# The

# Missouri Missionary Baptist

"Holding Forth The Word of Life"

Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXXII St. Louis, MO • June 11, 2019

# What A Great Meeting!

by Jim Hoffmann, Mission Director

The annual Missions Symposium of the BMA of Missouri met at Grandview Baptist Church in Springfield May 17th at 6;30 p.m. Pastor Gary Longstaff and Grandview Church in cooperation with our Missions Director had made preparation for this meeting and God blessed their efforts in a mighty way!

The atmosphere was comfortable, the music was uplifting, and the program participants were very inspirational. Many said this was one of the best symposiums we have had in a long time. Everyone seemed to be glad they were there. We did not count the attendance, but estimate there were 70 to 80 present from several of our churches.

Following some lively congregational singing, Pastor Longstaff extended a warm welcome to all present. Special singing was enjoyed at various times during the service and our three speakers challenged and blessed us with their excellent presentations illustrating the Symposium theme "The Privilege of Missions."

Bro. Bill Hathaway, former missionary to Japan, blessed us with memories of planting churches in Japan for many years and how he has been "Enjoying Missions" for many years in Japan and is now enjoying working with a Japanese outreach at Grandview in Springfield.

Bro. Melvin Meade, former missionary to the Philippines, inspired us with a demonstration using some millstones he brought from the Philippines. He shared how he had many experiences in "Learning from Missions" including how the women had to daily

grind corn for the meals they prepared. He gave some scriptural applications that caused us to look within ourselves and our relationship with God.

Bro. Dustin Wisely, missionary-elect to Columbia Missouri, endeared himself to us as he shared what he feels God wants him to do in Columbia as he looks forward to "Growing Through Missions" by depending on God's faithfulness.

A spirit of renewal seemed to permeate our hearts as we left the service that night and looked forward to meeting for the mid-year meeting of the BMAMO the next morning.

Our heartfelt thanks to

Grandview Church and each one who participated in the program and a special thanks to all who attended this meeting.

Let's pray for the work of Missions in Missouri and look forward to reaping the harvest God has for us in our local churches across this state as we seek to do His Will.

Pray for the men who spoke to us about the "Privilege of Missions" as they are each still involved in the Lord's Work!

## **BMAMO** Semi-Annual Meeting

by Don Burke, Clerk

The Semi-Annual Meeting of the BMA of Missouri met at Grandview Baptist Church, Springfield, May 18th.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the growing anticipation of a new missionary, Bro. Dustin Wisely, coming to our state to work in the Columbia area. Bro. Wisely is entering the field as a missionary commissioned by and under the immediate direction of his home church, First Baptist, Magnolia, AR. The State and Meramec Associations are cooperating with First Baptist, Magnolia, to help provide a solid foundation for this work to become well established in

Saturday morning Pastor Gary Longstaff welcomed the Association to Grandview. For the morning devotional Missionary-elect Wisely picked up where he had left off the night before as he energetically spoke on Being Madmen for the Gospel.

After Moderator Ben Kingston called the meeting to order,



Dr. John M. Adan

Issue No. 6

## FREEDOM OFFERING JUNE 30TH OR JULY 7TH, 2019

for **MORAL ACTION** B.M.A. of America

Dr. John M. Adams, Executive Director www.macbma.net

Please take a special offering as we build this needed moral agency. From small to large, every gift is needed and appreciated.

Mail offering to: Moral Action • P.O. Box 305 • Mantachie, MS 38855

a petitionary letter was accepted from Pleasant Grove Baptist Church of Belgrade.

The Association approved the Special Missions Committee recommendation to help support Bro. Dustin Wisely's mission work in Columbia. The Association voted to give \$2,000 per month, designated for salary, beginning the first of 2020. As that work develops we will monitor the need to provide work fund support as well.

In response to a question raised in October about the Association's liability concerns, the Special Missions Committee also made a recommendation to amend our bylaws (Article VI (Officers) Section 3) as follows (underlined portion added to the existing section):

The duties of the officers shall be such as usually devolve on such officers of a deliberative body. Officers are, however, not authorized to speak or act as an authority at any time on behalf of the Association for any matter to which the Association has not directly spoken.

