

# The Missouri Missionary Baptist

“Holding Forth The Word of Life”

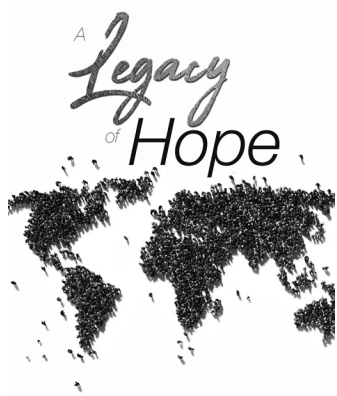
Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXXI

St. Louis, MO • December 11, 2018

Issue No. 12

## A Legacy of Hope: World Missions Day 2019



**MISSIONS**  
2019 World Missions Day  
February 24, 2019

How will you outlive your life? We each want to leave a lasting legacy; one that impacts people in years to come. This World Missions Day, BMA Missions will focus on believers who leave a A Legacy of Hope. As an association, we will honor missionaries, pastors, and church members who have left a lasting legacy, while investing in future ministries so they, too, can leave a legacy for Christ.

2 Timothy 2:2 says, “*And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*” This verse demonstrates that a lasting legacy requires a person to live for things that they are willing to die for, “otherness,” and that a person accepts the fact that they will probably not see the full effect of their efforts in their lifetime. Finally, a lasting legacy requires that the believer has been a faithful disciple for many years.

On February 24, 2019, we will celebrate those who began ministries long ago that continue in growth and maturity today. Many of those ministries seemed small and insignificant at their inception, yet today they have grown to include dozens of churches,

countless disciples and leaders, and an impactful legacy.

Leaving a lasting legacy doesn’t happen by accident, yet it is attainable for every believer. Every believer can outlive their life. This World Missions Day, join us in honoring believers in your life who have left a lasting legacy, while also investing in future ministries so that they can also leave a Legacy of Hope for future generations.

When you register your church for World Missions Day, your pastor will receive a complimentary BMA Missions fleece vest, and your congregation will receive free World Missions Day promotional resources such as “A Legacy of Hope” posters and bulletin inserts. Register your church online at [bmamissions.org/world-missionsday](http://bmamissions.org/world-missionsday), by emailing Paige West at [paige@bmamissions.org](mailto:paige@bmamissions.org), or by calling the Missions office at 501-455-4977.

## Merry Christmas From Camp Garwood!

We hope you are blessed throughout this holiday season.

We’ve been working with “Protect My Ministry” to change the way the adult screening process is done. Starting in 2019 you will pay for the background check online when you complete the form. We apologize for the inconvenience. This change will be beneficial for camp in the long run.

A local funeral home has given Camp Garwood their pews. Thanks to Nunnlee Funeral Home in Sikeston. And THANKS! To everyone who helped get the pews moved.

### Mark your calendars!

Here’s plenty of opportunities to get your camp itch scratched in 2019.

<b>Renewal Weekend</b>	March 29-30
<b>Spring Paintball</b>	April 5-6
<b>Mens Spring Retreat</b>	May 3-4
<b>DEWrs Weekend</b>	May 30-June 1
<b>GMA Retreat</b>	July 12-13
<b>Camp Week</b>	July 29-Aug 1
<b>Mens Fall Retreat</b>	Oct 4-5
<b>Fall Paintball</b>	Nov 1-2

Are you a DEW? You can be! Start today! Ask me how.

Chris Polk • 573-380-1975  
P.O. Box 271 • Matthews, MO 63867  
[campgarwood@gmail.com](mailto:campgarwood@gmail.com)

**He Is THE Only ONE!**  
JESUS is the only one who fulfills the requirements to be worthy of all the names listed here! He is the ONE we need to trust for Salvation. He is the GIFT of GOD and we celebrate His Birth with JOY!  
**Luke 2:8-14**

Merry Christmas from your Editor and his wife!  
*Jim & Mary Coffmann*

KING OF KINGS

SON OF GOD

Lord of Lords

Jehovah

Messiah

Only Begotten

Counsellor

JESUS CHRIST

Savior

MIGHTY

Holy One

REDEEMER

Everlasting

Prince of Peace

## Renewal Retreat March 29-30, 2019 at Camp Garwood

Greetings to the Pastors and Pastoral Staff of the BMA of Missouri and all local associations

If you are a Pastor or Associate Pastor in a BMA church in Missouri I am desperately asking you to set aside the last weekend of March (29-30, 2019) for our Renewal Retreat at Camp Garwood.

The details are still being hammered out, but I am begging you to put these dates in stone please, to protect them and consider yourself obligated for that weekend that only death, severe sickness, or the rapture will deter you from coming.

Why, you might ask, is this so important?

Well, brethren, it’s been a long time since we of the BMA Sate work have considered ourselves as “setting the woods on fire” for the Glory of the Lord. And I know that all of us would like to see that changed.

This is a joint effort financed by the BMA of MO and the Meramec Associations. So please invest your time and effort in the Association by making this Renewal Retreat a priority.

Thank you so much! More details will be forth coming in future papers.

*Ben Kingston, Retreat Director*

## Pray for the Annual Alive Student Conference

December 27 - 29, 2018 • Doubletree Conference Center \* Chesterfield, MO

for more information go to: [alivestudentconference.org](http://alivestudentconference.org)



# NEWS BRIEFS



**Stony Point, Mineral Point** says, "God is SO good to us!" On November 9, Bro. Claude and Sis. Bea along with 4 of our young ladies attended the district GMA in St. Louis. The girls did a great job presenting the program. On the 18th Bro. Wayne Gibson filled the pulpit for Bro. Claude as he and Sis. Bea attended their grand daughter's wedding in Arkansas. The Lord gave Bro. Wayne a message from Luke 17 and we are grateful for both God's Word, and Bro. Wayne for his obedience in delivering it. On the 19th Tim and Cheryl Son were given the hand of church fellowship as they joined Stony Point on promise of a letter from Melrose Baptist Church near Chicago. We are so thankful for the sweet fellowship we enjoy which can come only from the Lord Jesus Christ. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Psalm 133:1

