

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

“Holding Forth The Word of Life”

Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXXI

St. Louis, MO • November 13, 2018

Issue No. 11

91st Annual Session of the Baptist Missionary Association of Missouri

The BMA of Missouri met at Bethel Baptist Church in Lone-dale for its ninety-first annual meeting October 27, 2018. Twenty-two churches were represented by 49 messengers, with 10 additional churches represented by letter only. After a welcome from host pastor Ben Kingston and the morning devotional by Bro. Brian Kingston, President Dale Fish called the business meeting to order.

The body approved a change to the Association Bylaws, moving the Annual Association from the 4th Saturday of October to the 2nd Saturday.

Bro. Dennis Baker read his report outlining liability concerns of the Association and its individual departments. The Association asked the Special Missions Committee to give further consideration into the issues and recommendations highlighted in the report. A motion was passed to spend \$1,563 from the Revolving Loan Fund to purchase liability insurance from Brotherhood Mutual to cover the Association for the coming year while the needs and recommendations are under review. **Note:** As we prepare this issue of the paper Bro. Dennis Baker informed us that insurance has been purchased to cover all the departments of the BMA of MO (except Camp Garwood which has insurance on another Brotherhood Mutual Policy) and became effective November 1, 2018.

Bro. Gene Hankins, Pastor of Shady Grove Baptist Church in McAlester, OK and Missions Director of the BMA of Oklahoma was invited by the host pastor to come and share what God is doing with their Church Planting efforts in Oklahoma and to bring the morning message. They have a very viable work started northwest of Oklahoma City. His report and message encouraged us to do our best and trust God for results.

BMAA Seminary President, Dr. Charley Holmes spoke to us about the plans, needs and goals of the Seminary, emphasizing the need to raise funds for replacing the roofs on their buildings. The

messengers voted to give an offering of \$3,000 toward this project. Bro. Holmes has led our Seminary very well.

The Association also voted to give Camp Garwood \$5,000 from the Missions Fund to be applied to the camp's indebtedness with the Revolving Loan Fund. This money was given in honor of the Chris Polk family for their ongoing dedication to the camp ministry. We also encouraged him to pay himself the back salary for the few months this summer he withheld his pay while funds

were low.

Bros. Ben Kingston and Jerry Adams were elected as the President and Vice-President (respectively) for the coming year.

Last year the Association approved a \$2,500 gift from the Missions Fund to the Abundant Life in Christ Baptist Church in Charleston to help with their parking lot expense. However, the actual cost ended up being only \$1,445. The Association voted to give the \$1,055 balance to the church for their building.

A standing vote of appreciation was given to Bethel Baptist Church and Pastor Ben Kingston for their hospitality and for the delicious chicken and steak lunch that was enjoyed by all.

This meeting was well attended and the fellowship was sweet and uplifting causing us to look forward to the next time we can be together.

The 2019 Missions Symposium and Semi-Annual Meeting will be held with Grandview Baptist Church in Springfield (May 17-18). The Annual Association will be at Bethel Baptist Church in Sikeston (Oct. 12).

Don Burke,
Recording Secretary



Do you know the significance of this picture? Look on Page 4 and see if you can find the answer!

Giving Thanks

Yes, this is the season of Giving Thanks for those of us in the United States. Many years ago the leaders of our country decided we needed to have a designated time of Giving Thanks. There is certainly nothing wrong with doing this and we as Christians should take advantage of this opportunity to give special thanks to God for all He is and does for us.

But we need not stop giving thanks after Thanksgiving Day! In fact we need to be reminded of the ways we can give thanks all year.

We give thanks by our **Attitude**. Philippians 4:4, “Rejoice in the Lord *always*: and again I say rejoice.”

We give thanks by our **Words**. Ephesians 5:19. “Speaking to yourselves in psalms, and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.”

We give thanks by our **Actions**. Ephesians 5:2. “And walk in love, as Christ also hath loves us...”

May each of us practice giving thanks each day under all circumstances for the GLORY of God.

ALIVE STUDENT CONFERENCE 2018

December 27 - 29, 2018

Doubletree Conference Center • Chesterfield, MO

Information/Registration Packets have been mailed to the churches.

Please note the instructions about **registering** and the **deadlines**.

If you have not received your packet contact

Brad Banderman 636-629-2978

Get more info and stay in touch with updates by going to:

alivestudentconference.org

We look forward to seeing you in December!!



NEWS BRIEFS



Bethel, Sikeston says “Happy Fall” to our sister churches. We were blessed to have a good turn out for the “life chain” on the 7th. Several churches came to show their support, for which we are so thankful! We look forward to even more churches joining us next year. The 14th we were blessed to have a house full for our “homecoming” celebration! We thank Bro. Jimmy Tollison for bringing the message that day. We got to visit with many former members, and what a blessing it was! We were saddened that Bro. Tom Foster, Sr. and Bro. Leon Harvey couldn’t be there because of health reasons, but we did get to hear from them and their wives via video. The ladies prepared a good lunch for everyone to enjoy. Following lunch we went back to sanctuary for more singing and preaching by Bro. Tom Foster, Jr. We are thankful for all that participated to make this a memorable occasion. Our revival started the next night with Bro. Webb Manley preaching the Word. He gave us powerful messages concerning the church each night. We didn’t witness any professions of faith but the church was revived and plans on staying revived until Jesus comes! Bro. Billy, Bro. Matt and Bro. Joe attended the annual state association meeting in Lonedell on the 27th. We honored our pastor and his wife on the 28th after the evening service with an ice cream social for Pastor Appreciation, We also gave them a love offering. A Fall Festival at Bro. and Sis. Mcelroy’s home again this year will be on the 3rd of November. We look forward to a good time of fun and fellowship. We wish everyone a blessed Thanksgiving with your family and friends. We all need to remember folks that don’t have family and will have to spend the holiday alone....



