Year.

Earl Johnston, Moderator
Kathy Chapman, Reporter.

Greetings to all from **Bethel, Sikeston**. God continues to bless us as we work together in unity to be a blessing to others and to share the Gospel through our giving and

showing the love of Jesus to others. Our pastor and his wife got moved into their new home in Miner this month and we are thankful for them and are so thankful to have them closer. Our youth have started working on a Christmas program that will be December 17th. We are looking forward to the Faith Bible Institute Class coming up January 22nd. We have 33 members signed up! We always have good fellowship and learn so much from Bro. John Yates in these classes. Praise God!! Our youth had a friends-giving party on the 25th. They had a fun time! The youth also went to a Christian concert in Cape the 1st of December. Eleven youth attended. December 5th some of our members plan to go to the prison in Tiptonville, TN to show the love of Jesus to the inmates there, thru feeding them the Word of God, good food, singing and good fellowship. We are looking forward to a great time in the Lord!! When you are doing your Christmas shopping this month stop and consider that there are a lot of needy people that may not even be able to put food on their table, let alone buy gifts for their loved ones. While Christmas is a joyous season there are a lot of depressed people that would like to give to their family but might not be able to because of their circumstances. So when you come to one of those bell ringers, drop a little money in the bucket, it doesn't have to be much. Remember that when you give with the right spirit it comes back to you many times over. Little is much when God is in it! You can never out give God!! As the Christmas season approaches we should always remember that it is more blessed to give than receive, and that Jesus is the Reason for the Season! Be a blessing to someone this Christmas season, you will be blessed beyond measure! We were all blessed with the most precious and perfect gift of all, the gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior! Have a Merry and Blessed Christmas!

Billy Davis, Pastor • Joan Wood, Reporter

News from **Landmark, DeSoto**. It's pretty hard to believe that I am sitting here writing the last report of 2017. It's also hard to believe that it is supposed to be about 70 degrees this afternoon. But, the weatherman says that by tomorrow, we may have more seasonal weather. Our month at Landmark hasn't been too terribly busy. We have had several different preachers come to bring messages to us this month. Some came in view of a call and some did not, but we enjoyed the messages and the fact that they were all challenging and inspiring. We've heard messages from, Bro. David Crites (a former pastor of Landmark), Bro. Aaron Maxwell, Bro. Brendan Sanders, Bro. Jamie Haguewood, and Bro. Allen Dane. Please remem-

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FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS • November 2017

General Fund:

Checking Account:

Balance October 31, 2017		\$	43,072.04
November Receipts:			
Missions:	\$	<u>3,294.92</u>	
Total Income:	\$	<u>3,294.92</u>	\$ <u>3,294.92</u>
Total Available		\$	<u>46,366.96</u>
Disbursements:			
Assistant Director Salary	\$	600.00	
Oct. Salary Increase	\$	100.00	
Internet Protection	\$	89.99	
Domain Fee	\$	<u>124.00</u>	
Total Disbursements	\$	<u>913.99</u>	\$ <u>(913.99)</u>
Balance November 30, 2017:		\$	45,452.97

Bank of America Savings Account:

Balance October 31, 2017		\$	(1,100.58)
Interest:	\$.02	\$ <u>.02</u>
Balance November 30, 2017:		\$	1,100.60

Investment in BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund:

Balance October 31, 2017		\$	100,618.69
Interest:	\$	0.00	\$ <u>0.00</u>
Balance November 30, 2017:		\$	100,618.69

Total of all Funds November 30, 2107 \$ **147,172.26**

From Our Director...

My wife and I thank you for the Christmas bonus that the messenger approved in our annual meeting. Your support encourages us to do our best in serving the Lord as He leads. Your words of encouragement are also uplifting as we face the challenges before us each day.

We have had the privilege of working with the BMA of Missouri Churches in various capacities for 29 years and have grown to love the people whom we serve. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to work for the Lord.

As we approach a New Year we are reminded that we need to plan our work and work our plan. Please pray for all the pastors and other leaders in our association as we carry the message of salvation to our world. Pray that we will have the wisdom to know God's will, the desire to do His will, and the strength to finish His task before us

There is much concern about our churches who are seeking pastors who are willing to lead them to grow in the Lord. Please pray for God's will to be done in each of these churches as they seek God's direction.

We are also concerned about establishing new works in areas that need a greater witness for the Lord. We are praying for men who have a desire to start and establish new churches in our state.

We serve the God who can do all things and who does all things well! Let's make sure we do not hinder His work but that we will always be willing to do as He leads.

As we look forward we are seeking ideas for our 2018 Missions Symposium. If you have any ideas please get in touch with me and share your ideas. Working together we can meet the challenges before us and inspire one another to expand our horizons for the glory of God. We need to plan a meet-

ing that will be of interest to as many as possible and that will challenge all of us to do our best. I welcome your input about this meeting that will take place at Zion Baptist Church in St. Louis May 18-19, 2018.