Claude Evans, Pastor • David Hughes, Reporter

"Hello" from **Bethany Baptist Church, St. Louis**. May God have blessed everyone with a wonderful Thanksgiving. We should always remember the ones who do not have what they need on these special days. It is nice for families to be able to be together to enjoy the holiday. We have some illness, as there seems to be a virus going around, and some members have it. We pray they will be back in church soon. We are still having visitors and hope they continue to come. Sis. Tiny Blanchard is having a serious surgery the fourth of December and we really need to keep her in our prayers. She will be out of church for several weeks. Bro. and Sis. Boatright are still being faithful to lead us. They are really a blessing. As we enter into the Christmas Season we need to remember The Reason for The Season, and all the people who are less fortunate than us. We need to always remember how fortunate we are in so many different ways. May God bless each and everyone and pray for all peoples to find joy, comfort and PEACE.

Tim Boatright, Interim Pastor • Betty Johnston, Reporter

**Zion Baptist Church, South County** sends greetings to her sister churches. Christmas season is upon us and we wish you all the very best this time of year. We have several that have been sick and missing services. Bro. Brent Baker recently had out-patient surgery. Sis. Wanda Flowers is finally home from rehab but still is recuperating from her surgery. Her son from California and his wife are staying with her for a while. We are thankful for those that are healthy and keeping things going. The WMA ladies are preparing special baskets for the shut-ins that are unable to attend services. On the third Sunday the ladies will have a Cookie Exchange. We look forward to this every year. Sis. Ladonna Baker has prepared a Christmas program for the residents of the Villas in DeSoto. The date for the program will be Tuesday, December 11 at 10:30 a.m. If you are in the area, come and join us in spreading cheer among the residents at the Villas. The past few weeks, Bro. Baker has been preaching on Sunday from the Book of Acts, and then on Wednesday evenings, we are studying from the Book of Joshua. We so appreciate our Pastor for all the studying he does to prepare such in-depth messages and Bible studies. Zion will be hosting the Fifth Sunday Singing on December 30. The singing starts at 5:00 p.m. Emmanuel comes and sings with us and we enjoy food and fellowship afterwards. All are welcome to come and join in. Again, we wish all a Merry Christmas and may God Bless in the New Year. Pray for us at Zion and we will be faithful to pray for you.

Dennis Baker, Pastor • Norma Womble, Reporter

**Westview Baptist Church of Jefferson City**, called Benjamin Kingston as Youth Pastor on a bi-vocational basis. He

is the son of Pastor Ben and Dawn Kingston of Lonedell,



Benjamin Kingston

MO. Benjamin has been on the field at Westview since October 2018.

Michael Hearst, Pastor

Merry Christmas from **Ozark Heights Baptist Church, Potosi!** I hope this letter finds you all doing well in this holiday season! We have a big month in front of us with a city wide Christmas parade next week and Christmas caroling on the 15th. Then our annual Christmas musical on the 23rd on Sunday morning. We would love for any of you to join us for these things, if you would like to. You can get more info by calling the church or contacting any of our members. In all the craziness of the season let us not forget the Reason for the Season. Which is the birth of our Savior, May he be glorified in all we do!

Brian Kingston, Pastor

Greetings from **Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church of Doniphan**. We are still in need of prayer as we are still without a pastor. We are hosting the Cane Creek Association 5th Sunday Meeting Saturday, December 29, 2018, starting at 9:30 a.m. Part of our program will be a presentation by Dr. Charley Holmes, President BMA Theological Seminary, on Autonomous But Not Alone. Anyone that wants to join us will certainly be welcome!

Janice Colburn, Reporter

HELLO to all from **Oak Hill, Alton**. We hope everyone had a blessed and wonderful Thanksgiving. I apologize for not getting an article in

the paper last month so I will try and catch you up. We had a couple of ladies who had surgery and are recovering from their surgeries. Sis. Barbara Nix is recovering from back surgery and Sis. Edith Williams is recovering from foot surgery. We also have one preparing for surgery. Sis. Tammy Lager will be having back surgery similar to Sis. Barbara Nix's surgery. My cousin, Bro. Randy Williams, went to Florida to see his first granddaughter, but before he left Sis. Theresa, our director, made sure he will be back in time to sing with us in our Cantata. December 2nd we Praise and Thank the Lord we added a sister at Oak Hill. Sis. Julia was baptized. The Lord saved her a couple of months ago and now she is a member. December 9th we are planning to present "Once upon a Miracle" a cantata that we have been practicing the last couple of months. I know it will be great because we will be honoring and praising our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We have three members that will be celebrating their birthday's on the same day the 23rd Bro. Colby Kernodle, Bro. David Hamilton, and Bro. Patrick Grammer, but they are not the same age. Another good thing about December is it has five Sundays, so as far as I know we will be having our fifth Sunday dinner on the 30th. We want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year! Until next month I hope I will have some good news to tell you but until then we will be praising and honoring our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. God Bless!!

Edward Casey, Pastor • Jennifer Williams, Reporter

The **Lower Doe Run Baptist Church, Ellington**, sends seasons greetings to all of our sister churches. Thanksgiving overflows in our daily lives all year long but we are glad our nation celebrates a special day as well. Each member of the church celebrates with their individual families yet we have decided to hold a special Thanksgiving feast at the church on December the 8th. We want to honor our local volunteer fire department workers and first responders. We have also included the believers throughout the community in the Webb Creek area. The other Baptist church here have been gracious to let us use their baptistry when we couldn't get to the creek. We were blessed to hold the afternoon service at the nursing home on December 2. It was a full house as we sang Christmas Carols. It was good to visit Sister Mildred Morrison there. She was one that inspired me to pursue the piano. There were also friends from my childhood there from the Reynolds Community. A former member, Larry Dean Thomason, passed away in Florida. We plan to hold a memorial for friends and family on the 15th at the church. We were blessed to have a Linda Kay