This picture shows some of the boys from Anchor Baptist Academy who grew a large crop of watermelons and delivered a load to the M.W.C.C. Prison in Pacific, MO with the help of Bethel. We covet your prayers as we pray for all of you.
Billy Davis, Pastor • Joan Wood, Reporter

Hello again from **Bethany Baptist Church, St. Louis**. We are being blessed with a beautiful Fall. God is so good! He is giving us a beautiful Fall foliage to see what wonderful things He can do. We are still praying for those in our congregation and others who are ill. If it is His will, we pray they will all be better soon. Visitors continue to attend and we hope they will keep coming and that they will be blessed by our prayers. We are hopeful that those who have spiritual problems in their lives will turn to God to help them make the right decisions. We are so blessed to have the Boatrights. God seems to bless us every Sunday with an encouraging message that helps us all week. As we go into the Fall season, we trust God will through His grace meet the needs of those in need of our prayers.
Tim Boatright, Interim Pastor • Betty Johnston, Reporter

Abundant Life in Christ, Charleston. We participated in Sikeston’s LifeChain in October, and were noticed by our community for doing so. God gave us a good month on our building as our sidewalks were poured and all the flooring and trim went down in two of our classrooms. Once touch-up paint has been applied to the trim work in the classrooms, we

will have three classrooms fully functional. Attendance overall was down during October, but we did begin a two-month trial run of having both a Sunday evening and a Wednesday evening service. We have started uploading one of our morning messages to our Facebook page roughly once a month.
Rodney Dunlap, Pastor

Greetings from **Ozark Heights Baptist Church, Potosi**. We are currently enjoying our study of the Book of Revelation in our mid-week Bible study. We are seeing the Glory of Christ as we study His revelation. Sundays we are studying the Gospel of John in the mornings and gleaning from the Book of 1 Timothy in our study on Sunday evenings. We invite you to join us for these studies and see Christ glorified in them! Please join us in prayer as we pray for the spread of the gospel in our and your local communities. Let’s not forget to pray for our leaders and upcoming elections that Godly men and women will be placed in positions of power to lead our country. Gods blessings on you all!

Brian Kingston, Pastor

Fall has been full of blessings at **Bates Creek, Potosi**. We have had 2 join by baptism and 4 by statement. Our pews have been welcoming visitors each week. God is so good. The Trunk or Treat was our community event for October and it was our best one yet. There were lots of visitors and lots of kids. Pray for each of those visiting families that they seek out God in their life. We may never see them again but the love of God and the seed has been planted. This outreach also brought some of those folks back to our service the following Sunday. Please be in prayer with us as we have more things planned in the upcoming weeks in our local mission field. We will be praying for all of our sister

churches as well.

Bryan Buckley, Pastor • Sara Buckley, Reporter

Stony Point, Mineral Point is thankful for the many blessings the Lord has bestowed on His church. October 6th our youth held their Walk For Life in support of LifeWord Ministries. While they were walking, the men of the church cut grass with weed eaters on a steep grade behind the church. Hot dogs, fellowship and fun followed. October 13th Bro. Claude and Sis. Bea Evans participated in a walk for The Caring Hearts Pregnancy Resource Center in Potosi. October 14th Heaven’s Echoes blessed us with the Lord’s message using God given talents and their own message of faith. October 20th Bro. Claude and Sis. Bea Evans along with Bro. Wayne and Sis. Ruth Gibson attended the District Associational Meeting at Zion in South County. The 21st the Lord showed us His love and mercy in abundant ways. Kevin, Marilyn and Beth Saylor were accepted as members by statement. That afternoon, Lybie Morgan and Vivian Dontrich were saved at Judgement House in Potosi and have since come forward for Baptism. God is so good to us! On the 27th Claude and Bea and Wayne and Ruth attended the State Associational Meeting at Bethel, Lonedell. October 28th we had our annual harvest hayride and Pastor Appreciation day. We had a great turnout and Claude and Bea are appreciated 365 days a year. We love them very much.

Claude Evans, Pastor • David Hughes, Reporter

Greetings from **First Baptist Church, Potosi**. October has been a very busy month with something going on almost every weekend. The community group Bible Study of the book of James has now ended. The children’s study of Put on the Armor of God ended at the end of October. They are now preparing for the Christmas program and music. We participated in the Pregnancy Resource Center Walk to help raise funds for this very important program in our county. We held our Lifeword Walk at the Rowe Crop Farm to raise money for this wonderful ministry. It was a little muddy, but the children, as well as the adults had a great time. Several walked the complete large corn maze. The weather was wonderful and it was relaxing to sit and converse with sisters and brothers in Christ. Two of my favorite people, Sis. Judy and Bro. Richard Heeter, attended and also walked. They always support our programs and we love them dearly. We truly love our pastors and we showed them how much with a pastor appreciation luncheon, gifts, and cards. Sign-ups have begun for the UPWARD bas-

• Continued on Page 8 •

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FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS • October 2018

General Fund:

Checking Account:

Balance October 1, 2018		\$	33,638.33
October Receipts:			
Missions:	\$	<u>1,395.63</u>	
Total Income:	\$	1,395.63	\$ <u>1,395.63</u>
Total Available		\$	35,033.96
Disbursements:			
Director, Salary	\$	650.00	
BMAA (Matt Barker)	\$	200.00	
Office Supplies	\$	50.00	
ALIC Charleston	\$	1,055.00	
Camp Loan RLF	\$	5,000.00	
BMA Seminary Roof	\$	3,000.00	
Mileage & Meal SMC	\$	<u>581.49</u>	
Total Disbursements	\$	10,536.49	\$ <u>(10,536.49)</u>
Balance October 31, 2018:			\$ 24,497.47

Bank of America Savings Account:

Balance October 1, 2018		\$	1,100.80
Interest:	\$.02	\$ <u>.02</u>
Balance October 31, 2018:			\$ 1,100.82

Investment in BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund:

Balance October 1, 2018		\$	102,260.62
Interest:	\$	-0.00-	\$ <u>0.00</u>
Balance October 31, 2018:			\$ 102,260.62

Total of all Funds October 31, 2018 **\$ 127,858.91**

From Our Director...

As I prepare the report for the November issue of the paper I am reminded of all the things for which I am thankful as I try to serve as your Missions Director. I am thankful that I can still serve the Lord even though I cannot be as active as I would like to be. I am thankful for the churches that support missions and have a desire to see more churches planted in Missouri and for the faithful pastors who are working hard to grow the churches with which they are working. I am thankful for the fellowship we enjoy in the Lord as we work our various fields seeking to do His will each day and encouraging one another to be faithful. I am thankful for the financial support of many churches who continue to give to Missions and have provided funds that

are available when we start a new work and that enable us to help in areas of our work when needs arise while we look for a missionary.