I have been invited to meet at our world headquarters in Conway, AR the first part of January with representatives from other states where the BMA has churches to discuss how we can coordinate the disaster relief work of our churches. Please pray that this will be a productive meeting that will help us be better prepared "Helpers."

Thank you for your cooperation and please pray for our Special Missions Committee as we try to make plans and as we seek ideas to grow the work of the Lord among our churches. Together we can be stronger and more effective in the work of the Lord. We are not in competition with one another, but should be helping one another.

News from Todd & Tina Cox

BMAA Church Planters at

StonePoint Church, North Georgia

Welcome Tracy & Wendy & Julia Miller!

Tracy is our new Associate Pastor at StonePoint and comes to us from East TX. He served at Rosewood Baptist in Gilmer, TX as the College & Career Minister for the past 7 years. Wendy taught middle school students for many years and recently was hired at a private school here in GA. Tracy and Wendy are both from the Gilmer, TX area and have 2 daughters, Holly Ann and Julia. Holly Ann is married to Jacob Thompson and still lives in East TX. Julia is a high school Junior and is here.

Tracy has already jumped in and been helping me in many ways and learning everything there is to do as a church planter. He helps set up and tear down every week, run sound and video and computers, help teach and lead LifeGroups as well as beginning a brand new Young Adult LifeGroup that will help reach High School Seniors to people in their late twenties. Wendy has helped out wherever we needed as well and right away has helped taken our children's ministry beyond the pre-school age and started a class for K-5th that meets during our services after our worship singing. Julia has been helping Wendy with the Children's class as well and doing a great job. We are excited to have them on board with us as we continue to reach people in North GA for Christ.

One Year Anniversary!!

In October, we had our official one year anniversary since our launch at Stonepoint. We hit our largest number in attendance to date at 76 people in attendance during the remnants of a dissipating hurricane that made a rainy and blustery day. There has been so much that happened during our first year as a church and we wanted to celebrate and we topped it off with Baptisms that celebrated 12 Changed Lives!! It has been amazing being a part of these stories and seeing them transform in front of our eyes! Out of those baptisms, 5 were from one family! What an amazing story of how one family came to StonePoint through hearing about our Financial Peace class then started coming to church and God transformed broken relationships and healed hurts and broke addictions in peoples lives. **Please Pray**

Pray with us about an opportunity to possibly move into a different facility. We are in talks with the owner of another building to see if God is moving us to a better space for church services that would allow us to have access 24/7 instead of just one day a week like we have now. We truly feel this is our next step but it is a big step of faith for us financially and we need your prayers and support. We hope to be sending out news in the next couple of weeks so be on the lookout.

We Are Thankful!!

Because of your faithfulness, StonePoint has been able to reach out to many people in North Georgia. Your investments have also helped us invest into the lives of over 100 hundred different people that have come through our doors this past 12 months. Lives have been transformed by the power of Jesus. People have been Saved, Baptized, Re-dedicated their lives, Addictions have been broken, Marriages have been healed and restored, families have gotten control of their finances, people have asked for and given forgiveness and shown grace. All this has happened through the combined efforts of everyone's prayers and financial support and willingness to get involved and make a difference. Thank you so much because You make a difference!!

Those interested in learning more about this work can go to the bmaamerica.org website or to Stonepoint.org to get more information or to learn how you can have a part in supporting this work of the Baptist Missionary Association of America.

This information gleaned from StonePoint's monthly Newsletter.

Scriptural New Year's Resolutions

By the late Vi Maclin

1. *"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength..."* Mark 12:30
2. *"...thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."* Mark 12:31
3. *"Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."* Colossians 3:2
4. *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."* Hebrews 10:25
5. *"Neglect not the gift that is in you."* I Timothy 4:14a
6. *"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him is store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."* I Corinthians 16:2
7. *"Pray without ceasing."* I Thessalonians 5:17
8. *"In every thing give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."* I Thessalonians 5:18
9. *"Abstain from all appearance of evil."* I Thessalonians 5:22
10. *"Add to you faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity."* 2 Peter 1:5-7.
11. *"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."* Proverbs 3:5-6.
12. *"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth."* 2 Timothy 2:15
13. *"Here am I; send me..."* Isaiah 6:8
14. *"Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages world without end."* Ephesians 3:21
15. *"Therefore by ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh."* Matthew 24:44

• NEWS From Page 2 •

ber us in your daily prayers as we wait upon the Lord to give us guidance as to whom He has prepared to be our pastor. We did enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner on the 19th. We always have an abundance of food, and end up sharing with some that take home and take food to shut in neighbors. When I think of all those who have none or so little, it grieves me that we can be so careless with what the Lord has blessed us. Some of our church took some little gifts to the nursing home (sorry that I don't know which one) for Thanksgiving. I'm quite sure they were enjoyed. I failed to mention in last month's report, that we had Bro. Brad Banderman at Landmark to preach our homecoming message. And, I might add, that it was a very good message and enjoyed by all. We'd all like to hear him again, but may have to wait to do that at Jesus Camp next summer. Until Next Month or the Lord's Return
Sharon Page, Reporter