• Continued on Page 4 •

## The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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*of the month in which you want it to appear*

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

# STATE MISSIONS

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BMA of Missouri Website: [www.bmamissouri.org](http://www.bmamissouri.org)

## FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS • November 2018

### General Fund:

#### Checking Account:

Balance October 31, 2018		\$	24,534.28
November Receipts:			
Missions:	\$	<u>2,272.43</u>	
Total Income:	\$	<u>2,272.43</u>	\$ <u>2,272.43</u>
Total Available		\$	26,806.71
Disbursements:			
Director, Salary	\$	650.00	
BMAA (Matt Barker)	\$	200.00	
Office Supplies	\$	64.00	
Domain Fee	\$	<u>124.00</u>	
Total Disbursements	\$	1,038.00	\$ <u>(1,038.00)</u>
<b>Balance November 30, 2018:</b>		\$	<b>25,768.71</b>

#### Bank of America Savings Account:

Balance October 31, 2018		\$	1,100.82
Interest:	\$	.02	\$ <u>.02</u>
<b>Balance November 30, 2018:</b>		\$	<b>1,100.84</b>

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

Balance October 31, 2018		\$	102,819.94
Interest:	\$	<u>0.00</u>	\$ <u>0.00</u>
<b>Balance November 30, 2018:</b>		\$	<b>102,819.94</b>

**Total of all Funds November 30, 2018:** \$ **129,689.49**

### From Our Director...

I hope each of you had a blessed Thanksgiving and were able to take time to think of all the ways God blesses us as we serve Him. Giving thanks causes us to be blessings to others and help bring glory to God!

As we approach the celebration of Christ's Birth we are made to realize how thankful we should be for God's mercy and grace as He sent His Son to provide the way for our sins to be forgiven through His death and Resurrection.

This thankfulness should lead us to faithful service each day of our lives.

My wife and I visited the morning service of Oak Hill Baptist Church in Alton, MO November 18th. We had never been to Oak Hill and enjoyed being there and hearing Pastor Edward Casey bring an inspiring message and getting acquainted with the good folks under his leadership.

They are doing a great work there and are good supporters of our state work. We were impressed with their hospitality.

We also visited the morning service at Stony Point Baptist Church in Mineral Point November 25th. You could sense excitement in this service as Bro. Claude preached a challenging message and the good people in the congregation paid close attention. They invited us to stay for lunch and we would have loved to stay and enjoy their fellowship but we had a funeral to attend and had to leave right after the service was over. This church is also a good supporter of our state work and are reaching souls in their area.

I continue to work a Sunday or two each month with the Temple Baptist Church in Belgrade and are encouraged by the faithfulness of this small congregation as they seek a pastor. We ap-

preciate the preachers who are helping out by filling the pulpit each month and we ask you to pray for them as they seek someone to lead them on a permanent basis. Also remember to pray for all our churches who are searching for pastors.

Your BMAMO Special Missions Committee and the Meramec Association Missionary Committee are praying for God to lead someone to plant a church in Missouri. There are some things happening that encourage us in this endeavor and we hope it will not be long until we can see God answering that prayer. You are encouraged to join us in praying each day for God to guide our associations.

Thank you for your support of Missions and for the encouragement you give us. May each of our Churches have a Blessed Christmas and experience growth in all areas of ministry.

## From Our Local Associations

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

The Cane Creek Association 5th Sunday Meeting is at **Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church in Doniphan, MO** Saturday, December 29, 2018, starting at 9:30 a.m. Part of the program will be a presentation by Dr. Charley Holmes, President BMA Theological Seminary, on "Autonomous But Not Alone." Everyone is certainly welcome to join us for this meeting!

Janice Colburn, Church Reporter

**Westview Baptist Church in Jefferson City, MO** is planning to host the next meeting of the **Meramec Landmark Baptist Association** beginning at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, March 2, 2019. There will be preaching by some of our young preachers followed by business and lunch provided by the church.

Mike Hearst, Host Pastor

## A Thank You Note to BMA of Missouri Missions

### Dear Churches of the BMA of Missouri,

It is with deep appreciation that we acknowledge and thank you for your recent gift of \$1,055. Those funds have been deposited into our building fund and will be used to continue getting our new building finished.

God is doing a good work in Charleston. It's not easy. We are small. It takes planting many seeds and then doing much watering to get even one harvest, but the harvest is coming in. Our services are alive and vibrant. Our members' lives are filled with testimonies of victories God has given them since coming to us.

As of this writing, we are working on our nursery. All three of our classrooms are completed. That is a tremendous blessing! A couple of our ladies are anxious to see the kitchen completed. That is next in line after the completion of the nursery.

We pray God's blessings for each of you. Certainly, God needs viable and vibrant witnesses for Him scattered throughout our great state.

For the souls,

*Rodney Dunlap*, Pastor

Abundant Life in Christ Missionary Baptist Church



Law and her five boys from Wisconsin recently. So glad they can come back for a visit to us and her mother, Helen Morris. It was also good to see the Barker girls, Alexis and Jayden, who also visited their Great Grandmother, Helen. Please continue to pray for our long distance members, Don and Thelma Hoffmann, Betty Rayfield, and Ethel Kuntz. Ken and Eleanor haven't been able to attend for a long time and David, Glenda and Sam need Prayers as well. Continue to uphold one another and encourage where you are.