The body approved this change. The Special Missions Com-• See BMAMO Page 3 •

## Camp Garwood Activities

These months sure are clicking by. Your church should have received a camp packet by now. We are looking for the T-shirt order and registration form to be sent in on Fathers Day. We will not be ordering extra shirts this year so please be sure to order if you want one. We'll have pictures of the shirts posted on the camp Facebook page soon and the camp packet is available now at bmamissouri.org.

The DEWrs had a great time last weekend. We spent a lot of time at camp just hanging out. We also visited the Twin Pines Conservation center in Winona. They have a lot of information about logging in the early 1900's an old one room school house is there also an archery range and several pieces of old sawmill equipment. Later that afternoon we took an exciting train ride and then prepared a new dish over the fire.

Now is the perfect time to be a Camp Garwood DEWr in 2020! You can start now saving and bring your DEWr funds to us at

next year's DEWr weekend. A DEWr is anyone who gives \$75 or more a year to camp. That's less than \$1.50 a week! Be not a hearer only, Be a DEWr!

The next camp function will be the GMA retreat July **12-13.** Bring your girls to this exciting weekend retreat. You do not need an active GMA group to attend.

And then Camp week begins July 29th! Be praying for camp. That we will see the Lord move souls and change lives. Have a blessed summer. Chris Polk • PO Box 271 • Mat-

thews MO 63867

# NEWS BRIEFS 仓仓仓

Greetings once again from Lindsay Lane Baptist Church, Florissant. We are thanking God for His blessings as we enter into the summer. We were truly blessed with a wonderful Mother's Day. The men of the church prepared breakfast for the congregation. It was delicious! We held a plant sale to benefit the youth. Thank you, Sis. Bonnie for spearheading this! We are very excited to hear great reports from the national and state meetings from those who attended. We are very excited about having a missionary working in the state and have partnered to pray for Bro. Wisely in his endeavor. Pray, pray, pray! Our workers and kids are gearing up for sports camp. The youth and sponsors and "young at heart" are going to the zoo June 7th. We have families that are having health issues as well as some who have been affected by the flooding. We have a great big wonderful God who knows our every need! May God keep on blessing!

Brian Meade, Pastor • Kathy Chapman, Reporter.

Greetings from Bethany Baptist Church St. Louis. Well, it looks like we have survived all the pollen. There has been some illness over all the spring due to the air. We sadly report, one of our longtime members went to be with Lord April 2nd. Bro. Dale Schwaderer will be missed by his loving wife Brenda and all who knew him. We know he is in a much better place and free of all his pain. We are still having visitors and they are always welcome. Bro. Jeff Mooran recently filled our pulpit and he had a very inspiring message. We are still praying for those that are recovering from surgeries and illnesses. May God be with all of us as we try to do His will allowing Him to lead us to do all His will.

Tim Boatright, Interim Pastor • Betty Johnston, Reporter

Landmark, DeSoto, reports that May has been a good month as most months have been recently. Although we didn't have any new members, baptisms etc., we still feel that God has definitely been blessing us. We had a very good attendance on Mother's Day and a good message from Bro. Crites. All mothers present received a beautiful carnation and the oldest, Betty Harrison, and the youngest, Catie Decker, (Betty's granddaughter) received potted plants. They said they like to keep it in the family. Sis. Jackie Couch is at home, but doing physical therapy and when she is finished with that she is facing surgery for the aneurysms she has in her head. She certainly stands in the need of prayer. We are so happy to finally have our new sound system in place. The insurance company and the place where we got our sound system worked very hard for us. Until next month or the Lord's Return David Crites, Interim pastor • Sharon Page, Reporter