Bethesda Landmark, Park Hills, had a Thanksgiving celebration November 19th. We had a dinner after services on Sunday morning. Then returned on Sunday night for dessert and a candlelight song service. We have Christmas celebrations scheduled for the night service December 10th and for
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Christmas Eve morning. The youth are planning on handing out fruit and candy bags to everyone present on Christmas Eve. Yum! The church had Bryan Buckley, Michael Huddleston, Alan Dane, and Zach Dane preach for us in November. Ashton Dane, Youth Reporter,

Greetings from **First Baptist Church, Potosi**. November was a busy month preparing for events coming up in December. The children have been working on the Christmas program for several weeks. One thing for sure, we keep our kitchen busy all the time. I don't know if it is because we are Baptist, but it seems we must eat almost every time we meet. We combined our Thanksgiving Dinner with the Celebrate Recovery Dinner and had really good attendance. The special thing I like about this dinner is that someone always brings deer meat and it is the only time that I get to eat it. We have once again had baptisms almost every week and we had baby dedications. The youth are preparing for their ALIVE trip and I am still in awe that \$7,000 was raised at the auction. That means that no child will be left behind. Celebrate Recovery is going strong. Remember that it is for any hurt, habit, or hang-up that a person may have. Some of these may be depression, grief, anxiety, divorce, anger, codependency, workaholic, and many, many more. This program helps get people studying the Bible, praying, working for Christ, and just basically helps with the fulfillment of the Holy Spirit. Several members of our church volunteered to build a ramp for a gentleman who needed one, but didn't have the funds to have it done. I am so thankful to be part of a church that reaches out and helps others in need. Just tonight, groceries were bought for a small family that had no food. Even with what the government provides, there are many who go without and there is still homelessness around us. Our Girl's

What Does LifeWord Do With Walk/LifeWord Sunday Contributions??

LifeWord's season of giving continues as BMA churches send in contributions from Walk fund raising and LifeWord Sunday offerings. Churches who registered for LifeWord Sunday and send in all or partial contributions by December 11 are entered to win two free passages on DiscipleGuide's Church Leaders Cruise January 13-18. If your church gives to LifeWord through LWS/Walk giving, make sure it is registered.

So where do churches' Walk/LifeWord Sunday offerings go? Since the first walk in October of 1980, church contributions from LifeWord's flagship fundraiser have accounted for one third of the annual budget. The remaining two thirds comes from generous supporters: BMA churches, auxiliaries, groups, and individuals.

LifeWord Chief Financial Officer Steve Crawley says, "While there is no separate fund balance for LifeWord Sunday or Walk funds, 100% of contributions marked 'Walk' or 'LifeWord Sunday' go directly to the field: gospel broadcasts in 40 languages and 121 countries."

As BMA churches continue to keep Bro. Steve and Ellen Siler (fund accountant) busy during this time of year, we want to give a sincere "Thank you!" to our "boots on the ground," our Team LifeWord leaders who plan and implement fund raising on our behalf. We do not take for granted the generous churches and church members who partner with us.

Call Holly at 501-205-1127 or e-mail holly@lifeworld if you have any questions.

Attention All BMA Churches!

BMA America Information Services Reminder Don't forget to fill out the Annual Church Survey!

By providing the most up-to-date information, your church helps BMA America connect, build relationships and understand the impact BMA churches are making through their local communities with the gospel.

Please choose **one** of the following options to provide BMA America with the most accurate information for your church.

What Can My Church Do?

1. Visit bmaamerica.org to view and edit your church information. Once on the website, select the "BMA Churches" tab listed at the top, then click on "BMA Church Log In."
2. Fill out the pre-populated survey you received in the mail and mail to:
BMA America • PO Box 1188 • Conway, AR 72033
3. Request an e-mailed copy of the survey by contacting: Lauren Noland in the Information Services department at 501-358-4007 or lauren@bmaamerica.org

Missionary Auxiliary (GMA) has been working on memory work and studying the scriptures. Their paint class missions fund raiser was a huge success and they are planning on doing one again next year. UPWARD is in the preparation process; there is good attendance at the Tuesday morning community Bible study held at FBC. Once again, I can say that there is a place for anyone and everyone in our church. No one should ever leave feeling unneeded or unwanted. Please pray for us as we pray for you.