Melvin Meade, Pastor • Carolyn Meade, Reporter

Greetings from **First Baptist Church, Potosi**. I blinked and November was gone, but it was full of good things. The Celebrate Recovery leadership team traveled to Tulsa, Oklahoma, for a one day leadership conference. It was wonderful spending time with my forever family and getting a boost to get ready to begin another year. Our Thanksgiving Dinner was once again on Friday night and shared with the CR attendees. Sis. Brenda Wilson cooked two turkeys and one ham and then her Sunday School class ladies along with CR ladies prepared the rest. It was delicious. Sis. Brenda is a great blessing to us. She makes sure all of our CR dinners are covered each Friday night. All of the table hosts are preparing for Taste of Christmas on December 3. It is another outreach program. It is by invitation only for the meal, and then anyone may attend the program and share dessert, coffee, and hot chocolate. Our life center would need to be at least double in size to invite all the women who would like to attend this wonderful event. We will be offering a women's self-defense class if enough are interested to schedule it. The #FBCKIDS CHRISTMAS CHOIR practices every Wednesday evening in preparation for the Christmas program December 16. Bro. Kevin has been keep-

ing the COW kids busy with Bible Study, music, and fun. He's getting them ready for the ALIVE Student Conference. The children's shoebox ministry is in its final days of preparation so the wrapped boxes can be delivered to the two reservations. Our Christmas Candlelight service will be December 23, 10:00 a.m. December 30, 10:00 a.m., Author, Religion and Culture Expert, Alex McFarland will be our guest speaker. Tickets to the third annual SHINE Girls Conference are on sale. This will be held at the Farmington Centene Center March 9, 2019. I have missed a lot of church this month due to illness and I always feel a part of me is missing if I have to miss services. However, we now have a podcast so we can hear the sermon even when we have to miss the service. We continue to see people saved and baptized. It is such a blessing. Please pray for us as we pray for you.

Jim Ainley, Pastor  
Deborah Rauhut, Reporter

## *The Cradle, a Christmas Story*

by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

They left their home, the new cradle still swinging from the rafters. Night after night the aroma of fresh-cut wood had filled the room as Joseph had patiently fashioned the tiny cradle, using the same chisel and saw he usually put down at dusk.

Now Joseph wiped the tears from Mary's cheeks and shut the door behind them. "It'll be okay," he told her, as he cinched up their belongings on the donkey.

"Joseph, can't we wait a few days? The baby could come any time." She didn't want to leave home. Not now.

"We've waited for the baby as long as we dare." He was ready to get on the road. "We have to leave today or I'll be arrested for not appearing in Bethlehem for the census."

"At least bring the cradle, Joseph," she pleaded. "I want the baby to have something nice."

"No, it'll have to stay behind. The baby will be rocking in it soon enough."

Joseph tugged hard at the donkey's halter. No luck. "Come on, animal," he shouted, whacking it on the rear end to get it moving. Grudgingly the donkey responded. With one hand Joseph led the donkey, with the other he steadied Mary on the steep incline, slowly enough to accommodate her ungainly progress down the winding road which led from Nazareth's height. In the house above, the cradle hung still.

Five days and ninety bone-weary miles later, Joseph searched the small stable where they were staying on the outskirts of crowded Bethlehem. Mary's time would be soon now. He was careful to keep his lamp from igniting the old straw. He finally settled on an ancient stone manger for the baby's bed, cut from the wall of the limestone cave which housed the animals. He reached in to scoop the last gritty bits of straw from the manger's dank bottom. "That'll have to do," he muttered. He filled the trough with an armful of fresh fodder, which he

covered with a folded blanket to keep the animals away.

It was well past midnight by the time Mary finished washing and wrapping her new baby. Now she lifted him gently into his new bed. Joseph put his arm around her shoulders as they gazed at the sleeping infant.

Mary touched the tiny fingers. "That cradle you spent so much time on would be real nice right now, Joseph." She looked up at the cave's low ceiling. "You could hang it somewhere. No baby I know has a cradle like that. It's fit for a king."

Joseph grinned. "Not every boy has a carpenter for a dad," he said. But he wondered. Why couldn't little Jesus be home in that cradle? Why does this special child the angel told Mary and him about have to be born in this smelly stable? A hill-country carpenter's home is bad enough. Why here? Why Bethlehem?

The answer wasn't long in coming. An older boy poked his head in the door, startling the couple from their quiet

## *Former Pastor, Missionary, and Evangelist Called Home*

Jurl Norris Mitchell, 84 of Conway, died Nov. 15 after a lengthy illness.

He was a graduate of Central Baptist College and the University of Central Arkansas, and taught briefly at Vilonia High School. He was a BMA minister for 66 years, and pastored a number of churches in Arkansas. The last 20 years prior to retirement, he directed Plain Path Ministries as a full-time evangelist, preaching revivals mostly in the central states, but he also held many meetings in the Pacific northwest and in the northern U.S.

At one point, he served on the board of directors of Central Baptist College.

In the early 70s, he and his wife served as missionaries to Bolivia and taught in Santa Cruz at the American School for Gulf Oil corporation. Having acquired a private pilot's license, he assisted in flying supplies into remote jungle mission areas of Bolivia. Later, he and his family lived and worked among the Chiquitano Indians of eastern Bolivia, establishing a church in the village of San Simon. Giving an account of the years in Bolivia, Jurl authored two books: *En La Manana* and *Chiquitano*.

He was an avid outdoorsman, and loved to travel. He and his wife, Mary Ann traveled and camped over most of the continental U.S. and canoed many of the streams in Arkansas and Missouri. His favorite was Current River, which they floated a week at a time.

Another one of his favorite pastimes was four wheeling in the Ozark mountains of Arkansas. In later years, Jurl and Mary Ann bicycled and continued this activity into their 80s, cycling and camping all over Arkansas and Missouri.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Mary Ann Mitchell of Greenbrier; a son, Dwight (Cherri) Mitchell of Greenbrier; two sisters, Arlyn (Gene) Gambill of Greenbrier and Karen (Tom) Mitchell of Little Rock; two granddaughters and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Nov. 19 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Greenbrier, with Pastor Anthony Crocker, Gaylon King and Troy Vaughn officiating. Interment was at Thorn Cemetery under the direction of Roller Funeral Home.