We should all be thankful for the opportunity to work together in the most important work of carrying out the Great Commission.

Thank you for our cooperation and involvement in Missions.

As you look at the financial report above I hope you will stop and thank God for His blessings as He has enabled us to be an encouragement to various areas of His work.

We had a great annual association meeting this past month and as revealed in the report on page 1 God led us to help financially in a few important areas of our associational work.

Here is an explanation

of expenses in the financial report above and how these expenses are helping in Missions:

1. We support BMAA Associate Missionary Matt Baker in Nixa, MO in the amount of \$200 a month. *This is a mission project of the BMA of America.*

2. We had committed up to \$2,500 to help the Abundant Life in Christ Baptist Church in Charleston, MO for their parking lot. They only needed part of that amount for their parking lot, so the messengers voted to go ahead and send them the balance for their building fund. *This church was started as a mission project of some of our local associations a few years ago.*

3. Camp Garwood added several improvements at camp before this year's state camp and needed to borrow

From Our Local Associations

Clerks, please share what is happening in your local meetings...

Report of the 109th Annual Session of Washington County Association of Landmark Missionary Baptist Churches.

The Washington County Association of Landmark Missionary Baptist Churches held their 109th annual meeting at Zion Baptist Church, in Lemay, Saturday, October 20, 2018. Eight messengers were present representing four churches. Three churches were represented by letter only.

We received \$515.00 for Minute and Clerk Hire.

Associational officers elected for 2018-2019:

Moderator - Bro. Roy Callahan
Assistant Moderator - Bro. Claude Evans
Clerk - Bro. Dennis Baker
Assistant Clerk - Bro. Perry Womble
Treasurer - Bro. Roy Callahan
Assistant Treasurer - Bro. Van Widger

Elected Missionary Committee officers:

Moderator - Bro. Leonard Knight
Assistant Moderator - Bro. Claude Evans
Clerk - Bro. Dennis Baker
Assistant Clerk - Bro. Roy Callahan.

The Obituary Report reported that the Lord called home four individuals from three churches:

Breton Creek - Sis. Norma Essmyer
Stony Point - Sis. Opal Wilkerson
Bro. Mike Maness

Temple - Bro. Matthew Kearns

Bro. Leonard Knight preached the 109th Annual Sermon. The title of the sermon was "It is Finished." The text was from Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7, 11:1, John 19:30.

Bro. Wayne Gibson was elected to preach the 110th Annual Sermon and Bro. Dennis Baker Alternate.

Zion Baptist Church was elected to be the Host church. Start time was changed to 10:00 a.m.

The churches voted to send \$2,000 to the BMA Seminary roof repair project, \$2,000 to the BMA of Missouri Loan Committee as payment on Camp Garwood Loan, and \$500 to Rebekah Son for VSM Mission trip in the summer of 2019.

Dennis Baker, Clerk

funds from the Revolving Loan Fund. The messengers voted to send \$ 5,000 to the RLF to be applied to that loan in honor of Camp Director Chris Polk and his family for their continuing dedication to the camp ministry. *The camp ministry is a mission outreach of our churches where many souls are saved each year.*

4. We also voted to send \$3,000 to the BMAA Seminary to be applied to the project of putting new roofs on their buildings, *The seminary trains pastors and missionaries who serve in the United States and around the world leading many people to Christ each year and planting churches in new areas.*

5. The messengers approved a raise in salary for the Missions Director which is now \$650 a month and our

by-laws provide that Department officers and committee members shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in performance of their duties. In this report the Special Missions Committee meeting expenses in preparation for the annual association and the Director's expenses are combined. The Special Missions Committee meets a minimum of two times a year. *The Director is involved in all aspects of our mission endeavors with the Special Missions Committee acting as advisors and assistants as needed and as directed by the Association.*

If you have any questions about the above or any other work of this department contact me or any member of our committee. We are THANKFUL to serve .

Ben Roberson and His Missionary Heart

Editor's Note: This article arrived too late to be printed in last month's issue but I am printing it anyway hoping it will inspire our readers to face the challenges of life with faith and enthusiasm that will bring victory!

If you ever have the privilege of meeting Ben Roberson, you will never forget him. One of the first times I saw him, he was at a football game cheering on one of his favorite teams, the Conway Christian Eagles. When things didn't look so good on the field, he decided to do something about the quiet, unmotivated fans: He walked up and down the bleachers yelling, "Come on everybody! Let's go!" Of course, we all did what he told us to do and supported the team...he's Ben. Nobody can say no to Ben.

Fortunately for us here at Lifeword, people still can't say no to him. Ben learned about the media ministry he came to love when his family joined a BMA church (Antioch) in Conway, Arkansas, where he became friends with former Lifeword Executive Director Steve Crawley. His mom told him that Lifeword spreads the gospel through media, and when he heard about how he could raise money for media missionaries by walking, he asked if he could do that.

Nobody can say no to Ben, so, of course, she agreed. Having a missionary heart is in his DNA. His mother Kim lived on the mission field where her parents were IMB missionaries in Cali, Columbia. He knows about missionaries and what they do, so the question about raising money came as no surprise to his family. Every year since that first one, he has practiced, trained and gathered sponsors before the mid-October walk.

This year his mom announced on Facebook that Ben would be walking again. His goal? Ten miles. But they would do it differently because of his health concerns. Ben would walk one mile each day leading up to the Walk, then the last mile at the Central AR Area Walk on October 10th.

Contributions had already begun pouring in weeks before the event, and each time he asked his mom if he could hand deliver the checks and cash to our offices. Leading up to October 10th, we saw him quite a bit, and it was a blessing every time. With almost every visit, someone in the office asked to take a picture with him. His determination has humbled all of us on the Lifeword team, and he is a celebrity at the BMA Global Ministry Center

The night of the walk, his mom was out of town on a mission trip, but his dad and two of his adoring aunts walked with him for



Ben and His Mother Kim Roberson drop off contributions at BMA Global Ministry Center

support. Ben came through the entrance gate that night with his entourage, sturdy walking shoes and new therapeutic socks someone had donated so he could walk more comfortably.

He did it. The training paid off.

Now, it's our turn to "cheer from the stands" just like Ben does at football games when the fans are not doing their jobs. With funds still rolling in, his most recent count is \$3300. He's challenging all of us: "Come on, people! Let's go reach the world for Christ!"

