

# The Missouri Missionary Baptist

“Holding Forth The Word of Life”

Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXXI

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Issue No. 4

## Join the BMAA Choir!

by Jeremy Willkerson

I have been given the honor and privilege of leading the worship this year at the BMAA meeting in Jackson, Miss. On Wednesday, April 18, at 3:30 p.m., we are going to be forming a BMAA choir, and that is where I will need your help!

Anyone and everyone is welcome to come and sing at this time. Please spread the word to everyone you can think of who might be interested in singing with us.

I have chosen four songs — Standing On The Promises, How Great Is Our God, What A Day That Will Be and Chain Breaker. A copy of the words to all the songs will be distributed as the choir goes on stage at the meeting.

I'm sure everyone is very familiar with the first three songs. The only “new” song is Chain Breaker, and it can be heard at youtube/JGYjKR69M6U (or Google Chain Breaker by Zach Williams).

I chose to end with this song because that is the message and testimony we can all declare together in Christ. Once we were all bound by chains of sin, but as believers we have experienced true freedom in Christ!

## “Together We Can”

A message from BMAA President Paul White

“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.” – Henry Ford. Being a part of something greater than ourselves is a God given privilege afforded to the local church through being a part of an association. Attendance at local, state and national associational meetings should be driven by a need-to attend (Proverbs 11:14) rather than a want-to attend mentality. Like the strands of a rope that give it its strength, (Ecclesiastes 4:12) likewise, every church's participation in our association increases her strength and ability to fulfill the great commission.

Everything is in place and in a few days, we will be converging on the city of Jackson, Mississippi for a time of

Praise and Worship intermingled with our associations business. From the God and Country Rally Monday night, annual message Tuesday night, through the call to the BMAA choir Wednesday afternoon and the commissioning service on Wednesday night this year's meeting will surely be one to remember.

The following services will be livestreamed on bmalife.com/tv. Monday night, Tuesday night, Wednesday night, and Wednesday afternoon during the BMAA Choir and Lifetime Achievement Awards ceremony.

## 2018 God & Country Rally

Jackson, Mississippi  
Convention Center  
BMAA Annual Meeting  
Monday Evening  
April 16, 7:00 p.m.  
(See Program on Page 5)

A Special Welcome to all our churches, pastors, Christian workers, and messengers to be a part of this special American event! Your presence will declare our need to pray for and rejoice in our great nation, the United States of America.

Dr. John M. Adams,  
Executive Director Moral Action

## What to Look For in this Issue:

- Date of Annual Mission symposium and Mid-Year Meeting of the BMA of Missouri - Page 3
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This year I will be ending my term as your President. I want to thank you for having allowed me this honor and privilege to serve.

## Attebery Resigns as Director of DiscipleGuide

The board of trustees for DiscipleGuide Church Resources announces that Dr. Scott Attebery has submitted his resignation, effective May 1, 2018. Dr. Attebery has served faithfully as our Executive Director for the past 5 ½ years with a deep conviction that we are

to connect small churches with big resources to equip them in making disciples. Our board appreciates the creativity and vision he has brought to the department during his tenure, and we have no doubt that God will bless him in his new adventure.

Bro. Scott commented on his departure, saying, “It has been an honor to serve local BMA churches through the ministry of DiscipleGuide. I am confident that God will provide the right person to lead the ministry into the future. I am looking forward to spending more time writing and enjoying time with my son.”

DiscipleGuide remains committed to resourcing the local church with innovative tools for discipleship. We are in the process of searching for a new Executive Director. Resumes may be submitted to DiscipleGuide Search Committee, C/O Aaron Middleton, 2709 Chaffin Ln, Magnolia, AR 71753.

-Aaron Middleton, Chairman  
DiscipleGuide Board of Trustees



Dr. Scott Attebery

## Ministers Resource Services Forthcoming Changes

Steve Crawley, PhD. • Executive Director Elect

Article 1 of 3

Why Are We Changing?

With the impending retirement of Bro. Ron Chesser and his staff, Ministers Resource Services (MRS) will be undergoing a number of significant changes. Leading up to the national meeting, we will release a series of three articles addressing why we are changing, what we are changing, and how we are changing. This first article addresses the “why” question.

The existing 401(a) plan of the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) has served a valuable purpose and has helped establish a solid savings foundation for many. We are most grateful to Bro. Chesser and his staff for the stability they have brought to MRS over the past 18 years. Yet, we do not want to rest on our laurels and become satisfied where we are. We want to build on this foundation and take advantage of new options now available.

The first reason we are changing is to enhance benefits. The new 403(b)(9) plan will offer provisions for ministers that are unique to any other type of retirement program. Specifically, this plan offers the Ministers Housing Allowance to retired pastors. This provision will save ministers thousands of dollars in federal and state taxes for years to come. The new plan will also reduce the minimum withdrawal age from 62 to 59 ½, include a provi-

• See MRS Page 4 •



# NEWS BRIEFS



**Stony Point, Mineral Point**, was so blessed to have Christina Bowen present herself for membership on March 11th. Our youth presented another up-lifting program in their guitar playing and singing. They are such an inspiration to His work. They will be presenting a skit next month. Many Blessings sent to all.

Claude Evans-Pastor • Debrah Coleman-Reporter

Greetings from **Zion, St. Louis!** The month of March was a busy month for the church. It was a blessing to host the State Auxiliaries the first Saturday of the month and then the following Friday, the church hosted the Washington County District Auxiliaries. I wasn't able to attend these meetings due to having surgery. After missing a few Sunday and Wednesday services I am back in church. It is good to be back. Zion was saddened to hear of the passing of Bro. Elva Asberry. Our sympathy to the family. There are several at Zion with health issues and would appreciate your prayers. Bro. and Sis. Baker are taking a short trip to Branson to enjoy a late Christmas gift from the church. We are looking forward to celebrating Easter the first of April and will enjoy dinner after the morning service. Bro. Roy Callahan has returned to work after being off for health reasons. Please remember him in prayer as he now has to get back in the routine of going back to work. Bro. Baker, Bro. Van Widger and Bro. Perry Womble will represent Zion at the BMAA in Jackson, MS in a couple weeks. We pray for a harmonious meeting, for the officers and for all traveling to this meeting. Pray for us at Zion as we remember you!