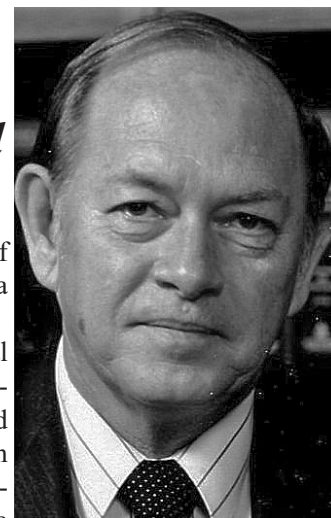
Memorials may be sent to the Central Baptist College Ronald V. and Micki Mitchell Endowed Scholarship Fund, 1501 College Ave., Conway, AR. 72034. (via - *Baptist Trumpet*)

moment. "Is there a baby in here?" he mumbled apologetically. Then he saw the tiny child. Mary picked her baby up to shield the infant from his eyes. The face disappeared.

Mary's eyes mirrored Joseph's concern. He strode to the cave's opening. He could hear a distant call, "Over here, Jake found him!" In the darkness, Joseph could make out a handful of forms coming toward him. He gripped his stout wooden staff and stood resolutely at the door.

As they approached the stable he could see they were shepherds. Joseph's grip on the staff tightened. The oldest one spoke hesitantly. "Can we come in? We have ... ah ... come to see the Christ-child."

Joseph glanced at Mary. He could feel a tingle move down his spine. This was more than an accident. The whole fantastic



Jurl Mitchell

## Old Critters VRS. New Creatures

by C.R. Curtman, via "That We May Know".com

*"Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things become new"*  
2 Cor. 5:17

Throughout my Christian life I have seen the truth of First Corinthians 5:17 begin to be demonstrated immediately by people after they have experienced the new birth. Old time preachers used to say of salvation, and consistent with the teaching in this verse, that "salvation turns old critters into new creatures." That's what salvation is supposed to do, and that's what it does do – when it's real.

The "new creature" produced at the time of salvation doesn't outwardly manifest all its spiritual newness immediately or overnight. But this process does begin immediately and overnight. There will be some noticeable changes, varying in type and number, right away; sometimes, really radical ones. The Bible tells us that there definitely are "things that accompany salvation" (Heb. 6:9).

I've seen countless examples of people who were instantaneously delivered from addictions they'd had for years. I've seen people who'd been mean all their lives become kind, crooked people become honest and sensual-minded people become spiritually-minded people. I've seen unsaved couples, headed for the divorce court on Monday who got saved the previous Sunday and from that day forward, and for decades now, have lived together happily as dedicated Christians. I could fill page after page with examples like these that I have personally witnessed.

A Christian will be in learning, growing and spiritually maturing process all their lives. But this process doesn't begin, as it were, ten or twenty years after they are saved. Old critters who get saved begin to sound, look and act something like new creatures to themselves and to others, as soon as they experience the new birth.

There some changes that new believers will want to make, and will make, in their lifestyles as soon as they are saved. There are plenty of illustrations of this cited throughout the New Testament. Consider the changes that took place in the case of the demoniac of Gadara (Mark 5:1-20), Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10), the Samaritan woman (John 4:1-39), the three thousand on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:37-47), those saved in the City of Ephesus (Acts 19:18-20) and the Apostle Paul (Acts 26:1-23), etc., etc., etc.

Old time Christians used to say that when people get saved, God changes their "wanters" and they begin to want certain things in their lives that they didn't want before salvation, and to not want some things in their lives that they did want in them before they were saved. For example, they will begin to "hunger and thirst after righteousness" (Matt. 5:6) "As new born babes," they will, "desire the sincere milk of the Word." (1 Pet. 2:2) There is something unscriptural about and terribly amiss with "critter-like" professed Christians who, have made a profession of faith, but have no interest in going to church, let alone following after holiness in their lives.

This "wanter" change that takes place when people get saved happens for two reasons: First, it happens because, at the time of their salvation, they have God the Father's nature, which is a holy nature, imparted to them (2 Pet. 1:4). From the point of salvation they have this something within them that is inclined towards, and wants, to live a life of obedience and holiness before God. Secondly, a new Christian's wanters is changed because, at the time of the new birth they are immediately indwelt by the Holy Spirit, Who begins immediately to work in them with the objective of provoking and producing holiness in their lives (Phil. 2:13).

Understanding God's desire for holiness in the lives of

believers is fundamental to understanding why old critters have to become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It has been God's plan, since the "foundation of the world that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love." God has commanded holiness from all of His children: "But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy" (1 Pet. 15, 16).

The fact is, that, where there is no desire for holiness and no demonstration of holiness there are no new creatures; just old critters; old unregenerate, as spiritually lost as can be, critters who have never been born of, and are not indwelt by, the Holy Spirit of God. These old critters that have never become new creatures, fill pews and pulpits throughout our country today. And unless they admit what they really are and exercise "repentance toward God, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:21) they will be among those who fill up hell when they die.

The Bible says, "It is now high time to awake out of sleep" (Rom. 13:11). It's high time for Christians to stop staying in churches, and stop putting up with pastors, who deny in either word or deed, the truth of 2 Cor. 5:17. It's time for professed believers to heed the words of 2 Cor. 13:5: "Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith;" and do this in light of whatever their attitude towards holiness is. It's time for believers who know that "the Spirit of God bears witness with their spirit, and that they are children of God" (Rom. 8:16) to be renewed in the spirit of their minds, and "put on the new man, which, after God, is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Eph. 4:24).

**GRATITUDE**  
turns what  
**GOD Gives Us**  
into  
**ENOUGH!**

**NO!!**

**Galatians 5:9--** "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these..."

**Adultery:** Voluntary intimate relationship of a married man or woman with other than their marriage partner.

**Fornication:** Voluntary intimate relationship between an unmarried man and an unmarried woman.

**Uncleanness:** Morally impure, dirty.

**Lasciviousness:** Expressing or arousing sexual lust.

**Idolatry:** The worship of idols. Colossians 3:5 "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: for which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience."

**Witchcraft:** Sorcery as practiced by a witch. Witch: A woman practicing sorcery, usually with the aid of an evil spirit.

**Hatred:** An intensely hostile aversion, compounded of anger and fear, and centered on a real or supposed cause of injury.