If Ben can do it, so can you, and nobody can say no to Ben Roberson.

Lifeword Sunday was October 21st but it is not too late! Go to: lifeword.org/donate and make your donation today.

ute dialog format aimed at Arabia's lost population of about 200 million.

During the Gulf War, the new short format allowed Charles Costa to quickly prepare special messages to the Iraqi people. "We were able to assure them that the war was not an action aimed at the Iraqi people, but was designed to help topple the cruel regime that had held them in fear and bondage for decades."

By late 2009, the BMA's Arabic ministry in the Middle East had expanded and strengthened to the point that its media ministry could be sustained entirely by BMA churches there, allowing Lifeword to re-allocate much needed funds for broadcasts to unreached people groups. Missions Director Dr. John David Smith said, "That decision by Lifeword follows a fundamental principle in today's missions philosophy: When indigenous ministries are capable of

2018 Lifeword Sunday Windup

by Holly Meriweather

Although some churches have scheduled Lifeword Sunday celebrations for the month of November, most 2018 Lifeword events and emphasis days are in the books. Regardless of when your church learns about, prays for and gives to Lifeword, we want to sincerely thank those who participated in this season of giving.

Your ministry partnership is not something we take for granted. Without it, we could not take the gospel to the nations and in the languages that need the message of hope. The Lifeword Cloud is now two months old, still in its infancy, but it is already being heard by people who speak the five languages that have been loaded to it so far: Arabic, Swahili, Garifuna, Spanish and English.

In the coming months, more languages will begin to be accessible on the website. By the end of 2019, the goal is to add at least ten more. In addition, our Jesustoyou project will continue: Lifeword.org will have gospel presentations in 200 languages of the world, well beyond our current 43 broadcast languages.

So don't forget to send in Lifeword Sunday contributions, or at least a portion of them, by December 10th. Meeting that deadline will make your pastor eligible to win an iPad Pro. The Facebook Live drawing for it will be held on Wednesday, December 12th. The only other requirement is your Lifeword Sunday registration. (If you're not sure about that, e-mail holly@lifeword.org to find out.)

It's an exciting time to be a part of Lifeword, so if you would like to hear more about who we are and what we do, please contact me to schedule a visit or receive more information.

Lifeword is unique in the world of media ministry. You won't find another one doing what we do. God has blessed us with more than 53 years of spreading the gospel through the most advanced technology available, and we are excited to continue helping you and your church fulfill your Great Commission calling.

As Lifeword's first executive director Harold Morris challenged BMA churches back in the 1960s, "We need to make full use of the best technical means of communication...Not to take advantage of these opportunities will be tragic, not only for us, but for a lost and disillusioned world. Advances in technology are revolutionizing the entire world in our time. We are under orders: **Go! Preach! Make disciples!**"

Significance of Picture on page 1

The picture on page one is the home of the [Grandview Baptist Church in Springfield, MO](#) where the [2019 BMA Missions Symposium and Semi-annual Meeting will take place.](#)

Mark your calendar and make plans to attend these meetings and get acquainted with Pastor Gary Longstaff and the great people that make up this wonderful church!

Watch future issues of the [Missouri Missionary Baptist](#) for more information about this church and these meetings!

standing on their own, we remove our 'temporary scaffolding' and let them take complete charge of reaching their own culture with the gospel." By doing this, indigenous ministries can become more effective, and U.S. funds can be redirected to new fields.

Bro. Charlie said, "Creative new Arabic media ministries on the internet are proving the wisdom of this approach. Financial necessity made us work to invent less expensive and more effective methods of reaching out to our own people here in the Middle East, and our people take a great deal of pride in 'owning' those new media ministries."

Now the third generation of Costas is involved in the Lifeword Cloud. Joe Costa, grandson of Yusef Costa, has produced a series of videos, and Bro. Charlie is overseeing the transcribing and metatagging of his father Yusef's sermons. Both formats will be loaded onto the Cloud, continuing the media ministry legacy begun by his grandfather almost 40 years ago.

As mentioned above, the first two languages were English and Spanish which were the most common among our mission work.

LifeWord Cloud **The First Five Languages**

Continued from October issue

Last month we examined some of the history at LifeWord of two of the first five languages that will be on the LifeWord Cloud from the start, Garifuna and Swahili. In this article we will note some things about a third language, Arabic.

After English and Spanish, the third broadcast begun by Lifeword (then called Harvest Gleaner Hour) was Arabic. The broadcast speaker for the Arabic-language Hour of the Harvest was Joseph (Yusef) Costa, then a missionary from First Baptist Church in Blackwood, New Jersey, to the Arab community in Philadelphia.

That early broadcast, former Executive Director George Reddin said, "was different from the Arabic programs of that day, because of Bro. Costa's very polished delivery. Few people could handle the Word as well as Bro. Costa to begin with, and I doubt that there was anyone in the entire Arabic broadcast world at that time who delivered the gospel message as effectively as he did."

His weekly broadcast was called From the Harvest of Bygone Days, and it is still heard regularly in the Middle East and in high Arab population centers in the northeastern USA, Canada and Australia." When Yusef Costa died in 1989, his son Charles Costa took over the Hour of the Harvest microphone and continues his father's work to this day.

In 2000, realizing that the Arabic world now had more than forty hours per week of quality gospel programming aimed at Arab believers, Lifeword shortened its broadcast from a fifteen-minute Bible teaching format to a more contemporary one-min-

DiscipleGuide: Finding the Way Forward

DiscipleGuide Church Resources is the department of the BMA of America that seeks to supply the local church with useful tools for making disciples. Our department was created several years ago by combining existing departments in an attempt to streamline ministry while cutting costs and providing more resources. Some of the ministries we have looked after have a long, rich history in the BMA, such as our Sunday School curriculum, conferences, and Daniel Springs Camp. Other resources we have added along the way included our 'consulting' division, with the Activate program being its best known and most beneficial element. We have sought to provide our churches with the finest content possible by utilizing the best and most gifted personalities in the BMA in all levels of our ministry. However, in the past six months, it has become increasingly clear that we can no longer continue to do these ministries in the same manner as we have done in the past. It simply costs more to run this department than we are able to take in. With Executive Director Scott Attebery's resignation last May, the DiscipleGuide Board of Directors was tasked with the mission of finding a new way forward. In the days that followed, God moved in the hearts of most of our staff to join other ministries in other places. In leaving us with a "bare-bones" team, I believe that God was showing us that the time had come for a radical change in our structure. I believe He was preparing us to rethink the way we serve the churches. I am writing to you today on behalf of the Board of Directors to bring you up to speed on the progress made so far.