Dennis Baker, Pastor • Norma Womble, Reporter

Greetings from **First Baptist, Potosi**. What better way to begin a month than to celebrate our 62nd Annual Friends Day? It was a wonderful day in the Lord beginning with Sunday School, our music worship service, and then our message brought from Bro. Jim Ainley. Of course, we topped it all off with what Baptists are known for and that is one fantastic meal. Our special services committee chose a barbecue theme again this year and the decorations were adorable. We are so blessed with members talented in so many areas and our special services committee works very hard to be sure all events are covered with such ease that it reminds me of my age. Sunday, March 11th, was the two-year anniversary of our Celebrate Recovery (CR) program that meets every Friday night. CR Pastor, Bro. Kevin Smith, and Ministry Leader, Sis. Kayla Smith, gave a short presentation of the program and introduced all the workers who lead the nursery, celebration place, landing, adult, and praise band programs. Another very important aspect of this program is the meal that is served every Friday night at 6:00. Sis. Brenda Wilson tries to encourage people to help with making and serving the meals. We always end the night with dessert at 9:00. This program is for anyone who has ANY hurt, habit, or hang-up. You may want to check it out. The Shine event March 10th was an awesome event which led to the salvation of several young ladies. Great music, God-loving speakers, and wonderful break-out sessions made up the events of the day. The women who put this together are so appreciated for the many hours it took to accomplish the end result. Our Wednesday night Bible study is on Matthew 5. It has been a great study. We are gearing up for our in-home Sunday evening Community Groups. We choose our own topic this time from a list of Marriage, Parenting, Evangelism, Apologetics, or Revelation. There is something for everyone. The last two group sessions were of great success. The Kairos Prison Ministry Team will be here April 19th-22nd and they are looking for volunteers. March 29th is the Creation Museum trip. Prayers will be appreciated that the youth

and others going will have a safe and spirit-filled trip. On April 1st, Easter Sunday, we are having a sunrise worship service at 7:30, breakfast at 8:00, Sunday School for all ages at 9:00 and our regular worship service at 10:00. The services will be the same, so we may choose to attend one or both. Michelle Knobloch and Alisia Wright took the GMA girls to the state meeting in Mathews, MO. From the pictures, it looks like they had a great time. Sis. Judy Heeter was back at church and we were so glad to see her looking healthy. Sis. Verniece Snyder is at home but not back to church yet. We have others who need our prayers also. Bro. Kevin baptized two yesterday (a man and his teenage daughter). What a blessing! We have so much going on it is difficult to be sure I include it. Two other outreach programs are still in the beginning stages. They are HOPE for survivors of sexual abuse, misuse, or trauma and SURRENDERING THE SECRET, healing the heartbreak of abortion; both are available in confidential settings. FBC Kids is back for the month of April with choir practice. Their performance will be Sunday, April 29th, at 10:00 AM. (K-5 and pre-K with a parent). Please pray for us as we pray for you.

Jim Ainley, Pastor • Deborah Rauhut, Reporter

**Landmark, DeSoto**, reports there were 6 of us that attended the State WMA Meeting at Zion. Very good meeting, good food and pretty good attendance. We also attended the Washington County District WMA at Zion. The church security presentation was very enlightening and very usable for any size church. Then we had our church WMA and Brotherhood on the 25th, so we've been going to WMA all month it seems. We do enjoy WMA and Brotherhood though. The Maxwells haven't been able to move into the parsonage as

of yet, but the thinking is that it will be ready by this weekend, Easter weekend, although it will take them a little bit to get moved up here. Hopefully all of that will go very well for them. It's been a long process, but everyone says it is going to look great, with so many improvements to the house. I know that this is no new news to most of you by now, but Bro. Elva Asberry went home to be with his Lord on the 27th. We have been missing him at Landmark since he has been unable to attend. He hasn't been able to come since he had the flu so bad a month or more ago. We rejoice in his knowing Christ as his Savior and know that he has been welcomed home. We have been to see the movie, "I Can Only Imagine," and highly recommend it when you get an opportunity to see it in your area. Until next month or the Lord's Return

Aaron Maxwell, Pastor  
Sharon Page, Reporter

Greetings from **Black Creek of Poplar Bluff!** If you think that maybe you have read part of this letter last month it is because you did. But since part of it happened in March and God was so good at the beginning of March. I decided to leave it in this letter again. The baptism of Bro. James Childers was scheduled for Sunday, March 4th right after the morning service. When the service was coming to close on March 4th, Lisa Childers came forward and gave her testimony of giving her life to the Lord on Thursday, March 1st and asked to be baptized to become a member also. So, instead of going to Black River on the 4th day of March, with the river up and muddy too, for one to be baptized we had two! Black Creek is growing! Bro. James and Sis. Lisa's two young daughters are attending with them also. The entire morning congregation went to the river to witness the baptism. We also had someone to just stop by to watch and they recorded it. God is good, all the time and all the time, God is good! We enjoyed being a part of the Youth in Harvest which was held at Bethlehem, Doniphan this month. It was truly a blessing to hear the youth tell parts of their favorite Bible stories. What a joy it is to know we have youth coming up in our denomination to carry on after we are gone. God was good and kind to us by letting us take part in the Third Sunday Singing which was held at Zalma March 18th. As always it is so enjoyable to spend time with our brothers and sisters in Christ, Singing praises to our Father in Heaven. Sunday, March 25th was not only our 4th Sunday Fellowship Dinner but it was also Bro. Troy Sisk's birthday! He was surprised with a card, a birthday cake and we all gathered around and sang Happy Birthday to him. Satur-

• Continued on Page 5 •

## The Missouri

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**See the MMB online at [bmamissouri.org](http://bmamissouri.org)**

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**FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS • MARCH 2018**