**Variance:** Antagonistic; in disagreement.

**Emulations:** To try to do as well as; rivalry.

**Wrath:** Intense anger or indignation.

**Strife:** A prolonged struggle for power or superiority.

**Seditious:** The inciting of hostility against the government, likely to cause rebellion or insurrection.

**Heresies:** Religious or ideological belief opposed to orthodoxy.

**Envyings:** A coveting for oneself of the good which someone else is enjoying.

**Murders:** The unlawful killing of a human being with malice aforethought.

**Drunkness:** Intoxicated by alcoholic drink. To become intoxicated. A person habitually drunk.

**Revellings:** To take intense pleasure, to be festive, to "revel all night long."

**And such like: I John 2:15-17--** "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world...for all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father...and the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever."

"...of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in times past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God."

Submitted by: Charity Missionary Baptist Church, Bismarck, MO

## WMA & GMA NEWS

Articles for this column may be sent to

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Shelia Polk  
P.O. Box 259  
Matthews, MO 63867

### *A Christmas Reminder...*

## *Support Our State WMA Project*

Ladies from Missouri, remember that we need to generously support our State WMA Project Fund. Part of our State WMA Project supports the Lahmann Family Missions, Missionaries to the Navajo Indians.

This is a busy and important time of the year for this missionary family as they reach out to their community and to the Navajo Nation with special programs and gifts as they present the Gospel to all ages.

You can also help support them by contributing to the MO WMA Project fund. Send offerings to the State WMA Treasurer listed in the heading above.

## *Are You a Missionary?*

by Jackie Ricks, National WMA Editor

Many times we focus on elected missionaries and miss seeing that ordinary people who seemingly never have a "call" to the mission field also play an important part in mission work. Let's look at one particular life that's a result of mission work. Just as Paul says in 1 Corinthians 3:6-7, *"I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase."* Many believers who were saved and then disciplined as a result of mission work in one form or another, can often look to several different missionaries who had a part along the way, but they know that ultimately, it was God who put those people in their paths and worked everything out in their lives.

Rose Ng is just such a person. This native of Vietnam became an adult without really knowing much about God or Jesus, other than through a friend as she grew up. Later, she felt the stress of life and decided to put an end to all of it. However, God intervened through a tree. Her clothes caught on a tree branch as she attempted to jump into the river. God had a reason for stopping Rose and she realized that there was something, or Someone, greater than she.

Rose calls Genesis 1:1 her salvation verse. Through reading the Bible on her own, she was saved. However, a mission of another Baptist group helped to disciple her. They also pointed her to a Christian institution where she could learn more. Although Rose didn't really intend to go to a Bible college, Bro. Doyle Moore convinced her that she needed to go there. That's how Rose became a student at the BMA Bible College in the Philippines when she had been a Christian only about three years. With only one month to prepare to go, Rose had to make many adjustments.

Doyle and Linda Moore took Rose under their wings and taught her through example what true missionaries are. She considers them her spiritual "Mom and Dad." She spent four years at the Bible College on scholarship and received her BA in religious education in spite of the fact that she already had a degree from Vietnam and a career making good money.

The decision was not an easy one for Rose because her career was established and she had no intention of becoming anything different. However, God had other plans. She heard a missionary talk about the children in Cambodia who needed

so much, both regular education as well as spiritual. That became a burden on Rose's heart.

While in the Philippines, others also influenced Rose along the way. Pat Quesenbury arrived in the islands twice for women's conferences. As usual, her dynamic Christian presentation and charming personality fused with Rose's enthusiasm and they became instant friends. Rose now considers Pat a mentor in her life. However, there are probably many more because Rose never really meets a stranger and she seems to learn something from everyone she meets.

For years, Bro. James Speer traveled to the Philippines to help them with their youth camp. That's how he and Rose became acquainted. Now Rose lives in the United States and considers James and Barbara Speer her family. Although Rose is a student at the BMA Theological Seminary working on her MA in ministry, she returns to Carthage to attend First Baptist Church with the Speers every chance she gets. In fact, the whole church has taken her in, as one member or another comes to pick her up and then returns her to Jacksonville when she goes, because Rose does not have a vehicle.

Stan and Donna Scroggins, also missionaries to the Philippines, helped Rose before she came to the United States. By that time, the Moores had retired and returned to the states. The Scroggins helped Rose get her visa. Then they helped raised the necessary funds that she would need in her endeavor.

Since Rose wants to return to Cambodia and began a K-12 school for the children of the boat people, she plans to remain in the United States to complete her PhD in education. As part of that, she wants to research how to set up a Christian school and how to be an administrator. While in Jacksonville, she has become friends with Stephanie Attebery, wife of the dean at BMATS. Because she teaches in a Christian school, Mrs. Attebery gives Rose insights into the world of educating students.

These are only a few of the Christians who have impacted Rose during her short life as a Christian. Notice that many of these were not what most of us would consider actual missionaries. Many more people have sent money and prayed for the work all over the world. You may think you don't have a part in anything like this; however, the Bible tells us all to go and teach. We can all disciple if we do what we should. Are you a missionary?

Rose loves to speak about her plans to become a missionary through education. She can be contacted through BMATS.

## *Pastor Jo*

by Jackie Ricks, National WMA Editor

Siripong (Pastor Jo) Yaebeang and his family recently visited the BMA Theological Seminary and spoke about their work in Thailand. While Pastor Jo showed the video that his wife had put together, Jessie took their two children, Titus and Noah, out to play and burn up their excess energy. Although they are used to being in services weekly in Thailand, perhaps they are not used to the structure of a chapel service at the Seminary.

Pastor Jo, however, is very familiar with that structure, as he attended the Seminary from 2011 to 2014, after having attended Central Baptist College, where he met Jessie. Before coming to the United States, someone in Thailand had tried to discourage him from attending seminary. He was told that thousands would die in their sin while he was off studying. However, Pastor Jo felt God wanted him to learn more so that he would be able to answer the questions that would inevitably come during his ministry.

The country of Thailand is almost 100% unbelievers. Most people consider themselves Buddhist, with only 3% Islamic and about 1% Christian. In approximately 7000 provinces, over 6000 of them do not have a single church. However, in spite of that, the North Bangkok Church is gradually growing.