Jim Ainley, Pastor • Deborah Rauhut, Reporter

Faithful Servants Called Home

Eileen M. Lewis (nee Helvey) was born March 25, 1922 in Logan Valley near Ellington, MO. She departed this life November 14, 2017 at Mercy Medical Center in Creve Coeur, MO. Having obtained the age of 95 years, 7 months and 20 days, Eileen was the oldest member of Bethany Baptist Church in St. Louis.

She was preceded in death by her mother Erna Helvey and her husband John W. Lewis.

She is survived by two sons: John (JP) and Tana Lewis of Kirkwood, MO and Alan and Trudi Lewis of St. Louis County MO; two granddaughters: Diana and Bruce Elliott of Garden City, KS and Amy and Robert Dake of Creve Coeur, MO; two grandsons: John and Julie Lewis of Webster Groves, MO and Robert Lewis of Kalamazoo, MI; six great grandchildren: Annabelle and John W. Lewis, Jarrett and Kade Elliott and Adeline and Owen Dake; and by nieces and nephews for three generations and many friends.

At the age of 8 Eileen accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior and was baptized by the Lower Doe Run Baptist Church near Ellington, MO. In 1944 she joined Bethany Baptist Church and was a member 73 years. She taught children's Sunday School classes for almost 50 years and from 1946 - 1953 she was a writer of children's Sunday School literature. She also taught Sunbeams and worked in Vacation Bible School doing various jobs, from teaching, crafting, and working on refreshments. She was known by many as the "Cookie Lady."

Eileen was a faithful Deacon's wife, a member of various committees, and will be remembered for her sweet and compassionate spirit, her generous and loving heart, her humble and appreciative attitude and her simple, yet profoundly deep faith. She will be missed greatly.



Eileen Lewis
03/25-//1922 - 11/14/2017



Opal Wilkerson
03/28/1931 - 11/29/2017

Opal V. Wilkerson of Potosi, Missouri was born March 28, 1931 in Shoal Creek, Missouri, a daughter to the late Rev. John L. Britton and the late Allie (Wilkinson) Britton. February 9, 1951 Opal was united in marriage to Joseph Wilkerson at the Breton Creek Baptist Church and they shared nearly sixty-five years together.

Opal went home to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Wednesday, November 29, 2017

at her home surrounded by her family at the age of eighty-six.

Survivors include her two daughters: Nancy (John) Eisenbeis of Potosi, Missouri; Connie (Tim) Boatright of St. Charles, Missouri; brother, Donald (Madeline) Britton of Cuba, Missouri; sister, Erma (Dr. Jack) Holley of O'Fallon, Missouri; five grandchildren: Amy Eisenbeis, Lisa Eisenbeis, April (Noah) Hill, Andrew (LeAllison) Boatright and Christopher Boatright; four great grandchildren: Karson, Max, Britton and Grady Hill; sisters-in-law: Barbara Britton-Walls and Ava Gay Britton; brother-in-law: Jack (Juanita) Wilkerson; special friends: Dr. Alan Banaszynski, Renita McGinnis, Kristie Logsdon and Mary Vandergriff; also surviving are several other special caregivers, nieces, nephews, extended family and dear friends.

In addition to her father and mother, Opal was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Joe Wilkerson; two broth-

ers: Al Britton and John T. Britton; three sisters: Dolorece (Rev. Freeman) Gibson, Beulah (Charles) Akers and Marie (Rev. Harry "H.W.") Darst. Opal was also preceded in death by many other family members.

Funeral services were held December 4, 2017 at 11 a.m. in the DeClue Memorial Chapel with Rev. Tim Boatright officiating.

Interment and final prayers will be held at the Redbud Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

News From DiscipleGuide

The Three Articles below from DiscipleGuide are worthy of your attention

You Haven't Missed the Potluck!

Thanksgiving has come and gone, but the holiday season is just beginning. If your local church missed out on hosting its World's Largest Potluck offering during Thanksgiving, there's good news! The Potluck offering can be held any time during the holiday season, from Thanksgiving through the New Year. It's not too late to invest in the local churches of the BMA. DiscipleGuide needs your church's help to

reach the goal of raising \$200,000.

When we reach this goal, not only will we be able to continue providing free services to our churches, such as our church revitalization services, help line for pastors, and web-casts to local churches, but we will also be able to provide new services such as an intentional interim program and pastor search services to help churches without pastors. We even have plans to offer teacher trainings, provide resources for pastor's wives, and special conferences for men and women.

As you are thanking God for His blessing on your church this holiday season? Be a blessing to other churches by participating in our Potluck Offering.

Visit discipleguide.org/potluckgiving to give. You can also give by mailing donations to P.O. Box 1749, Conway, AR 72033. Thank you for YOUR support!

Like A Family Reunion!!

This year's Senior Adult Conference was a time of worship and relaxation as members of churches from various states gathered in a family atmosphere.

Speaker Don Chandler, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Conway, AR, delivered three messages entitled, "Defeating Your Goliath," which related the story of David and Goliath to the giants we face in life.