**General Fund:**

**Checking Account:**

Balance February 28, 2018		\$	46,076.77
March Receipts:			
Missions:	\$	2,935.49	
Total Income:	\$	2,935.49	\$ 2,935.49
Total Available			\$ 49,012.26
Disbursements:			
Director Salary	\$	600.00	
Trip (Columbia, Smithville)	\$	485.66	
SPM Com. Meeting	\$	482.41	
Total Disbursements	\$	1,568.07	\$ (1,568.07)
<b>Balance March 31, 2018:</b>			<b>\$ 47,444.19</b>

**Bank of America Savings Account:**

Balance February 28, 2018		\$	(1,100.66)
Interest:	\$	.02	\$ .02
<b>Balance February 28, 2018:</b>			<b>\$ 1,100.68</b>

**Investment in BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund:**

Balance February 28, 2018		\$	101,169.03
Interest:	\$	0.00	\$ 0.00
<b>Balance March 31, 2018:</b>			<b>\$ 101,169.03</b>

**Total of all Funds March 31, 2018** **\$ 149,713.90**

## Missions Symposium & Mid-year Meeting

May 18th at 7:00 p.m. • May 19th at 9:00 a.m.

Zion Baptist Church • St. Louis

Offering • Designated as a love offering  
for Bro. David Griggs

Come and meet 2 new foreign missionaries

## Recommendations

### of the Special Missions Committee

The Special Mission Committee of the Missionary Committee of the Baptist Missionary Association of Missouri met March 20, 2018 at the Bear Creek Cafe in Potosi, Missouri.

The following committeemen were present: Dan Wisely (Clerk). Dale Fish, Russell Chitwood, Claude Evans, Don Burke, Brian Meade, and Missions Director, James Hoffmann.

In the absence of our Chairman (Ben Kingston, who had to officiate a funeral) the committee appointed Dan Wisely to moderate the meeting.

Bro. Hoffmann gave the Missions financial report and told about he and his wife attending the Seminary meeting at Charity Baptist Church in Columbia which addressed churches being able to provide opportunities for BMA Seminary Students to serve internships as part of the student's education requirements.

He also told the committee that he and Sis. Hoffmann went from Columbia to Kansas City and attended the services at North Lake Church in Smithville. They were encouraged as they met the pastor and other members of the church and sensed the vision they have to grow a work that will reach their community for Christ.

After several minutes of discussion on various topics involving our state mission work the following recommendations were made to be presented to the Missionary Committee at our Mid-year meeting in May for their consideration:

**Recommendation 1** • That the Special Missions Committee develop guidelines for providing financial help for Volunteer Student Missionary participants, and that these guidelines be a part of the Missions Policy Handbook.

**Recommendation 2** • That we give a one-time building fund offering of \$20,000 to North Lake Baptist Church in Smithville, MO from our Missions Funds.

**Recommendation 3** • That we give \$200 a month to the BMA of America designated as support for Associate Missionary Matt Barker in Nixa, MO (to be reviewed in 1 year).

**Recommendation 4** • That Bro. Brian Meade stand as a nominee to succeed himself on the Special Missions Committee, term ending 2025.

**If you have any questions about these recommendations please contact our Mission Director or any member of the Special Missions Committee.**

### From Our Director...

**Last Reminder** ••• in the March issue I wrote about the states where we have churches working together in disaster relief and the need for our churches in Missouri to get involved in establishing a data base of our people who are willing to help when natural disasters occur. Thus far I have had two ladies contact me showing an interest in helping get this started.

I am asking again anyone who would like to help in getting this started to please contact me between now and our Mid-year meeting. All I am looking for at this time is people who are willing to help establish this data base. Later we will be searching for those who are willing to go when help is needed.

Sometime after our mid-year meeting we will contact those who have notified me and try to get organized in this effort. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

**Don't Forget** ••• to make plans to give a love offering

(as an individual or a church) for Bro. David Griggs and bring it to the Missions Symposium at Zion Baptist Church in St. Louis May 18, 2018. If you do not plan to attend the symposium but want to help with this love offering please mail it to:

BMAMO Missions  
176 Bear Creek Dr.  
Wentzville, MO 63385

Please make your check out to BMAMO Missions and designate it for "David Griggs Love Offering."

Bro. David has been a faithful pastor of churches in Missouri for many years and has gone through several hospitalizations, therapy sessions and other procedures since last summer. This offering will help him with expenses and let him know we love and appreciate him. If you have any questions please contact me by e-mail ([mmbpaper@charter.net](mailto:mmbpaper@charter.net)) or by phone (314-277-8644)

**Please Attend** ••• the BMAMO 2018 Missions Symposium May 18, 2018.

This year we will have two Missionaries and their families with us to present the work God has laid on their hearts. This will be a great opportunity to meet Bro. Larry and Sis. Tammy Wood and hear about their desire to work in Ukraine. Also, Bro. Jimmy and Sis. Julie Walker and their 5 children will be with us and share their hearts for the work on the island of Negros, Philippines. This should be an exciting time for all of us!

**Show Your Willingness**

••• to get acquainted, cooperate, fellowship and enjoy our brothers and sisters in the other churches of the BMA of Missouri as we gather May 19, 2018 at Zion Baptist Church in St. Louis for our mid-year meeting. We need to get to know each other better, to work together to further His Kingdom, and to encourage one another as we seek His Will in what we do all across the State of Missouri and surrounding areas.

We will hear reports from

the various departments of our work, make decisions that will affect our actions, and take time to worship our great God. The directors and committees of our various departments will offer ideas and recommendations that pertain to their work and ask for your permission (as representatives of your churches) to do what needs to be done. We NEED YOU to come and help us in this meeting!

Come praying for a harmonious meeting and expecting blessings as we fellowship with each other. We look forward to seeing you at Zion Baptist Church.

**Symposium - Starting Time • 7:00 p.m. Friday**

**Mid Year Meeting - Starting Time • 9:00 a.m. Saturday**

## • *MRS* From Page 1 •

sion for hardship withdrawals, and provide the ability to borrow against your retirement account on a short-term basis in emergency situations.