Ohlman Baptist Church, Bunker reports that their hearts were saddened May 5th, when Bro. Terry Sharp announced his resignation which was to be affective May 19th. He has served at Ohlman for nearly 21 years and has been the only pastor that many of the younger members have known. We wish him well as he seeks the Lord's direction for his future. Their plans were to move to Arkansas to be closer to their daughter, however Sis. Gay had been in the hospital for several days the first two weeks of May so their move has been delayed. Pray for them as her health is still very fragile. Since they are still physically in the parsonage, Bro. Terry has continued to teach the Adult Sunday School class and the Wednesday night adult class but this will end once they have moved. The Brotherhood meets on the first Sunday evening at 4:00 and have approximately 4 to 5 men attend regularly. The WMA meets on the third Thursday at 6:00 p.m. for business with approximately 4 to 5 ladies attending, then at 6:30 for Bible Study.

Sis. Dottie Steelman leads the Bible Study and ladies from the community attend, averaging 10 to 12 attending. The Wednesday night classes are still well attended. During the weeks that another church in the community hosts Vacation Bible School, we do not have the youth classes but encourage the youth to attend those VBS's. One neighboring church borrowed two of Ohlman's busses to pick up the youth. The church allowed me to serve as their only messenger at the BMA of America meeting and the BMA of Missouri meeting. I thank them for placing their confidence in me to represent them. Keep Ohlman in your prayers as they seek a pastor. Janet Widger, Reporter

Greetings from Black Creek Missionary Baptist Church, Poplar Bluff. April has come and gone and was sure busy. Black Creek is still praying for a preacher to fill Bro. Troy Sisk's place. April 7th, Bro. Wayne Gibson preached for us, April 14th, Bro. Russell Chitwood preached, and April 21st Bro. James Hoffmann preached. We are still praying the Lord will send the right preacher for us. Bro. Chris Chitwood took on the lawn mowing job and I think he does a pretty good job. We hope all mothers had a Happy Mother's Day.

Joanna Lipsey, Reporter

Happy father's day to all our father's, from Bethel Baptist Church, Sikeston. I missed sending in my report for April so this is for April and May. We have had a very busy April, with a lot of things going on. We were blessed to have Bro. Les Cantrell fill the pulpit Sunday, the 7th and Bro. Dave Maynard the following Wednesday evening while Bro. Billy and Sis. Donna were away visiting family. The 13th we had a fish fry to help the youth raise money for their mission trip this year. We had a good turnout in spite of the rainy and cool weather. The 14th we

were blessed to have Michelle Terrell from Women's Aspire with us to give us information about the women's center here in Sikeston, as we will be supporting this mission by having a Life Warriors Closet here at Bethel to help those that are thinking of aborting their babies or just someone pregnant that is having a struggle with how to take care of it. We are looking forward to partnering with this most needed mission. The 21st, Easter, we had a packed house for which we are most thankful! Our Easter program turned out great! We are thankful to everyone that participated and are especially thankful to Sis. Helen Beardsley for putting this program together, She did an excellent job! But all the glory goes to God, for without Him it would not have been possible!! The following day started our revival with Bro. Michael Poirier giving us a powerful message from God each night. We were blessed and revived by the preaching of God's Word, and were also very blessed to have the Anchor Academy Baptist Boys Home choir come one night to sing for us. Wow, 21 boys singing. What an awesome blessing we received! For the month of May, we honored 6 graduates this year. Bro. Billy had a special message for the graduates, they were presented with gifts from the church that was followed with a time of snacks and good fellowship. We pray that all you mother's had a blessed Mother's Day and got to spend time with your family. We had a special service for our mother's. They were presented gifts and treated to a delicious meal prepared by the men. Our God is so good! Bro. Jeff Reynolds has the Trail Life program ready and quite a few boys that have joined. We hope and pray to see more come to join with us. Sis. Mattie Bolen joined with a group going to Puerto Rico on a mission trip to remodel houses. She said it was a real blessing to meet some of the people there and to be able to help them. Our youth are planning a mission trip in June to go to Texas to help with clean-up after a tornado. We are really proud of our youth and all that they are doing in the Lord's work. On the 26th of May we welcomed the Seabaugh family of 5 into our membership. Praise God for the answer to our prayers! Bro. Jerry Holland from the Gideons was with us Wednesday evening, the 29th, to give us information about the organization. It's a blessing to know how many Bibles have been distributed through them. May God bless you all! Billy Davis, Pastor • Joan Wood, Reporter