Our first and foremost concern is that God be glorified, and we are convinced that we do that best when we ask, "What is best for His church?" The churches do not exist to support DiscipleGuide, but the departments of the BMA exist to support the churches. So we approach this task from the standpoint of finding the solution that most benefits your church. I want your church to understand that our print, conference, camp, and consulting ministries will continue. While without an executive director, the DiscipleGuide board asked the directors of Lifeword, Minister's Resource Services, and the Missions Department to temporarily oversee our print and conference divisions. John David Smith, Steve Crawley, and Donny Parish have very graciously stepped in during our time of need to oversee the day to day operations, allowing our board time to assess and plan without having to make hasty decisions. This is a short-term solution, as these departments will not be able to sustain this extra load indefinitely. We praise God for these men and their employees who have come to our aide! Their love, wisdom, and dedication are greatly appreciated. These ministries will continue to offer quality resources to your church. Our board has asked Daniel Springs director, Jason Prewitt, to act as Executive Director over the camp. This means he now reports directly to the board, rather than to the DG Executive Director. Jason and his wife, Jessica continue to do a marvelous work at the camp. It has become evident to me over and over again that they are God's couple for that ministry, and they serve the churches well. The highlight of our consulting ministry was the Activate program, which has been a great help to many churches. Larry Barker was involved in the formation of Activate, and has continued in his passion for it. Our board has given full control of this ministry to the Missions Department under Bro. Larry's leadership. We are certain that under his guidance, Activate will continue as a great benefit to the churches.

Long term solutions are certainly more difficult to find. To continue working as we once did is not a viable option for us, and I do not believe that the churches would be served well if we tried. Therefore, we are seeking wisdom for the way forward. I know that many of you pray for us, and we all appreciate you for it. We have sought the Lord, and we have sought individuals the Lord may use to help us. Our publications sales began to decline in the 1970's, and that decline continues now at about 5% per quarter. In light of that shocking statistic, we asked for help from experts who have experienced success in the publishing business. We have been able to enlist the help of Sam Rainer, of Rainer Research, in assessing our Sunday School curriculum. Rainer Research describes their mission as providing "answers

for better church health," and they have practical experience with publishing ministries. We will soon receive their analysis, which will include their recommendations of viable options for the future. We have also spoken with other BMAA department leaders and pastors, seeking their wisdom and insight. A member of our board recently met with the Coordinating Council to present our findings so far and lay out the various options we have before us now. This season has been one of seeking knowledge, wisdom and guidance. We have tried to heed the words of Proverbs 18:13, "He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him." I realize that in maintaining silence during this season, many of you have been left wondering if we indeed were doing anything, and questioning whether these ministries would continue at all. I apologize that we have not had much to report, please bear in mind that we are proceeding cautiously and prayerfully to determine how the Lord would have us serve His churches.

Our next board meeting is in February of 2019. Between now and then, I expect to hear the full and final report on a few items that we have been considering. Our board expects out of that meeting to have a more 'in-focus' vision for DiscipleGuide's future, which will be reported to the churches. I would appreciate your prayers as we prepare for that meeting. Pray also for all the ministry leaders who stand with us to ensure the churches are equipped with quality resources. We remain committed to seeing that the churches of the BMA are well served with quality camps, conferences, and curriculum.

Aaron Middleton,
Chairman DiscipleGuide
Board of Directors

Beloved Son Called Home

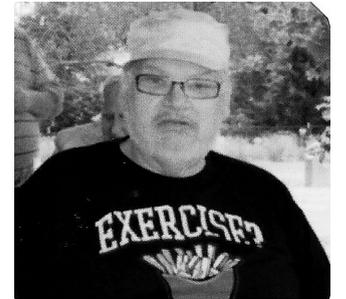
Dean William Hartley was born August 6, 1961 in Los Angeles, CA and departed this life October 2, 2018 at the age of 57.

In August 1996 Dean was united in marriage to Elizabeth (Sherman) Hartley. To this family was added four children: James Hartley, Farmington, MO, Dean (DJ) Hartley Jr., Poplar Bluff, MO, Rae Nicole (Nikki) (Mark) Tilley, and Mary (David) Cook, Van Buren, MO; and ten loving grandchildren: Ashlynn, Riley, and Karissa Tilley, Dustin Rodgers and Abigail Welmot, Gemma and Ronnie Tilley, and Maddison Cook.

He also leaves his mother, Melba Hartley of Poplar Bluff, two brothers: James (Kim) Hartley, Wynne, AR, and Eric Hartley, Poplar Bluff, MO, five sisters: Cindy Hartley, Poplar Bluff, MO; Treve (Rick) Lill, Realto, CA, Ramona (Victor) Rice, Lake Hills, TX, Melody (Angel) Casarez, Palmdale, CA, and Julie (Chris) Buck, Lancaster, CA, along with a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and many special friends. He was preceded in death by his dad, James Milton Hartley and a grandson also named James.

Dean was a member of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church of Harviell, MO

A memorial services will be held at 1:00 p.m. November 24, 2018 at the Patterson School in Patterson, MO. Burial will be at Santhuf Cemetery on Dry Valley, north of Ellington, MO.



Dean William Hartley
08/06/1961 - 10/02/2018

Alert and Sober Minded for SOAR 2019

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Philippians 4:6

For SOAR 2019, Prayer Warriors and Prayer Partners will do as Philippians 4:6 asks: they will make their requests known to God. These teams will come together to pray over the hearts and souls of those attending this student conference July 3-5, 2019.

"Our hope is to rally a prayer team across the nation that will utilize the weapons God has given us to be able to bless our kids through SOAR," said Kristen Riddle, who is leading the effort to form the SOAR Prayer Teams.

A Prayer Warrior team is currently being formed, which will be made up of men and women who come to SOAR solely to pray over the conference and its attendees. Throughout the conference they will pray for the Lord to work, and they will even receive cards with specific prayer requests from those who attend the conference.

Additionally, the Prayer Partner team will be receiving prayer requests and Scriptures at their homes to pray over SOAR and those who are in attendance.