The second reason we are changing is to provide more flexible options. The new retirement plan will offer investment options that will aid younger and older pastors, as well as those in between. Younger pastors will have more aggressive options available to build savings while older pastors may utilize more conservative options to preserve the capital they have accumulated. Those in between will benefit from flexible alternatives tailored to their age, risk tolerance, and money personality.

The third reason we are changing is to lower costs. The new plan and service provider agreement will reduce participant fees by over 60%. These savings will result in more of your investment earnings remaining in your account, and, compounded over time, could produce higher returns benefiting your family's financial future. Additionally, the new plan, coupled with the opportunity to relocate MRS to the BMA Global Ministry Center in Conway, Arkansas will allow us to reduce MRS operating costs by more than \$160,000 annually. Of course, these savings will be passed on to the participants.

The fourth reason we are changing is to provide on-going educational services. A recent at large survey indicates that 83% of employees admit not being on track to meet retirement goals, yet 92% of employees make changes to their retirement within 30 days of receiving training. On-going stewardship training will be a key component of the new retirement program.

Finally, we are changing with hopes of increasing participation. While we currently have 425 participants in the plan, we have approximately 1,200 BMA churches. We are hopeful that broadening our scope with enhanced benefits, more flexible options, lower fees, and on-going educational services will increase participation in the BMA Retirement Plan and allow us to build on the foundation we've inherited.

### Article 2 of 3

#### What Are We Changing?

First, we are changing from a 401(a) Money Purchase Retirement Plan to a 403(b)(9) Church Retirement Plan. A 403(b)(9) is a defined contribution plan specifically designed for the unique needs of evangelical churches or church organizations. While similar to other basic 403(b) and 401(k) plans, 403(b)(9) plans offer retired ministers the ability to have retirement distributions designated as housing allowance.

Second, we are changing from a centralized investment platform with one fund option to a more decentralized platform with a number of fund options. Thus, participants will play a greater role in the decision making as to where their funds are invested. Not to worry if you are unsure about where to invest, automated options will be available through Target Date Funds or Risk Based Funds that will reallocate your investment without you having to do anything except identify your projected retirement date or risk profile. Likely, 70-80% of participants will choose these automated options, and competent financial advisors will be in place to hold our hand through this process. For the Do-it-Yourselfers, there will be a menu of high quality funds available from reputable providers such as Vanguard, Fidelity, American Funds, etc.

Third, we are changing investment managers and financial advisors. Given the new paradigm we are entering, we felt it paramount in fulfilling our fiduciary responsibility to send out Request for Proposals (RFPs) on the new services we wish to provide participants. Seven RFPs were received from potential providers. The MRS Board and a sub-committee reviewed and synthesized the data to determine which providers offered the greatest benefit at the lowest cost. Interviews were held with the top three in Conway on January 23rd. An on-site visit

was conducted with the finalist, Envoy Financial of Colorado Springs, Colorado, on February 15 and 16th. The following week the MRS board approved signing a Memorandum of Understanding to engage Envoy as a strategic partner in facilitating the new BMA Retirement Plan. With the new arrangement, MRS will be able to reduce participant fees from 2.65% to approximately 1%, depending on the funds the participants choose.

Fourth, we are changing from internal recordkeeping and administration to external. By outsourcing this task, we will be able to reduce costs and scale our retirement plan without having to hire additional employees as we grow. Further, we will be able to provide participants on-line access to their accounts, as well as provide the ability to make changes to their investments as needed. The capital investment required for us to provide such a service internally would be cost prohibitive. By outsourcing, we can offer these features for a fraction of the cost.

### Article 3 of 3

#### How Are We Changing?

In the first and second articles regarding upcoming changes at Ministers Resource Services (MRS), we addressed the "why" and "what" questions. In this final article in the series, we will address the "how" question.

MRS currently maintains a trust fund managed by Manning & Napier of Rochester, New York. The fund is classified as a "Long-Term Growth" investment with 50-60% of the portfolio typically invested in stocks. With a long term perspective more heavily weighted in stocks, there is naturally some volatility associated with this investment. As such, a number of our retirement age participants choose to move their money out of the retirement plan so they can invest in more conservative options to preserve their accumulated savings without as much exposure to this volatility. Conversely, younger pastors with a longer time horizon are looking for investments with higher ratios of stocks in the portfolio than the current fund provides in order to maximize growth.

In order to meet the needs of all plan participants best, MRS will be expanding the investment options. This change will involve engaging a new ministry partner, Envoy Financial of Colorado Springs, Colorado. With over 30 years of experience serving churches, denominations and fellowships, they bring an array of ministry services reflecting the needs expressed above and more. Envoy currently serves over 3,000 churches and over 200 ministries located in 50 states, as well as missionaries in 63 foreign countries. You can learn more about their history and service commitment by viewing their website at [www.envoyfinancial.com](http://www.envoyfinancial.com).

In lieu of a single trust fund, the new structure will involve participants maintaining their own individual accounts. This arrangement will allow the investments to be tailored to the unique needs of the individual based on age and life circumstances. As shared previously, the majority of participants will likely prefer a more passive investing approach similar to our current structure. To accommodate this need, Target Date and Risk Based fund options are available. For those desiring custom portfolios, high quality funds are offered, along with council and training through Envoy's financial advisors. Further, online access to your account and fund balance is available seven days per week, 24 hours per day. You will also be able to change investments on-line as you or your advisor deem necessary.

From a technical perspective, the first major step in the change process will involve transferring funds from the existing 401(a) plan's custodian to a new 401(a) plan custodian. This step is necessary to transfer assets to Envoy's platform, as a mass transfer can only occur to the same type retirement plan. Once this transfer is made, the 401(a) plan will be frozen while a new 403(b)(9) plan will be in place to receive all

## *Faithful Soldier Called Home*

Elva T. Asberry, a member of Landmark Missionary Baptist Church in DeSoto and longtime worker for the Lord was born July 31, 1932 and was called to his Heavenly Home Monday, March 26, 2018.