"David Attebery and Neil Dumas led worship, and I received countless comments on how good they were at leading," said DiscipleGuide Conference Director Thomas Mobly.

Conference goers also attended the Miracle of Christmas at the Sight and Sound Theater. The musical was a favorite due to a top of the line performance, as well as the heartening presentation of the Christmas story. The CBC Singers also graced attendees with a performance, and Steve Green delivered an

inspiring concert.

In addition to the time of family fellowship and worship, the attendees gave an offering for Daniel Springs Baptist Camp. They raised \$7,000 to help renovate one of the dorms into a retreat center.

The 2017 Senior Adult Conference was a success!

Next year it will be held in Branson again, November 12 - 14. Stay tuned for more details.

Compass Classic to be Offered in Spring Quarter

Does your church prefer the traditional format of Compass literature, without the blanks and questions?

Beginning spring 2018, DiscipleGuide will offer Compass Classic, the traditional format of literature. In order to receive copies for your church, pre-order

Compass Classic by December 10. Compass Classic can be ordered online at discipleguide.org/classic, by calling 1-800-333-1442, or emailing info@discipleguide.org.

Because DiscipleGuide will now offer both Compass and Compass Classic, every adult class in your local church will be able to choose the format they prefer while all studying the same lesson. Samples of Compass Classic will be placed in each shipment of DiscipleGuide curriculum this winter so that every church can get a preview. If your church needs additional samples of Compass Classic, contact DiscipleGuide today!

Be Ye....

1. SAVED!

"Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God and there is none else." (Isaiah 45:22)

2. RECONCILED!

"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." (2 Corinthians 5:20)

3. Ready!

"Therefore be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh." (Matthew 24:44)

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

EXCITING NEWS From Our National WMA

Attention WMA Ladies!

We are really excited about our 2018 National WMA program. Looking forward to seeing you there!

We plan to take care of all our business on Monday afternoon and to make our meeting on Tuesday more like a Ladies Retreat. We can praise and worship together and we can be inspired and refreshed by our speaker, Kim Crabhill as she uses God's Word to speak to us.

We'd also like to make it a time of fellowship where we can "ALL" have lunch together and during this time, we'd also honor our pastor's wives and widows.

In order for "ALL" the ladies to have lunch together, I need your help. I am asking that our local WMA groups send a donation to help make it more affordable for each lady attending. A big THANK YOU to the Texas State WMA for donating \$750.00 to start us off.

You can send your donations to Jodi Rhea, 40156 E. CR 1631, Wynnewood, OK 73098.

These donations from the WMA groups through the end of January 2018. At that time I will let the ladies know what it will cost to reserve their place at the luncheon and will receive payments through March. Please help get the word out!

God bless!

Jodi Rhea, 1st Vice President • National WMA

No Excuse....

Don't stay away from your church.....

Because you have company coming (bring them along - they'll admire your loyalty.)

Because you don't like the minister (he's human too!)

Because you are poor (there is no admission charge.)

Because it is raining (you go to work in the rain.)

Because it is hot (so is the golf course.)

Because it is cold (its warm and friendly inside your house of worship.)

Because there are hypocrites there (they are everywhere!!)

Because you have plenty of other days in the future to attend (**are YOU sure??**)

Friend,

*You MUST be saved...
but.....*

Working **W**ill **N**ot **S**ave **Y**ou
leeping **W**ill **N**ot **S**ave **Y**ou
aiting **W**ill **N**ot **S**ave **Y**ou

Faith in Christ will save you now,
To His gracious sceptre bow;
On the cross for you He died,
Believe and you are justified.

Lord, Whose at Fault??

A young married couple was contacted and invited to Sunday School, Bible Study and Worship Services at a local church. This is the record of response:

The first call; "We are going to start as soon as the baby gets old enough to come."

One year later:"Yes, we promised, but the baby is in that stage where she cries a lot When she gets older..."

Three years later: "I know you think we are awful, but Julie doesn't want to go and we hate to force her."

Eleven years later: I'm glad you called. I want you or some of your deacons to speak to Julie. She is running around with the wrong crowd. Perhaps if the church would provide some kind of entertainment for her age group..."

Two years later: "Well, Julie is married. They are awfully young, and he is not a Christian, but we hope it works out."

Ten Years later: Well, Julie has finally married a man who can give her the better things of life. This is her third husband but she could not get along with the others. I had hopes this one would become a member of the church but the pastor preached a sermon on marriage and divorce, and he says he will never attend that church again There must be something wrong with the church or else it would be a better influence on Julie. Maybe they need to change preachers, I just don't know...."

Lord, Whose at Fault??