"The teams will also have a list of churches who are attending SOAR so that they can pray over those specific churches," said Riddle. "We want people personally praying for each youth group and church in attendance."

1 Peter 5:8 says to be alert and sober minded, because the enemy prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. These SOAR prayer teams want to be **alert and sober**

mindful, just as 1 Peter says, praying well ahead of the conference for hearts and lives to be changed.

"We'd like to see kids coming to know Christ," said Riddle. "That's the goal."

For more information about these SOAR Prayer Teams and how to get involved, visit: go soar.com/soarprayerteams.

2019 Renewal Retreat

March 29-30 at Camp Garwood

This is a time for our pastors and other leaders to have discussions about the work of our churches in Missouri.

This is cosponsored by the Meramec Association and the BMA of Missouri. There is no charge. Food, meeting place, dormitories, are provided. Just bring your personal items, bedding, and a sweet spirit to learn from one another. For more information contact Bro. Ben Kingston,

Retreat Leader 636-629-2526

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

Master's Builders Working on Project Partially Sponsored by National WMA

The BMAA Women's Missionary Auxiliary chose the ministry "We Are Free" as their project for 2018-2019. Their goal is to raise \$80,000 with \$60,000 of that being used to furnish the building being built for the "We Are Free" ministry in Hebron Hills, Arkansas. The funds for the building have been provided and the WMA hopes to raise the funds for furnishing it. "We Are Free" ministers to victims of human trafficking.

Most of the labor for the building is being furnished by volunteers like the Master's Builders who just spent another 3 weeks, October 8th - 27th, working on the administration building for the "We Are Free project."

On the previous work project at Hebron Hills in June, the Builders put the floor decking down over a large storage area of this building. This building has two stories and is 95 x 35 ft long.

The first story will be the Counseling Center. This will house the office, counseling offices, reception area, break room, medical/exam rooms, bathrooms, closets, and stairway. Most rooms will have large windows and there will be five french doors opening onto a large deck which faces due East. The sunrises will take your breath away, "God's love letter to them every morning"!

The second floor will be for staff housing. It will have three bedrooms with two bathrooms and a master bedroom and bathroom, den, living room, kitchen/dining room, pantry and closets. The Master's Builders slogan is "Raising Roofs for Christ", but in this job situation, we were "Raising Walls", lots of walls!

Hebron Hills is such a beautiful and special place and we believe God will do Mighty things here! Please pray for the



Some of the Master's Builders at "We Are Free"



The Work at "We Are Free"

We Are Free project and support it in any way you can!

The Master's Builders are so grateful for all who were there for us while we worked. Everyone who helped with the food, ice, Gatorade and waters. Thank you to Wendell, Larry, and Rodney and to Richard and Rosetta Hogue.

This project was #157 for The Master's Builders in total and is #6 for 2018. We will rest until March, 2019 and see what the Lord has for us then.

Please pray for our ministry. Several of our men are in their 80s, most are in their 70s, and a few are in their upper 60s! We need workers! We all love being together and are blessed in so many ways in this ministry!

If you are interested in serving the Lord in this ministry, have questions about The Master's Builders, or if your church has building needs, contact:

Office Coordinator,

John Mangum, at
318-202-5155 or
318-607-4100 (cell)

or Field Coordinator,

Eddie Sikes, at
903-725-6549 or
479-462-1675 (cell).

Like us on Facebook and follow us as we work or catch up on past projects at "The Master's Builders"

Nelda Malone, Reporter

Christ's Strong Pursuit: The Story of Michael and Laura Strong

Contributed by *Matie Corbitt* with this note:

"Here is a story about a BMA church planting family in North Minneapolis. It's long, but they have such an inspiring story"

"...Looking back,

I see there was no actual desire to pursue the things of God...

Nonetheless, when my church and family fell apart, I began to live in my car at age 15. I turned to the world to provide for my happiness and security.

I would return to church when I would get arrested or if I had fear due to some uncontrolled and unexpected circumstance.

But as soon as the danger was over, I lost interest..."

This is the early-life narrative of Michael Strong; now church planter of Near North Community Church in North Minneapolis. His early-age knowledge of Christ grew stale as the difficulties and brokenness of life growing up in Little Rock took their toll.

Hopelessness.

Depression.

Lost in sin and brokenness, searching for something real in which to find hope.

At the same time, Laura Beth, Michael's future wife, was battling against her own trials as she forsook the faith of her childhood for a time to explore what the world had to offer.

"Mid-high school I got into the habit of not going to church, but maintaining my relationship with Christ—until college. In college, I explored my freedom for the first time and took a dive into being a complete fool—from marriage with an unbeliever and drug use, to skipping class and eventually dropping out," said Laura Beth. "A few years later, my husband abandoned me in all senses of the word, and I took another dive head-first into a relationship with another man and his sweet, beautiful daughter. We had two children and owned a home before I was finally divorced. But it was during all of that where I found nothing could satisfy me and the burden of my sin was too much to carry. I pondered many things, including suicide, as I didn't feel worthy of life..." In the midst of this utter darkness, though, God was laboring behind the scenes in the lives of Michael and Laura Beth; slowly drawing them unto himself, and shaping them to become his ardent servants.

"At age 25, my girlfriend [Laura Beth] drug me to church," explained Michael. "Actually, she took me back to my church [Oak Park Baptist]. I was ashamed and wanted to fix everything before I came back, but nonetheless I agreed that I needed to go back to church. We began attending every week, and we stopped using and selling drugs. I also got away from the friends I was hanging out with and dumped all of my porn. Laura Beth talked me into joining a Sunday School class for young couples, and the teachers took us in."

During this time, it was obvious that God was drawing this couple back to himself; giving them hope and a purpose. But even though Laura Beth and Michael had stepped foot back in to the church doors, Michael's heart was yet to be permeated.

"At year two of church, I went through some college classes and began to doubt the Bible was inerrant, as well as doubt the truth of who Jesus was," continued Michael. "I wanted to seek God, but wanted no part of Jesus Christ. I would read the Old Testament and avoid the New. I believed it was altered or an outright lie. I spoke with my pastor about these doubts, hoping he would convince me otherwise, but he sent me on by saying, 'Mike, you know what you believe.'"