Elva was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Wilma D. Asberry (nee Rayfield). They were the parents of E. Wayne (Gina) Asberry, Sandra Kay (Randy) Burk, Karen Denise (Brent) Lucas and the late Wilma Darlene (survived by Kenn) Moungo. He also is survived by his brother Dale (JoAnn) Asberry, 7 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren, and other relatives and many friends. His funeral was Friday March 30th, with interment at Shepherd Hills Cemetery.

Elva was a retired firefighter and Fire Marshall for Antonia Fire District, a former board member of Jefferson County Citizen Corps and a member of Jefferson County Amateur Radio Club. He was instrumental in creating the Jefferson County Emergency Response System.

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new contributions. The second major step in the change process will involve BMA churches or entities officially adopting the BMA 403(b)(9) Retirement Plan. Each church then becomes a member sponsor and is afforded the opportunity to tailor plan provisions to meet its specific needs. Once the paperwork is signed by each church or entity to adopt the 403(b)(9) plan, the assets from the 401(a) plan will be rolled into the 403(b)(9). Of course, you will be guided through the process each step of the way to provide a seamless transition.

• **NEWS From Page 2** •

day, March 31st, a group gathered together at the Mark Twain Nursing Home to handout Easter cards to the patients there. This is something we have been doing since Sis. Joana Lipsey has become a part of us. If you have been missing the Youth in Harvest and the Third Sunday Singing I encourage you to make it a point to attend both and see what has been happening in our Association. Please remember to pray for all of our Sister Churches who are without Pastors. And also pray for all our Pastors. May God continue to bless us all!  
Troy Sisk, Pastor • Yvonne Hill, Reporter

HELLO to all from **Oak Hill, Alton**. The Lord has blessed us with rain and sunshine. Not a lot has been happening at Oak Hill with people being sick. Sunday, April 1st, is Easter and we will be having an Easter egg hunt for our youth. There are five Sundays in April so we will be having our fifth Sunday dinner and it is the 29th which is my Mother's Birthday. Her name is Edith and she will be celebrating her 72nd Birthday. We hope everyone has a great and wonderful Easter. Until next month, when I hope I will have some good news to tell you, we will be praising and honoring our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. God Bless!!  
Edward Casey, Pastor • Jennifer Williams, Reporter

**Lower Doe Run, Ellington:** As a dear pastor once said, "I choose to look at His blessings." The greatest blessing is to know the Lord and His care. We just came from the visitation for Elva Asberry. We will miss him but we know and love his testimony of salvation. At least 60 family and friends gathered at the church to celebrate Betty's 90th Birthday and to remember her life with George. We remembered that "This world is not our home" as we helped move things around for a dear displaced family. We are praising God for successful surgery for Glenda. Continue praying for her and Nick's continuous treatment at home. Especially pray for our youth and what they face day by day. We celebrate the resurrection of our Living Saviour. He has set us free. Through His blood we are forgiven, We are loved. We can risk loving others.  
Melvin Meade, Pastor • Carolyn Meade, Reporter

**Bethel, Sikeston,** wishes a "Happy Spring" all. We are so ready for some nice spring weather when everything is greening up and trees are budding, sun is shining and we can start planting our gardens. We had a great blessing to start the month of March as Matthew Seabaugh came forward and gave his testimony of being saved a few days before and wanted to be baptized and join the church. He was baptized the following Sunday night and given the hand of fellowship with lots of hugs from everyone. What a blessing to witness young ones accepting Christ as their Savior! His dad, John got the privilege of leading his son to the Lord! We are thankful for godly fathers that are examples to their children. Our ladies prepared desserts for workers at the Kenny Rogers CP Center Telethon and we sent a donation on the 17th. The 25th, we observed the Lord's Supper and remembered what our Savior went through for us! We need to remember this every day, not just at Easter time. We are praying about having a revival in May. We see new faces each Sunday. Easter Sunday we had a lot of visitors. Our choir had an awesome program which was put together by Sis. Helen Beardsle. She did an excellent job! Bro. Billy brought a heartfelt and strong message about salvation and the three crosses and their meaning. The Holy Spirit's presence was strong! A visitor, accepted Christ as her Savior. Pray for her to find a New Testament Church home where she lives where she can join and follow the Lord in baptism. We are working on our VBS for the month of June. All children are welcome to attend. Many blessings to you all!  
Billy Davis, Pastor, Joan Wood, Reporter

## The Master's Builders

You may be wondering, "Where are the Master's Builders?" We are working and doing well, but as reporter I have fallen down on my job and apologize for it.

We worked at Oak Hill Baptist Church, Bettie, Texas, ( just north of Gilmer) in September, 2017, helping the church finish putting up OSB in the youth building. Thanks to Pastor Dicky Mauk and all who helped the builders as they worked and to all who helped with meals.

February, we met for our annual Retreat at Spring Lake Baptist Assembly, Lonsdale, Arkansas, enjoying a time of fellowship and relaxation. In March, The Master's Builders traveled to Stone Ridge Baptist Camp in Smithville, Arkansas. Bro.Scott Small had jobs lined up for the men, which included putting up white tin on the ceilings in one of the large dorms, putting a window in his office, and replacing boards in the area around the freezers in the kitchen area.

We will be working in Texas during April and May, and in Arkansas in June. Remember us in your prayers! Pray for safety as the men work and that God would lay this ministry on the hearts of men and women!

For questions about how you can help or be helped by The Master's Builders Ministry please contact our Office Coordinator, John Mangum at 318-202-5155 or (cell)318-607-4100 or our Field Coordinator, Eddie Sikes at 903-725-6549 or (cell) 479-462-1675.