They have between 15 and 20 adults who meet, along with their children, each week in homes. Once a month, they choose to meet at a hotel where they are able to have more space and the children can be more energetic.

Most of the so-called churches in Thailand promote a prosperity gospel. People do not hear the Truth of the Word. Therefore, one thing that Pastor Jo is doing is answering questions about the Bible and Christianity in his Ask Pastor Jo videos. People sometimes tell him to "Stop wasting your time." However, he realizes it's not a waste of time when he sees people come to salvation, such as the young doctor who was recently baptized after being saved while they visited in a coffee shop. There are many doors to share the gospel.

Pastor Jo and his family have many prayer requests. One is to pray for a change in attitude that many in Thailand have; the people often believe that Christianity is not for them. Pray for open doors and for his preparation to share the gospel even when few show up. Also pray for the devotional book that Pastor Jo wrote to help people that he may never even meet. It's in the Thai language, but would be called "Walking with God: 365 Days in the Word of God."

The Yaebeang family is enjoying their time in the United States but look forward to returning to their home in Thailand where they work alongside Brandon Lingle and his family. Remember the North Bangkok Church with your prayers and offerings when possible.

## *What They*

## *Remember*

*Food for Thought this Christmas*

**A child is going to remember who was there, not what you spent on them.**

**Kids outgrow toys and clothes, but never outgrow TIME and LOVE.**

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

Something to Think About...

**Testimony of the Two Witnesses**

Revelation 11:1-14

by Dennis Baker, Brotherhood President

The place is Jerusalem and the time frame are the sounding of the sixth trumpet and the second woe or the middle of the seven-year tribulation period. The instruction to measure the temple demonstrates that we are on Jewish ground and that the nation of Israel is again worshipping at the restored temple built under the protection of the Antichrist. To make the temple refer to the church creates serious problems. If the church is still on the earth, as some believe, during the tribulation one must consider how could John measure all the local assemblies throughout the world? Furthermore, for those who believe that the church is a universal body of believers how could John measure the invisible body of believers? If the temple is the church, then who are the worshippers and what is the altar? And since the New Testament unites Jewish and Gentile believers why are the Gentiles segregated? Ephesians 2:11-14, *"Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us."* John saw a rebuilt end-time temple in Jerusalem. II Thessalonians 2:1-4, *"Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."*

John is instructed to measure the temple, altar, and those who worship in the temple. To measure something means to claim for yourself. The Lord was claiming the temple and those that were worshipping in the temple as His own. Those worshipping are Jews, possibly the 144,000 Jews sealed by God, since the Gentiles saved during the first half of the tribulation are worshipping around the throne of God in heaven.

John is instructed not to measure the court outside of the temple. God is not claiming to own the people or remaining Gentiles who will rule Jerusalem for 42 months (second half of the tribulation). The reason the outer court was not measured is because the image of the beast will be erected and placed in the outer court. Revelation 13:14-15, *"And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that, as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed."* Matthew 24:15-16, *"When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand*

• **CRADLE From Page 4** •  
course of events was far more than an accident. He nodded and stepped back into the stable. "Yes, come in. You are welcome."

The shepherds shuffled into the cramped cave. The youngest pushed in alongside the donkey to get a better view. They knelt. "God be praised!" The old shepherd spoke with deepest reverence.

"It's just like the angel told us," another whispered in awe. "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people," the angel said.

"Imagine! An angel . . . talking to us!" the old man interjected with rising excitement. "None of the uppity-ups in this town would lower themselves to talk to us shepherds," he added. "But an angel did. And the child is right here in a stable so we can come and see him." Rivulets of tears were inching down

**IF...**  
If a **CHILD** leads the way in commitment to church, **3.5%** of families follow..  
If a **MOM** leads, **17%**  
If a **DAD** leads, **93%**  
**DAD, ARE YOU GOING TO CHURCH?**

in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains." This locates the abomination of desolation in Judaea in the Holy Place or temple. In the middle of the tribulation the Antichrist will break his agreement when the image of the beast is placed in the temple court. This will be the signal for the Jews to get out of Judaea and flee into hiding in the mountain because the last half the tribulation is about to begin.

The two witnesses minister during the first half of the tribulation. Their witness is to Israel. They are specially called prophets. Their prophetic ministry involves calling the nation of Israel to repent and return to the true God of Israel. We are not told who the two witnesses are, but they are God's witnesses doing the work of God. God's witnesses are provided

the shepherd's weathered face.

Joseph stared at the old man. "How did you find us?" he finally asked.

The boy who had first peeked in answered. "The angel said, 'Unto you is born ....'"

"Yes, to us!" The beaming old man couldn't contain himself.

The boy spoke deliberately, as if to remember the exact words: "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior..."

"That's here--Bethlehem--David's birthplace," the littlest boy interrupted. He thrust out his chest proudly. "King David was a shepherd, too, you know."

The older boy continued. "... which is Christ the Lord."

"The Christ, the Messiah . . . He's the one!" The old man pointed to the baby.

"The angel was very specific," the young man went on. "and this shall be a sign unto you. You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." He grinned. "How could we miss? We just ran into town and checked every stable until we found you . . . found him." The boy paused. "How many newborns in Bethlehem do you know with a cattle manger for a cradle?"

Joseph chuckled. So that was it. The heavenly Father Himself had provided a bed for His child. A special cradle. A sign to these crude shepherds that God cared for them too.

Joseph squeezed Mary's hand very tightly.

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**Christmas Reminder**

<i>Look at the Candy Cane and what do you see? Stripes that are red like the blood shed for me. White is for my Savior who's sinless and pure!</i>	<i>"J" is the Jesus, my Lord, that's for sure! Turn it around and a staff you will see. Jesus my Shepherd, was born for me!</i>
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special powers to get the work done. In the middle of the tribulation "the beast" will turn against Israel and begin to persecute the Jews. The two witnesses will not be around to protect Israel causing an anti-Semitic movement to gain control.