• See *STRONG* Page 7 •

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

The Faith of the Jerusalem Church

Acts 1:1-26

by Dennis Baker, Brotherhood President

What the Jerusalem church said and did reveals much about the life and ministry for the church in the 21st Century! A study of Acts chapter one helps us discover principles that helped this group of 120 believers, or early church, turn their world upside down.

First, the church is Christ's spiritual kingdom on earth and her spiritual power and message depends on the resurrection of Christ. When asked about restoring the kingdom of Israel, Jesus' response showed that He was more concerned about building His spiritual kingdom on earth than He was about restoring the Kingdom of Israel. The church was chosen to be a special witness of the resurrection of Christ. Paul summed up the importance of the resurrection in Romans 10:9-10, *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."*

Ordinary people commissioned or called by Jesus Christ were able to accomplish extraordinary things because the Holy Spirit was at work in their daily lives. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is not a luxury only to be enjoyed by a few; it is an absolute necessity for building Christ's spiritual kingdom on earth. Christ's spiritual kingdom on earth, empowered by the Holy Spirit, has been commissioned to witness to the whole world. Today members of the church should be expected to be a witness of the resurrection of Christ. No matter where we live, we should begin our witness at home and extend it to the world. The exalted and glorified Head of the church is working with His people on earth, helping them accomplish His purpose.

Second, the church at Jerusalem believed in each other. The church was made up of men and women, apostles, ordinary people, and members of the immediate family of Jesus Christ. It would have been easy for division to split the church. The Lord's family could have claimed special recognition, or Peter could have been criticized for his denial of the Savior. Instead, *"with one accord,"* shows that there was a wonderful unity among the members. The Lord had given them the responsibility of witnessing to an unsaved world. None of them could do the job alone, they needed to work with each other. History reveals that the church experienced persecution and James would lay down his life for Christ. There was no time for asking, "who is the greatest?" or "who has committed the greatest sin?" It was a time for praying together and standing together in the Lord.

Third, the church at Jerusalem believed in prayer. They prayed for guidance in making decisions. The examples found in Scripture show that the early church prayed when they were being stoned to death. They prayed for the lost, the sick, and for God's blessings on missionaries. They prayed for God's leadership before voting because they wanted to select the man that God had chosen. It is not always easy to discover what God wants us to do. However, if we are willing to obey Him, He will reveal His will to us. It is important that we follow the example of the early church by emphasizing the Word of God and prayer.

Following the example of the Jerusalem church is important. Their church growth policy was very simple. They believed in a risen Christ, they believed in each other, they believed in prayer, and they believed in God's leadership. With these principles, **this small group of 120 turned the world upside down.**

Men, Mark Your Calendars!

The BMA of Missouri
Brotherhood 8th Annual
Spring Retreat is
May 3-4, 2019

&

The BMA of Missouri
Brotherhood 9th Annual
Fall Retreat is
October 4-5, 2019

All Men and Young Men
are encouraged to
attend these times of
Food - Fun - Fellowship!

• STRONG From Page 6 •

As these doubts grew and consumed Mike's mind, he began to worry that his eternal destiny lay in hell. Because of this worry, he attempted to "force" himself to believe in Christ as the Son of God, but to no avail. He tried to be more "Christian," but with no result.

"I felt I couldn't be saved. I also felt like I deserved hell because my sins after conversion were unforgivable. That night, I read all of the epistles to Laura Beth and pleaded with her to see my fate and the reality of my fears," said Mike. "She was worried and began to pray for me regularly. Our relationship was still sinful. We weren't married. We had kids. I was convicted about it, as was she, and shortly thereafter we decided she would live with her mother with the girls and I would visit. But that separation was needed until we were able to be married. I filled my time with sermons from John MacArthur and Greg Laurie, and researched Lecrae and 1-1-Six Clique lyrics. The Bible became my best friend!"

One morning, at age 28, in the shower before leaving to work, Michael Strong broke down in repentance. Though he had been previously been completely unable to express emotion, he suddenly melted in repentance and truly confessed his sins to Jesus. As Michael puts it, "My aching

turned in to joy!"

"We traded drugs, friends, and card games for Bible studies with believers and eating at our Sunday school teachers' home or with our Sunday school classmates after church each Sunday," said Laura Beth. "During this time, we experienced hurt, loneliness, effects of past sin, and the struggle of persistent sins, but God proved faithful and true! In this season, we also felt and experienced a deeper sense of calling to more seriously and intentionally spread the gospel. We desired something more than sitting on the pews for the rest of our lives. It was church planting."

"I knew I wanted to be a part of church planting, but I didn't feel equipped to be a pastor," said Mike. "I didn't feel good enough, smart enough, or like I knew the Bible well enough. My life felt like it would never get out from under the guilt and shame."

Fast-forward to early 2012, and Michael began to feel a strong call to minister to urban youth and young adults who were caught up in the same lifestyle that he had left behind for the hope of Christ. His passion and desire became to fill the gap of sound doctrinal teaching that oftentimes exists in impoverished and marginalized areas.

"Our plan was to do evangelism through rap music," explained Mike. "A church plant in the hood? Now I'm equipped and have a heart for that! A pastor can't just be a good preacher. He has to be someone who is equipped and has a heart for that group of people; a Shepard has to care for his sheep."

So, Michael began to use his own rap music to build a community and a Bible study group. Then the question came up between Michael and Laura Beth – "Why are we not church planting? We have people that God is drawing to us! Let's start a church for people like us."

Soon after the Strong family began to realize God's call and purpose for their lives, they moved from Little Rock to Minneapolis with a heart set on establishing churches and discipling people in the impoverished and marginalized areas of the city, specifically North Minneapolis. Michael graduated from Bethlehem College and Seminary with a Bachelor of Theology in May of 2016.

"My wife and I decided to move into the neighborhood when we arrived in 2012 and have been prayerfully seeking gospel opportunities with our neighbors and community ever since," explained Michael Strong. "I hope to be a part of a new wave of revival and a church planting movement beginning with a church plant in near North Minneapolis, MN."

Though the Strong family has been evangelizing for years now simply by having people in their homes while they live life and study the Word of God, they now have a clear focus in mind for reaching out and establishing a gathering of believers in their community.