Ozark Heights, Potosi, hopes all is well with each of you, as we are closing out a busy month of May and are preparing for a busy June! June 24-26th we will be having our VBS "Treasures from Egypt!" Please come out and invite your friends

• Continued on Page 4 •

# The Missouri Missionary Baptist

Established by the Baptist Missionary Association of Missouri November 1937

The Missouri Missionary Baptist (USPS 355-500) is published monthly by the BMA of Missouri Publications Committee. Subscription price is \$10.00 per year

176 Bear Creek Dr. Wentzville, MO 63385-3355 Periodical Postage Paid at St. Louis, MO 63155

POSTMASTER: Send address change to: Missouri Missionary Baptist 176 Bear Creek Dr. Wentzville, MO 63385-3355 James E. Hoffmann, Editor Ph: 314-277-8644 • E-Mail mmbpaper@charter.net

Don Burke, Assistant Editor **DEADLINE** for copy is the **FIRST TUESDAY** of the month in which you want it to appear See the MMB online at bmamissouri.org

## STATE MISSIONS

#### **SEND MISSIONS OFFERINGS TO:**

James Hoffmann BMA of Missouri Missions 176 Bear Creek Dr. Wentzville, MO 63385 314)277-8644 Cell

SEND MMB LOAN ASSOC. OFFERINGS TO:

David Griggs, Treasurer 405 Hoffmeister Ave. St. Louis, MO 63125 Phone 314-631-2213 E-mail: david92951@aol.com

E-mail: mmbpaper@charter.net

BMA of Missouri Website: www.bmamissouri.org

| FINANCIAL REPORT BM. General Fund: | A OI  | MISSOURI MIS      | SSIONS • 1 | MAY 2019   |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------------------|------------|------------|
| Checking Account:                  |       |                   |            |            |
| Balance April 30, 2019             |       |                   | \$         | 27,662.72  |
| May Receipts:                      |       |                   | *          |            |
| Missions:                          | \$    | 1,938.55          |            |            |
| Total Income:                      | \$    | 1,938.55          | \$         | 1,938.55   |
| Total Available                    | *     | -,,               | \$         | 29,601.27  |
| Disbursements:                     |       |                   | *          | - ,        |
| Director, Salary                   | \$    | 650.00            |            |            |
| Director, Mileage                  | \$    | 617.00            |            |            |
| BMAA (Matt Barker)                 | \$    | 200.00            |            |            |
| Director, Rm at BMAA               | \$    | 476.10            |            |            |
| Symposium Expense                  | \$    | <u>764.98</u>     |            |            |
| Total Disbursements                | \$    | 2,708.08          | \$         | (2,708.08) |
| <b>Balance May 31, 2019:</b>       |       | ,                 | \$         | 26,893.19  |
| Bank of America Savings Accor      | unt:  |                   |            |            |
| Balance April 30, 2019             |       |                   | \$         | 1,100.94   |
| Interest:                          | \$    | .02               | \$         | .02        |
| <b>Balance May 31, 2019:</b>       |       |                   | \$         | 1,100.96   |
| Investment in BMA of Mississi      | ppi F | Revolving Loan Fu | ınd:       |            |
| Balance April 30, 2019:            | •     | J                 | \$         | 103,976.73 |
| Interest:                          |       |                   | \$         | 0.00       |
| <b>Balance May 31, 2019:</b>       |       |                   | \$         | 103,976.73 |
| Total of all Funds May 31, 2019    | ):    |                   | \$         | 131,970.88 |

#### From Our Director...

I am excited in the prospect of a new work starting in the Columbia, Missouri area and look forward to seeing God's blessings upon our efforts in that part of the state. Please pray and encourage our works in that area as we see God leading in this.