The two witnesses, as God's obedient servants will not be martyred until their testimony for God is finished. The beast (Antichrist) wants to take over the temple but will not be able to succeed until the two witnesses are removed. The two witnesses will not be permitted a decent burial. But even in this indecency, they will be used of God to bear witness to mankind on the earth. When the witnesses are removed, people all over the world will rejoice as the news of their death is transmitted all over the world. From a human standpoint Jerusalem is a "great city" but from God's viewpoint Jerusalem, at this time, is polluted and worldly as Sodom was rebellious and as proud as Egypt during the days of Moses.

The bodily resurrection of the two witnesses will take place in the presence of lost people. The resurrection of the two witnesses will be a part of the first resurrection. Revelation 20:6, *"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."* The resurrection and ascension of the two witnesses will cause great fear to those on the earth and they will learn that there is a greater power in the universe than the Beast (Antichrist).

God is in control of world events. Even after the rapture God provides the world with a witness of salvation through Jesus Christ. Satan is powerful, but God will not permit His servants to be defeated until their witness is completed.

## If you look for Me at Christmas

You won't need a special star --  
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem  
I'm right there where you are.  
You may not be aware of Me  
amidst the celebrations --  
You'll have to look beyond the stores  
and all the decorations.  
But if you take a moment  
from your list of things to do  
And listen to your heart, you'll find  
I'm waiting there for you.  
You're the one I want to be with  
you're the reason that I came.  
And you'll find Me in the stillness  
as I'm whispering your name.

Love, Jesus

- copied -

## God's Shepherd • A Christmas Story

by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

The frost of forty winters had etched deep lines into the shepherd's face. Having spent his entire life outdoors on Bethlehem's hills, he was old at forty — and cold. The hillside where he sat this day was cold, too, and he pulled his mantle close about him to block the wind.

Every so often he would shift position, not out of discomfort so much, but from a sense of unease, anxiety, crowdedness. Instead of hundreds of sheep with whom he felt quite at home, this hillside was flocked with people — thousands of them — listening attentively to the Teacher. They could hear him fairly well, except when the wind whisked away his words.

Tobias ben David (pronounced da-VEED) was the shepherd's name, though people called him Toby. His flocks were in good hands this week, cared for by his grown sons, but Toby had left them to listen to Jesus of Nazareth. Today the Teacher was talking about salvation, how God came to save his people from their waywardness and sins, to rescue them and gather them close.

Now Jesus' illustration turned to sheep. Toby felt better. He knew a lot more about sheep than people.

"The good shepherd," Jesus was saying, "lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand who doesn't own the flock runs away when he sees the wolf coming, but not the good shepherd...." One night, years ago, the men Toby had hired to watch the flock with him fled when they saw a mountain lion roaming the hills. But Toby had stayed. Shepherding was his livelihood. He knew the sacrifices that good shepherding required. He knew about defending defenseless lambs. He knew about putting his life on the line for the sheep. That's what good shepherds did.

Jesus continued, "Suppose you have 100 sheep and when night comes one is missing. What do you do? You leave the 99 sheep all safe together and then climb the hills, looking, searching until you find the lost sheep. Then you pick him up, put him on your shoulders, bring him down the hill to the camp, and ask your fellow shepherds to rejoice with you."

"Your heavenly Father is like that," Jesus said. "When you have lost your way, he will rescue you and save you and never give up on you until he finds you — and you find him."

Toby's heart was racing. He felt a lump in his throat.

He understood. Toby had combed the hills for lost sheep, not stopping, not quitting. He knew the joy of discovery, of rescuing the sheep from a thicket, of bringing it back and celebrating with his friends. He had been that kind of shepherd.

But he also knew how it felt to wander off, feeling lost, aimless, trapped. Clueless about where he was and where he was going. Flailing about, struggling to climb out of what seemed like a steep ravine. That's why he came today to hear the Teacher, hoping to regain the faith he had felt as a child, a ten-year-old child.

His mind spun back to the evening of his tenth birthday. Like nearly every night, he was out on the hills with his dad or his uncles, caring for the sheep. The stars were brilliant, dancing in the black sky. But suddenly an overpowering bright light flooded the hillside. A voice boomed out, "Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people. For to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!"

A savior, a rescuer — shepherds' work. He had often wondered about the boy-child they discovered that night, lying in a manger, just as the angel had said. Toby had knelt down and worshipped the baby who bore the world's destiny upon his tiny shoulders. What had become of him, this baby? By now he must be thirty-something. Had this savior saved anyone yet? Rescued anyone? Could he rescue me from my aimless existence? Toby wondered.

Just then the wind caught Jesus' words and blew them Toby's direction. "I am the Good Shepherd," Jesus was saying, "who lays down his life for the sheep. Come to me, all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me," he said with warmth and joy full on his face, "for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your

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

**Matt Baker**, a member of Black River Baptist Church in Qulin 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.*

## "Let Every Day Be Christmas"

by Norman Wesley Brooks

**Christmas is forever, not for just one day,  
for loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away  
like bells and lights and tinsel,  
in some box upon a shelf.  
The good you do for others  
is good you do yourself.**

**Peace on Earth, good will to men,  
kind thoughts and words of cheer,  
are things we should use often  
and not just once a year.**

**Remember too the Christ-child,  
grew up to be a man;  
to hide him in a cradle,  
is not our dear Lord's plan.  
So keep the Christmas spirit,  
share it with others far and near,  
from week to week and month to month,  
throughout the entire year!**

souls."

I wonder? Thought Toby as he felt big tears begin to roll down his cheeks and into his beard. I wonder? Thought Toby as joy and the certainty of God's love began to fill his heart until it seemed like he would explode. I wonder? Thought Toby, if this Jesus is the little baby I saw that night, the Savior of the world? Yes, thought Toby, he must be. His words found me and, frankly, he sounds just like he's ... **God's Shepherd.**

This story quotes **Matthew 11:28-29; John 10:11-13** and refers to **Luke 2:8-18.**