Nelda Malone, Reporter



Master's Builders & Helpers at Oak Hill Baptist Church in Arkansas

## Pre-Associational "God & Country Rally" 1969-2019

Monday Evening 7:00 p.m. April 16, 2018

Presentation of American Colors	Mississippi National Guard Color Guard
Pledge to the American Flag	Dr. Scott Carson, President Southeastern Baptist College Director of BMA Chaplaincy Department
"God Bless America"	Congregation led by Pastor Matt Hudson
Opening Prayer For our Nation	Dr. Charley Holmes, President BMA Theological Seminary
"Battle Hymn of the Republic"	Congregation
Reading of Psalm 22:22-31	Dr. Stephen Crawley, Nominee Executive Director MRS
The National Anthem "The Star Spangled Banner"	Mrs. Sabrina Clayton Fulton, MS
Sermon - "America 1969 - 2019"	Dr. John Adams, Exec. Director - Moral Action-Pastor, First Baptist Church Mantachie, MS
Prayer for America	Evangelist, Kenneth Bobo

## IS THERE ETERNAL LIFE - CAN I LIVE FOREVER?

**John 3:16** • "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

**II Corinthians 4:16** • "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day."

**II Corinthians 5:1** • "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

**I Corinthians 15:52, 55, 57** • "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: For the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Submitted By: Charity Landmark Missionary Baptist Church Bismarck, MO

## 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

### Let's Do It Again!

by Pat Quisenbury • via Baptist Progress

What? You've got to be kidding! That's how many of us felt when we heard Missionary Gerald Price needed an airplane and we could buy one with Gold Bond Stamps.

Giving up our trading stamps was a big deal! Just in case you're too young to remember, this is how it worked. Retail stores issued one stamp for every 10 cents of merchandise purchased. I joined the stamp frenzy in the 1960's and began building my own stash. The whole process was fun! We collected, saved, pasted them in books and traded our stamps in for all kinds of stuff! You can imagine our response when Bro. W. J. Burgess, Secretary of Missions for the BMA of America challenged us to give them up for a missionary airplane!

At first it seemed impossible. Beyond reason. Hopeless. But it wasn't! As fiercely as we had loved and cherished our stamps, we became just as passionate about giving them up for this worthy missionary effort. Stamps rolled in by the thousands. And in April 1968, a new Cessna 182 Airplane was on its way to enlarge the ministry and advance the spread of the gospel in the vast land of Brazil.

We responded the same way when Missionary Paul Bearfield said one million Betty Crocker coupons would provide a much needed micro-bus for the ministry in Taiwan. That was an overwhelming assignment, but together we did it!

Every year the National WMA selects a missionary project to support. This year we have chosen the BMA Bible College in the Philippines—a training center where young men and women receive a great education and also gain practical experience by serving in our churches. On week days they attend class and study. Every week-end students leave the campus to work with pastors, sharing Christ, leading outreach ministries, teaching children and adult Bible study groups. In one semester, a total of 682 were saved. That's an amazing harvest! And what a worthy investment we make when we support this project.

As of February 28, we have received \$30,417.47 for our entire project: 80% goes to the college. Good work! But can we do more? The college budget calls for \$7000 per month (plus ongoing building maintenance) and our offerings are urgently needed! Can we give one more BIG push? Our goal is \$40,000 and all designated funds received by April 16 will go to this. Helping our missionaries is something we do well. And every year I'm impressed as I watch the process. We pray. We link arms. We commit. We work. And God blesses!

Let's do it again! And without a doubt we will see God at work doing more than we ever thought possible. An airplane for trading stamps or a micro-bus for coupons was no big deal for God. And neither are the needs and ministry of our BMA Bible College in the faraway Philippines.

Think about the story of a little boy and his lunch recorded in Matthew 14:15-21. The truth is if over 5000 people stayed for Sunday lunch at our church I would be nervous too and would have probably slipped out the back door during the closing prayer. Two fish and five loaves of bread? Is that all? But Jesus told the disciples not to worry! He simply asked for what they had, and it was enough! That's all He wants from us, and I'm confident it too will be enough!

## Missouri State GMA Houseparty & Annual Meeting

First Baptist at Matthews hosted our annual GMA house party the weekend of March 23-24. We had a great weekend of fellowship. On Friday night, the girls had fun making bath bombs, slime, and playing games. We had our annual meeting Saturday morning. The ladies from Matthews made everyone a wonderful breakfast. At our meeting, Riley Polk and Lynleigh Carroll shared a devotional. Caitie Cox also shared a devotional.

Our new elected officers are:

President-	Lila Eckert
Vice-President-	Caitie Cox
Secretary-	Kailey Belk
Adult Secretary-	Kari Hartlein
Song Leader-	Maya Porter
Asst. Song Leader-	Jaelyn May
Pianist-	Kari Hartlein
Historian-	Kaitlyn Belk
Adult Historian-	Juanita May

After the meeting, Bro. Jeff Polk delivered the message from Hebrews 8:6-13.

Our next annual meeting will be at Ohlman Baptist Church in Bunker **March 29-30, 2019.**

Articles & Pictures submitted by *Kari Hartlein*

## First, Matthews GMA's Receive Awards

Our GMA girls at Matthews received awards on 3/28/18. The girls are shown here reciting the Aim, Allegiance, and Watchword. The girls have been working hard on their steps and memorizing scripture. We work with a group of girls in New Madrid on Tuesdays and at Matthews on Wednesday nights. The girls are also getting ready for national camp this summer in Texas.



Matthews GMA's Reciting the Aim, Allegiance, and Watchword



Lila Eckert receiving her GMA award from Shelia Polk and Karen Magee.

## LifeWord Facebook Programming

### Note

"My faith roots are a result of the BMA and ministries like LifeWord, so the idea of partnering with an organization that values ministry through media is a no brainer. Speaking from the heart and connecting to other hearts the love and truths of God is my mission and I know it's the mission of LifeWord, so I'm excited to be a part of that." These are the words of Lori (Carroll) Cline who is the wife and ministry partner of Drew Cline, the pastor of South City Church (formerly Temple Baptist) in Little Rock.

Lori is excited to partner with LifeWord and starting April 3rd her twice-a-week LifeWord Facebook broadcast will debut at 10:00 a.m.

Director Donnie Parrish announced this programming note by saying, "For Lori Cline, a lifelong relationship, and lifetime passion for people and a life of service and ministry have come together for God's good purpose at LifeWord."



State GMA Officers



Circle of Prayer at State GMA Houseparty & Meeting



BMAMO State WMA Officers Elected March 3, 2018

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

## Does God Have The Right To Order Destruction

Deuteronomy 7:2

by Dennis Baker, Brotherhood President

Deuteronomy 7:2, "And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them."