Your Missionary Advisory Committee has prayed about expanding our efforts and believe this is God's answer and that He will provide the workers and finances as we surrender to His will.

Pray for Bro. Dustin Wisely and the First Baptist Church of Magnolia, Arkansas as they seek God's guidance in this effort. And pray for all who are, and will be, affected by this mission effort.

We have an awesome God who has given us an awesome task and will bless in awesome ways as we yield to His awesome power! Let's look forward to awesome things happening before Jesus comes.

### • BMAMO From Page 1 •

mittee will be continuing their work on this project.

Highlights from the various department reports included.... Missouri Missionary Baptist Loan Program:

Treasurer David Griggs gave the financial report followed by President Dennis Baker's report in which he noted the need for our church to give special offerings to the Grant Fund in order that we might be able to help churches with emergency funds when needed.

#### **Camp Garwood:**

Camp Director Chris Polk noted the camp schedule for this year and pointed out that no new projects would be started this summer due to lack of funds, but that some projects already started would be completed. He noted that much help is needed to get everything ready for use this year.

#### Alive:

The date for this year's Alive Conference is December 29 -31, at Chesterfield Missouri.

#### **Missouri Missionary Baptist:**

Editor Jim Hoffmann reported that increased monthly offerings are needed or we will have to have a special drive to raise funds in a few months as our income has fallen seriously the first part of this year.

#### Miscellaneous:

The messengers voted to sponsor another Renewal Retreat with Bro. Ben Kingston as the leader.

After all business was completed, Bro. Ben Kingston gave the annual message, On Being a Man after God's Own Heart, from Acts 13:22. Following the message all pastors met with missionaryelect Dustin Wisely in the altar for a time of prayer specifically for him and his missionary work in our state. We then enjoyed food and fellowship as the church provided the noon meal.

## **Local Association News**

## Meramec Association Advisory Committee Met May 30, 2019

These are the following recommendations that will be presented to The Missionary Committeemen on July 26 at the Meramec Church Camp. The meeting will be held at 6:00

- To re-elect Bro. Johnny Dover as the treasurer to the Meramec Landmark Baptist Association
- To have Bro. Mike Jarvis be the assistant treasure to Bro. Johnny Dover
- To renew Bro. Jamie Haguewood's participation in the Reaching and Teaching International Ministry (RTIM) and the Association's match up to \$4,800 of offerings made by Meramec Churches
- That the Meramec Landmark Baptist Association institute a school of the prophets for pastoral training and discipleship with Bro. Jamie Haguewood to be the coordinator. The Meramec Association will budget up to \$200 per event.
- To give Bro. Ben Kingston the authority to make arrangements for the next renewal retreat.

#### At the request of the Meramec Advisory Committee Bro. Jamie Haguewood has submitted the following explanation of his participation in RTIM

I am very thankful for the Meramec Association's active support in the work of the training and discipleship of pastors locally and globally.

The first time that I visited a mission field was 20 years ago with BMA Missionary Jimmy Swindoll. He had a very effective ministry of the training and discipleship of pastors at the Bible Institute in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, South America.

One of the greatest needs for the local church in the Global South is pastoral training and discipleship. We are blessed in the United States with an abundance of opportunity to have our lives and ministries impacted by a pastor who has had the opportunity to have his theological "axe" sharpened. The statistics speak for themselves. Roughly, there are 250 people per every 1 trained pastor in the United States. There are 450,000 people for every trained pastor in the global south. God is moving in these countries, many people are coming to Christ. The enemy is at work as well. We must give these pastors tools to fight against many false doctrines. The Prosperity Gospel is one of these false doctrines, which, taken to its logical end is devastating to a person's inner being and a local church.

Our focus at Reaching and Teaching is to meet the need for the deep discipleship of pastors. When we agree to work in a specific place it is a three year commitment. We work through 9 modules of training that seeks to minister to the pastor's heart, head and hands. At the "heart" level, we disciple them in how to walk with the Lord in their devotional lives. At the "hands" level, we teach them many of the practical necessities of ministry. At the "head" level, the first year we teach them over arching theme and overview of the OT and NT and how to properly interpret scripture. The Second year we teach doctrine, church history, and ecclesiology. The third year we teach missions/evangelism, homiletics and biblical counseling Normally we begin our training on a Monday and end on a Saturday, often going 8 hours per day.