"I am challenged regularly to continue to grow in the ministry of the Word, and to be a 'first-hander' who has studied and applied the Word to myself before preaching or passing it on to others," said Michael. "That requires scheduling time to grow in my skills and to press in to the sanctifying work God is gifting me with as I walk with him. I am also more aware of the need to point others to Jesus and away from me and my sin and limitations, as I see those around me follow in my footsteps. That means I have to be concerned with growing in repentance and honesty about my own struggles and limitations, my need for Jesus, and the sufficiency of his finished work."

God is continuing to shape the stories of Michael and Laura Beth Strong. Though their stories were ones of heartbreak, addiction, and hopelessness, Christ took their lives, like a Potter to the clay, and made something beautiful; a story and a ministry that shines in to the darkest places.

"One of the biggest things that God is teaching me right now is that he is patient," concluded Michael. "He is patient

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YES!!

Galatians 5:22-26 “But the fruit of the Spirit is....”

LOVE: A powerful emotion felt for another person manifesting itself in deep affection or devotion; God’s regard for his creatures; to be fond of, to delight in.

JOY: Intense happiness or great delight; the outward expression of the emotion.

PEACE: Freedom from noise, worries, troubles, fears; a state of peace or calm.

LONGSUFFERING: Patient, not easily provoked.

GENTLENESS: Mild, moderate, not strong or violent.

GOODNESS: Having desired qualities, morally excellent, virtuous, well behaved, kind, agreeable, pleasant, beneficial, and wholesome.

FAITH: Trust, confidence, complete acceptance of a truth which cannot be demonstrated or proven by the process of logical thought.

MEEKNESS: Humbly submissive. Numbers 12:3 – ‘Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.’ Matthew 11:29 – ‘Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.’

TEMPERANCE: The virtue which moderates desire and passion; moderation, avoiding both of two extremes; abstinence from alcoholic drink.

“...Against such there is no law. And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.”

Galatians 6: 1-2 – “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”

Submitted by: Charity Missionary Baptist Church, Bismarck, MO

• NEWS From Page 2 •

ketball program in January which is a great outreach to the community. The GMA paint night will be in November and all the funds raised will be sent to support the Dorcas House in the Philippines. Sis. Jaelyn Rowe and family returned from the Middle East after conducting a Shine Conference. This is the second trip Jaelyn has made to take the Word of God to the women in these other countries. Once again, we hosted the Kairos Prison Ministry Team in order for them to take the gospel inside Potosi Correctional Prison. Our JOY group is planning a trip to the Meramec Music Theatre patriotic show in November. Sis. Brenda Wilson’s Sunday School class has begun putting together the boxes for the Children’s Shoebox Ministry. They need approximately 250 boxes so each child on both reservations will receive one. Celebrate Recovery receives new hurting people every week. This is such a great outreach program to anyone no matter how large or small the hurt, habit, or hang-up. Our youth are preparing for the Alive Student Conference in December. We held the White Elephant Auction and not only was it a lot of fun, but we raised enough money so that no child will be left behind for any activity. Several women in our church are planning their Taste of Christmas table decorations. This is an outreach program and the dinner is by invitation only; however, any woman may come to hear Jaelyn Rowe speak at 7:15 and then stay for dessert. The date is December 3rd so any ladies who would like

• **STRONG From Page 7** •
with me. I am not always as patient as He is, but He leads me along when I take forever to act. Transformation takes a long time, and sometimes it’s difficult to see the fruit of ministry if you’re looking directly at it. But when you step back and see what God has been doing, he’s been removing weeds, removing rocks, and preparing the soil.”

As Michael and Laura Beth Strong work to invest in their community by sharing the hope of Jesus, would you be in prayer for them?

Pray for the opportunities and wisdom to help people see that God truly loves them.

“That’s the hardest thing to get across to people – God loves you,” said Michael. “We want to break through the brokenness of alcohol, drugs, sexual relationships, and things that satisfy in the moment, and explain that those things can’t really satisfy. It’s so painful watching people you love throw what they have in the trash and not see their value. I still have to battle sin every day, but to watch someone you love shoot up heroine in your front yard...they don’t know that God loves them. They don’t desire to spend time with him. They don’t know he loves them like a father, brother, friend, and husband.

“You don’t have to have a needle in your arm for us to share the truth of God’s love with you.

There is another group of people out here that we have a heart for as well. There are lots of people who never did any major outward sins—no drug use, arrests—but are still unaware of what God has done in sending Jesus to die for them, to rise for them so that they can have a new

to attend Jaelyn’s presentation and then stay for dessert are very welcome. We are baptizing new converts and the Lord is so good to us. As with your churches, there is a lot of prayer going on at all times. Please pray for us as we pray for you.

Jim Ainley, Pastor
Deborah Rauhut, Reporter

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.

Wayne Gibson, a member of Stony Point Baptist Church in Mineral Point is available for pulpit supply. Contact him at 314-277-6940 or by email wayne.gibson@sbcglobal.net

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.

Matt Baker, a member of Black River Baptist Church in Quilin and former pastor of Twin Oaks, Kennett is available for pulpit supply as God leads. He can be contacted at 573-609-1223.

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

T, Aaron Maxwell, has resigned as pastor of Landmark Baptist Church in DeSoto, and is available for preaching appointments and pastoral ministry as the Lord leads. Contact him at (870) 834-0100.

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

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.

relationship with God. They can be freed from the shackles of fear, sin, and shame and step into a newness of life that doesn’t come from measuring up or being good enough, but is rooted in Christ being the fullness of God who has perfectly kept the law and died as our substitute. Being good enough is wearying, and we see that in our community.

Christ says, ‘Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.’ We want to share that message with as many as will listen.”

Please be in prayer for wisdom and opportunity for the members at Near North Community Church to help draw people out of themselves and show them the love of Christ. Pray for divinely orchestrated meetings for believers in this North Minneapolis neighborhood to share Christ to the lost and broken.

BMA Seminary Alumni and Friends Association Announces *Personalized Bricks for Heritage Walk*

The BMA Seminary Alumni and Friends Association is selling engraved bricks to line the walkway in front of Dorman Memorial Chapel.

A permanent honor/memorial brick can be dedicated to a special professor, graduate, family, family member, friend, the seminary, or oneself. A special brick could also be created for a church, Sunday School class, or business.

Proceeds will fund Alumni Scholarships that are given each spring. To order the alumni engraved brick go to bmats.edu/heritage. For additional information email alumni@bmats.edu or call 903-721-0622 before the deadline of June 1, 2019.