The text finds Moses ordering the children of Israel to destroy the Canaanites. The Canaanites occupied the land and had an established system of worship. But God ordered the annihilation of the Canaanites and possession of the land to the nation of Israel. The destruction included, killing the people, showing no mercy, demolishing their graven images and places of worship.

The question that many may ask, "If God is really a being of love, how could He give such an order requiring the destruction of the Canaanites?" I think the answer is found in the principle of divine government and by considering the facts of the case. The principle of divine government is, that it is God's right and His responsibility to determine the time of existence for the people of the earth in keeping with His love, holiness, and wisdom. Luke writes in Acts 17:24-26, that it is God that made all things and determines the life span and the limits of habitation. The facts are that the Canaanites had become so wicked that they were a menace to themselves and others. Sin had become so heartless and extreme that it was an extension of mercy to unborn generations. Archaeological discoveries have uncovered that the Canaanites sacrificed their children and that their temples were places of immorality. Their morals were so low that they would have inevitably corrupted God's plan of government, worship, and society for the new nation.

God did not give the Israelites an opinion. God made it mandatory! Israel's conquest does not represent a lower moral standard than that of the Christian era. There is no higher ethic than implicit obedience to God's command. History confirms the results of Israel's failure to obey God's command in this matter.

## Central Baptist College Expands Ministry Tuition Grant Program

Central Baptist College (CBC) is pleased to announce an expansion of the Ministry Tuition Grant. Previously designated the Ministers Discount, the Ministry Tuition Grant has, for many years, been available to those in a traditional degree program who are licensed or ordained to the preaching ministry and actively attending or serving in a Baptist Missionary Association of America (BMAA), Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), or American Baptist Association (ABA) church. Wives and dependent children of those who met these qualifications were also eligible to receive the grant.

At the March 2018 Board of Trustee's Meeting, the Ministry Tuition Grant was extended to those enrolled in the Professional Adult College Education (PACE) Department and to missionaries serving through the BMAA Missions Department or the International Missions Board (IMB). Wives and dependent children of those who meet the eligibility requirements will also be eligible to receive the grant if they enroll in the PACE Department, as will wives and dependent children of qualified missionaries.

"We are honored to be able to extend the Ministry Tuition Grant to students in our PACE Department and to missionar-

ies serving around the globe," said CBC President Terry Kimbrow. "Central Baptist College has supported those in the preaching ministry through higher education since the inception of the College in 1952. These changes to the Ministry Tuition Grant continue our support and allow prospective students the opportunity to choose the program delivery that best fits their current needs."

The Ministry Tuition Grant ranges from a tuition grant of 20% to a tuition grant of 50%, depending upon the program in which students are enrolling and their denominational affiliation. In order to qualify, all eligibility requirements must be met and all required documentation must be submitted for verification. Full eligibility details, required documentation, and applications can be found online at [cbc.edu/MinistryGrant](http://cbc.edu/MinistryGrant).

For more information about enrolling at Central Baptist College, contact the Admissions Office at 501.329.6873 or [admissions@cbc.edu](mailto:admissions@cbc.edu).

*"There are  
only two days on my  
calendar: This day and  
That Day."  
-Martin Luther*

## A Program You Might Want to Try in Your Church!

Let me take a second to share some news from the church at Matthews. Recently we held the first awards ceremony for our **Trail Life USA Troop**. A lot of my energy over the winter has gone towards getting the troop up and running.

We have 12 registered plus another 4 unregistered, but regular boys and 5 adult men leaders. Since starting Trail Life in October we have had several day trips. Most recently we visited Columbus/Belmont a civil war site in our area.

At the recent awards ceremony the boys received awards ranging from joining awards to multiple completed requirements.

We have been studying **Values:** Godly, Family and Citizenship values. **Hobbies:** God made all the fun stuff and gets pleasure from our enjoying His creation. And **Heritage:** Our Nation was built by God fearing men and it needs God fearing men to remain healthy.

I'm proud of our Trailmen and look forward to how God will use them.

## 7th Annual Men's Spring Retreat Camp Garwood

Friday, May 4 starting at 7:30 p.m.  
and Saturday May 5, 2018

### Who Can Attend?

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

**Important:** All men, 18 years old and up, MUST complete the on-line Adult Screening form if you plan to stay overnight on the camp grounds.

Go to: [bmamissouri.org/CampGarwood/AdultScreening](http://bmamissouri.org/CampGarwood/AdultScreening).

It only takes about 3 minutes.

### What is the Cost?

There is no cost for those attending, but churches are encouraged to bring an offering to help with the expenses.

We will be taking up an offering at the meeting to help with the expenses.

### What is the Purpose?

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

### What to Bring?

You are encouraged to bring your, 22 rifles (young men), 12 or 20 gauge shotguns (for our competition events), along with personal items, bed sheets and blankets (or sleeping bag), and pillow.

Beds, food and fun are provided.  
Ammunition will be furnished by the BMA of Missouri Brotherhood

### Questions??

Contact the following for more information:

**Dennis Baker** 636-461-1625, 5146 Darkmoor LN  
Imperial, MO 63052, [bbsafety4332@gmail.com](mailto:bbsafety4332@gmail.com)

**James Hoffmann** 314-427-8644, [mmbpaper@charter.net](mailto:mmbpaper@charter.net)  
**Claude Evans** 573-562-7036, [cbe34@hotmail.com](mailto:cbe34@hotmail.com)



Trail Life Awards Ceremony

If you're struggling with how to reach boys in your area I'd encourage you to look into **Trail Life USA**. Of our 16 boys only 8 are our regular church youth.

"Walk Worthy" is the **Trail Life** motto from Colossians 1:10 "So as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God" esv

Chris Polk • 573-380-1975

**For more information on this program get in touch with Chris.**

## Camp Garwood

### Greetings BMAMO!

I'd like to tell you a lot of great news from Garwood. First I'd like to say I've been at camp every weekend since January. Then I'd like to tell you about all the repairs that have been completed. And I'd like to finish up but telling you that everything is ready to go for camp week. Yep, That's what I'd like to tell you, **unfortunately I can't**. The truth is there's not a lot to tell. I've only been to camp a couple times to get the water turned on. In fact I've found more to do than I've gotten done so far this year.