Some Observations From Steerage

My wife and I enjoy cruising, especially when we can find a really cheap cruise. This last cruise we got a steerage room. A steerage room is way, way down in the bottom of the ship. You get there through a series of ladders. Daylight has not come to steerage since the keel was laid. In fact, when you get up in the morning, you have to be careful about putting your feet on the floor if the sump pump has not started to remove the water from your room. Anyway, enough about our room. Here are some observations from steerage:

- Cruising is an environmentally rich venue for people-watching. Of course I am one of those people that "the other people" are also watching.

- Actually on board ship, unless you're not of this world, you eat more than three meals a day. The cruise ticket includes your meal and snacks. So it seems the logic of some is "the more I eat, the cheaper the ticket." I have seen some of the cruisers who really worked on getting a cheaper ticket.

- At the end of the cruise not as many people fit on an elevator as at the start of the cruise.

- Certainly there is a percentage of folks on the cruise - some say 7%, some say 15% - who are just plain "awf" or perhaps "off." It is not the cruise that puts them in the awf/off category; they are simply behaving like they normally do at home, in their neighborhood,

- Behaving like they normally do at home, in their neighborhood, at work, even next to you in traffic. Let me illustrate:

- o These include the folks who get on an elevator before anyone can get off.

- o These folks also "graze" at the buffet as they choose a meal, often having eaten a full course meal before sitting down.

- o They crowd all lines, breathing down your neck or hitting you in the backside with their suitcases and backpacks.

- I am convinced after being at pool side that the man who wears a Speedo (swimsuit) should first look down. If he cannot see his Speedo, then he has exceeded the speed(o) limit.

- Elevators on board ship are interesting. For example, there is panoply of ladies with an assortment of sandals and flip-flops. When I was younger toe nail polish came in two colors: red and pink. That concept is so last century! On the cruise I see all sorts of toenail colors. It is a rainbow! Some even have sparkles that glitter in the light. I think I saw one lady with electronic paraphernalia that allowed her toenails to beat to music with multicolor LED glow lights.

Lest you get the idea that a cruise is all fluff and nonsense, there is also time for meditation and reflection.

- No matter how large the ship, no matter how many decks, no matter the length, even the tonnage, it is still a very small speck on the ocean.

- I see the effect of the giant propellers driven by the powerful engines churning the waters behind the ship. That prop wash of water expands well behind the ship as it plows through the deep. Yet the prop wash soon disappears. Quickly traces of the ship passage are no longer there on the ocean surface.

- Cruising can afford time to set aside for a special relationship with your spouse. Whether newly married or past a half century, being with that person is extraordinary.

- Of all that you see and hear, there is also ample opportunity to set aside some thoughtful and contemplative moments with your Creator.

- God has created an enormous world. The Bible tells me His creation was good as He made it. It is a good thing for me to see some of His creation. I am refreshed by being in places I'm not accustomed to in my daily routine. Not only am I fearfully and wonderfully made, so is the world. Let me think and ponder this.

Tony Cleaver; 17 NOV 17 at sea

Thoughts Concerning Creation

by Dennis Baker, Brotherhood President

The Christian worldview of creation is that there is no ultimate reality other than God. God did not have to work with material already in existence, He created the material that He used. God's only limitations are those of His own nature and the choices He made. He did not have to work around the limitation of available materials. Genesis 1:1, In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The Christian worldview of creation gives special meaning to the incarnation of Jesus Christ. Since God created all raw material, the material world is not inherently evil. The study of Christianity reveals that some denied the reality of Jesus' physical body because they regarded the material world as inherently evil. John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:14 "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

The Christian worldview places the responsibility of original sin on humanity. Because the material world is not inherently evil, sin did not originate with God and sin must be an exercise of human freedom.

Since all of creation began with God, there is a connection and resemblance of all things. The Scriptures indicate that God loves all His creation. This should cause the Christian to be more concerned about practicing responsible stewardship of God's creation.

The Christian worldview rejects the ideal of worship of any creature or combination of creatures. Only God is worthy of worship, praise, and obedience because He is the creator.

The Implications of the Christian worldview is that everything has value. Each part has its place just as God intended it to have. Nothing other than God is self-sufficient or eternal. Since God is the creator, we must respect the creation, but we must maintain a clear distinction between God and His creation.

Hebrews 11:3, "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."

The Story of Man

By Mrs. Maggie Chandler

"Mommy, where did I come from?" "Say, Dad, could you explain to me just what I'm doing here on this earth?" "Dear God, now that I am old, where do I go from here?" Do these questions have a familiar ring to them? Of course, they do. All of us have a desire to know where we came from, what we're doing here, and where we're going. This is only natural.

I'm so glad that I'm a Christian, because God has revealed to us in just three words "the story of man" - Generation, Degeneration - and Regeneration.