I'd like to say that's going to turn around this month, but my April schedule only allows for one camp trip and that's on **Paintball Weekend** (April 6-7). It's crazy how busy our schedules get sometimes.

Hopefully I'll have more camp news next month. Until then I'll be praying for the churches of Missouri and ask you to be praying for us.

Blessings • *Chris Polk*  
P O Box 271,  
Matthews MO 63867  
(573) 380-1975

## Steeple & Towers

My wife and I had a family trip to a metropolitan area. When we checked in to the hotel, the desk clerk apologized for placing us in the "executive level" room. I was quite settled with the apology as I saw the amenities of the room.

We had a panoramic view of the city from our executive perch atop one of the higher floors. The evening lights of the tall buildings caught our view. The traffic patterns of the streets and freeways shown almost like old fashioned lightning bugs as the headlights glistened through the window. Aircraft going and coming from the busy runways peppered the night sky with blinking lights and shafts of

## BMAA Seminary Dinner

We want to invite you to join us for the BMA Seminary Friends Dinner to be held in conjunction with the BMAA Annual Meeting in Jackson, MS.

**When?** Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

**Where?** The Gallery - Jackson Convention Complex

**Cost?** \$40/ticket (Lifetime members of the Alumni and Friends Association receive a \$5 discount)

**Deadline:** Tickets must be purchased no later than April 6, 2018.

Important Alumni Business will be discussed at the meeting. Dr. Tony Cleaver will receive this year's Kellar Award. Every guest will receive a gift. It will be a wonderful opportunity to rejoice in what the Lord has done for BMA Seminary and to look forward to where He is leading.

Please contact Keri Southern at the BMA Seminary for more information. She can be reached by telephone at 800-259-5673 and by email at [president@bmats.edu](mailto:president@bmats.edu).

## BMAA Summer Schedule

*Includes English and Spanish DiscipleWay Training*

Since 2000, the BMA Seminary has offered intensive week-long studies each summer that focus upon various areas of religious education. The 2018 summer schedule includes courses for both credit and non-credit students.

Non-credit students may be interested in auditing the seminary's DiscipleWay training June 11-14, 2018 on its main campus in Jacksonville, Texas. The training includes an introduction to the biblical, educational, and philosophical principles that undergird DiscipleWay curriculum, exposes individuals to each DiscipleWay discipline, and gives particular attention to the disciplines of Bible study and witnessing. DiscipleWay's goal is to teach individuals how to perform disciplines without the help of a teacher while also developing the ability for those same individuals to teach others without the help of a teacher.

Spanish speaking individuals may also participate in this summer's DiscipuloSoy training, the Spanish version of DiscipleWay, June 11-14, 2018. The training coincides with the English version training and will be led by Dr. Ricky Williams and BMA of America and BMA of Texas missionaries and staff.

Credit seeking students can enroll in both on campus, online, and hybrid courses. Students may enroll in an appropriate level of DiscipleWay training on campus with Drs. Philip Attebery, David Hellwig, and Ronnie Johnson June 11-15. Online students may enroll in Old Testament Interpretation: Genesis with Dr. Greg Parsons and Christian Psychology or Advanced Christian Psychology with Dr. Ronnie Johnson (June 4-July 27). Students may also enroll in a hybrid course in Church Planting Dr. Ricky Williams (July 24-26).

Deadline for registration is May 4, 2018. All courses may be taken at reduced costs for non-credit. Students interested in DiscipleWay training without credit may register until May 30, 2018.

*Lisa Henderson* • Dean's Assistant  
BMA Theological Seminary  
P. O. Box 670 • Jacksonville, TX 75766  
903-586-2501 • 800-259-5673 • [www.bmats.edu](http://www.bmats.edu)

landing lights.

As the dawn came, I was once again held in my gaze at the window. This time I noticed the many church steeples that were in and among the houses, apartments, and buildings of the great city. Here and there, once and again, the steeples were posing their silent witness pointing ever upward to the God of heaven.

About the same time I was gazing at the many steeples of churches, I began to notice the number of electronic towers far outnumbered the steeples. The towers, once unheard of just a few years ago, now are a necessary part of modern lifestyle. We must be able to communicate in order to do many things.

## 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](mailto:calebhouston@yahoo.com).

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

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

## Seeking Full-time Pastor

Vardaman St. Baptist Church, Wiggins, MS is accepting resumes for the position of Senior Pastor. Contact information:

Vardaman St. Baptist Church • P.O. Box 1, Wiggins, MS 39577  
or Dale Davis • Phone 601-528-0121  
E-mail: [stoneprint1@gmail.com](mailto:stoneprint1@gmail.com)

## First Half 2017-2018 Financial Report

*Kenneth Gibson Seminary*  
*Student Grant Fund*  
October 2017 – March 2018

Balance: October 1, 2017	\$	11,538.16
Receipts:	\$	<u>31.37</u>
Total Available:	\$	11,569.53
Disbursements:	\$	<u>(352.81)</u>
Balance: March 31, 2018	\$	11,216.72

## First Half 2017-2018 Financial Report

*Missouri Missionary Baptist Paper*  
October 2017 – March 2018

Balance: October 1, 2017	\$	7,967.85
Receipts:	\$	<u>8,950.55</u>
Total Available:	\$	16,918.40
Disbursements:	\$	<u>(10,102.56)</u>
Balance: March 31, 2018	\$	6,815.84

I wonder if we tweet or twitter more than we pray. I wonder if we text more than we meditate. I wonder if we spend more time on our social media than we spend in the media of God's Word. I wonder if the tower has become more important to human life than the steeple.

The church steeple points upward to God. The electronic tower courses outward to humankind. No, I am not against the tower and the communication it provides my world. I am simply wondering if the tower has taken the place of the steeple in the scheme of human events. "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves..." (Genesis 11.3)

Tony M. Cleaver 29 JUL 13