Many today are concerned that some scientists take man back to the monkey, but, you know, God takes us back much further than that - all the way back to dust! He decided to make man in his own image - body, soul and spirit. He breathed into Adam the breath of life and man became a living soul. Generation had taken place. What a beautiful picture we have of Adam falling asleep and God removing a rib from which He formed a bride for Adam. I'm so glad Jesus Christ entered the sleep of death in order to secure His own bride. How wonderful to know that I abide in Him and He abides in me, and we

10 Things About the Christmas Story You May Have Missed

by Joe McKeever

They were not "kings" from the east and there weren't three of them. And when they arrived in Bethlehem, Joseph and Mary and Baby Jesus were not still in the stable, but in a house, contrary to half the Christmas cards that will be arriving at your house.

And there's no indication there were cattle in that stable or anywhere nearby. In fact, the only thing that leads us to believe Jesus was born in a stable is that Luke 2:7 tells us Mary laid the Baby in a manger, a feeding trough.

But you knew all this.

And you knew that all of this was predicted through the centuries by God's prophets. We particularly treasure the promises of Isaiah 7:14 ("Behold a virgin shall conceive...") and 9:6-7 ("For unto us a child is born..."), as well as Micah 5:2 ("Bethlehem...out of you shall come forth One to be Ruler over Israel...").

And you knew that, contrary to the Christmas hymn "The First Noel," the shepherds in Bethlehem's fields did not "looked up and saw a star shining in the East beyond them far" (modern hymnals have revised that line to read "For all to see there was a star...").

But, allow me to point out some aspects of this wonderful story it's possible you might have missed. There is no particular order intended.

1. Joseph has no speaking lines.

This man who was to become the earthly father of our Lord Jesus was a man of action. He heard and he obeyed.

I recall hearing of a mother calling the school to inform the teacher that her son had a bad cold and would be unable to play Joseph in the Nativity play later that morning. It was too late to replace him, so they did the play without Joseph.

No one missed him.

2. Mary is a deep thinker.

Twice we read that she "pondered" these things. Once when Gabriel made the original announcement to her (Luke 1:29) and then when the shepherds entered the birth chamber (whatever it was, stable, etc.) to tell of the visitation of the

two are one flesh.

There is a second step in the story of man, however and that is Degeneration. When Satan tempted Eve with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, she took of the fruit and gave it also to her husband. Three things happened to them. Their eyes were opened to know good and evil, they realized their nakedness, and they began a religion based upon works by sewing fig leaves together. Degeneration had occurred. Man was no longer in fellowship with his Creator.

Dear reader, Regeneration is only a verse away. In Genesis 3:15 we see the first glimmer of the bright and morning star. "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Satan bruised the heel of Christ temporarily at Calvary, but three days later our Lord dealt a mortal blow to Satan's head when He arose victorious over all. If Genesis 3 gives a comprehensive account of the fall of mankind, then John 3 gives a glorious account of his being Regenerated on God's part, the Son of Man was lifted up at Calvary that all who believe in Him shall be saved.

Little child, you are a product of the creative hands of a loving Father. Young person, you are here on this earth that you might be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ for His glory. Senior citizen, Regeneration assures you of eternal life in a land where we'll never grow old. Tomorrow lasts forever, so: "how shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?"

angels (Luke 2:19).

The contrast between Mary and Joseph is fairly strong. He seems never to question a word from the Lord, but goes immediately to obey. Mary thinks it through, and even deigns to ask the angel of God how such a thing could be.

3. After the angels made their announcement to the shepherds, they did not command them to do anything.

Since the shepherds dropped everything and ran into Bethlehem to "see this thing which has come to pass," we might have expected the angels to have instructed them to go. Instead, the angel of God did something far superior: He informed them how to recognize the Christ-child once they found Him. "This shall be a sign to you: you will find the Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths."

God knew those He had chosen as the welcoming committee for His Son. He knew, that even though they were lowly shepherds--a category we would call unskilled labor--they were wise enough to come to Him as soon as they knew how.

4. There is great intrigue in this story.

A great cosmic drama is taking place here. On the one hand, we see Heaven opened and angels heralding the arrival of God's Son on earth. And on the other, hell's forces marshal to oppose Him and if possible, to kill Him and put an early end to this redemptive mission from Heaven.

Angels in the outdoors and Herod's soldiers entering homes to crush the skulls of infants.

The battle was joined and has raged ever since.

Readers wishing to explore this further should google "How God Fooled Satan at Christmas," my article on this subject.

5. Head knowledge is not sufficient.

In Matthew 2:3, all Jerusalem was abuzz with talk about the foreign visitors who had arrived in town, naively

• See Ten Page 8 •

• 10 From Page 7 •

inquiring at every service station and convenience store, "Well? Where is He? Where is the One born King of the Jews?"

They figured that this wonderful news would be the talk of the city. Instead, no one else seemed to know anything about it.

Then, when Herod called the religious leaders to ask where the Messiah was to be born (Matthew 2:4), these doctors of theology informed him that the Old Testament prophet Micah had said Bethlehem was the place.

What we wonder is why they didn't go to Bethlehem. It's not like it was in the next hemisphere. Bethlehem lies some 5 miles south of Jerusalem, an easy walk for a healthy person.

The clear conclusion is that these religious leaders had the Bible knowledge but no real interest in God or the promise of Scripture.

6. The prosperity gospel stumbles at this story.

Mary and Joseph are poor. There is not a word in the text to indicate otherwise.

When they presented their Baby in the temple for the prescribed dedication of the first-born, unable to afford a lamb for an offering, the young parents gave a couple of birds (Luke 2:24; based on Leviticus 12:2).

7. The gold from the Magi had a very practical purpose.

Immediately after Matthew tells of the visit of the visitors from the East and their wonderful gifts, he tells how the Lord's angel spoke to Joseph in a dream, informing him that Herod was on a killing jag and he should take the family to Egypt.

Doubtless, the gold was provided by the Lord to finance this unexpected trip.

8. Notice the crossing of human lines and barriers in this story.

We have the young and the old (Mary, Joseph, the Baby, and Simeon and Anna in the temple. Luke 2).

Notes of THANKS

Thankful For the BMA of MO Support

The following letter was received as a result of the offering we voted to send to the BMAA Theological Seminary at our annual meeting in October:

Dear Churches of the BMA of Missouri,

I want to take the time to personally thank you for your support of BMA Seminary. The Lord has blessed us greatly over the course of the past 60 years and faithful brothers and sisters like you are the reason we are able to continue providing for the theological education of our students.

I want to specifically thank you for your support of the current Chapel Restoration Project. This will help us to improve the Dorman Memorial Chapel and prepare for many more years of service.

We hope you will have the opportunity to visit our campus now that the project has been completed.

If I may ever be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Dr. Charley Holmes, President

The following letter was received as a result of the offering we voted to send to Central Baptist College at our annual meeting in October:

Dear Bro. Hoffmann:

I am very pleased to count you (The BMA of Missouri) among the growing number of supporters of Central Baptist College. Your contributions are helping us move the institution forward as we touch the lives of an increasing number of students.

It is exciting to think about the future and the number of lives which will eventually be touched by our students as they enter various professions, vocations, and ministries throughout the United States and other parts of the world. Your support helps make that possible.

On behalf of everyone at Central, I thank you for your most recent contribution of \$ 1,000. for the CBC Fund.

In His Service,
Terry Kimbrow, President

We have the rich and the poor (the Magi and the young family. Matthew 2).

We have the Jews and the Gentiles (the Magi were the non-Jews).

We have the highest (angels) and the lowest (shepherds).

This wonderful story is clearly for "whosoever" and "all the world," as John 3:16 informs us.

9. Telling the story is a privilege.

It would appear that Mary and Joseph's account of the angels' appearances were so personal--and so unbelievable--that they either told no one at first or very few people.

The shepherds heard the message from the angels, left those miserable sheep to fend for themselves and raced into Bethlehem to see the Christ-child, then went out and told everyone what they had heard and seen.

Poor Zacharias. After questioning the angel inside the Temple (Luke 1), he was not allowed to tell what he had heard and seen until his son John was born.

Telling others of Jesus is a privilege many of us take for granted.

I think of the leper in Mark 1 whom Jesus healed. Then, the Lord instructed him to show himself to the priest and do what Moses commanded, but to otherwise keep the news to himself. However, he was just not able to do that. He went out and began

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.

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.

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 or as the Lord leads. Contact him by e-mail at bkadams27@yahoo.com or by phone 217-779-9264

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 libertybooks04@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.

Pastoral Search

at Bethany Baptist Church St. Louis, MO. Interested preachers contact Earl Johnston, 314-650-7060 or send resume to Bethany Baptist Church • 11211 Midland Blvd., • St. Louis, MO 63114.

to "blaze abroad" the matter.

Jesus tells you and me to tell everyone and we go home and sit down. Something is way wrong here.

10. Jesus did no miracles in His boyhood.

By all reports from Luke 2, Jesus had a normal childhood in Nazareth. In fact, John 2:1 informs us that the turning of water to wine at the wedding in Cana of Galilee was His first miracle.

Lest we are tempted to temper that by saying, "It was the first miracle of His ministry, but not the first one He had done," I submit the following.

Had the boy Jesus been doing miracles in Nazareth like an early "Superboy of Smallville," the world would have taken note of Him and beaten a path to His door. Satan would have noticed also and come running, ready to abort God's plans for His Son.

That did not happen because Jesus was not doing miracles, was not teaching, and was not distinguishing Himself in any way during his youth. That's why, when He did start to preach and heal and work wonders, His neighbors were astonished. Where did this man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands? Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? Are not his sisters here with us? (Matthew 13:54)

Dr. Joe McKeever is a Preacher, Cartoonist, and the Director of Missions for the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans. Visit him at joemckeever.com/mt. Used with permission.