This coming August it will be 20 years ago that I visited our work in Bolivia. I am not sure why but that country has held a very dear place in my heart. I am thankful to share that the third week of July, Lord willing, I will be taking a preview trip to Bolivia on behalf of RTIM. If I see that there is sufficient interest from the pastors there we will begin our first module in the fall of this year.

If you would like to learn more about what I do as a Global Trainer or would like to be involved in this ministry please e-mail me at jamie.haguewood@reachingandteaching.org. Please visit the website at reachingandteaching.org to learn more. My phone number is 573-210-0844.

Page 3 • Missouri Missionary Baptist • June 11, 2019

#### • NEWS From Page 2 •

to come with you! We are excited to report that the Lord has been blessing as we have had several come to Christ in our children's church ministry! Praying Gods Blessings on all his churches. Have a great month!

Brian Kingston, Pastor

HELLO to all from Oak Hill Baptist Church, Alton. We hope that everyone had a safe and blessed Memorial weekend. In May we had a surprise Birthday Party for Bro. Henry Smith Sr. who turned ninety years old. I think we really surprised Bro. Henry with cake and ice cream and a good time of fellowship. Thank the Lord He has really blessed us and kept the storms away from us and blessed us with rain. KY3 in Springfield said that May 2019 was the third wettest May on record. We are very thankful for all the moisture but it has been hard for the farmers to know when to mow the hay and bail it. May 18th we had a fish and chicken fry with French fries and a lot of other dishes and desserts. This was the largest turn out of people at our fish and chicken fry. June 8th Bro. Edward will perform the marriage ceremony of Bro. Eric Keck and Sis. Julia Cotherman at 12:00 p.m. Thank the Lord He has blessed Bro. Don Hufstedler with his health and he has been able to attend Church Services. June 30th we will be having our fifth Sunday Dinner and everyone is welcome. Until next month we will be praising and honoring our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. God Bless!!

Edward Casey, Pastor • Jennifer Williams, Reporter

Greetings from First Baptist Church, Potosi. May kept all of us extremely busy with school and church activities. The GMA hosted a Mothers' Day Brunch on Saturday, May 11. I have to brag on my daughters, Michelle and Alisia, for they put their talents together and created a beautiful table setting and meal. A couple of the girls' mothers helped with some of the food and decorations. More women were able to attend than on the Sunday morning breakfasts and we had wonderful Christian fellowship. We also played games and gave away door prizes. My daughters handled any serving that was needed and the GMA girls were able to sit and enjoy brunch with their family. Of course they helped with the preparation of the meal. Our Celebrate Recovery band was honored by the request for us to sing at the PHS Baccalaureate on May 15. Our high school graduates were honored May 19. One of our dear sweet ladies, Mary Blair, wife of the late Ronie Blair, went home to be with the Lord. Her family has always served the Lord with her; Mary's grandson, Jamie Haguewood, was our former pastor. We are preparing for summer activities. Super Summer is in June, Vacation Bible School is in July and supply lists are out; GMA State Retreat at Camp Garwood is in July, Teen Camp is in July, and finally Kids Camp is July and August. What a full summer! And if that is not enough, there is always church

BMAA Seminary's Sixty-Second Commencement

by Miranda Thompson, Dean's Assistant, Academics

Nineteen individuals received a degree from the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary of Jacksonville, Texas during commencement exercises conducted Saturday, May 18, 2019

- Brandon Schinz of Hampton, Arkansas and Billy Jack Smith of Lufkin, Texas received the Associate of Divinity degree.
- Tanner Choppy of Houston, Texas; Masoud Edrisameri of McKinney, Texas; Lisa Henderson of Jacksonville, Texas; Cotton Hendley of Canton, Texas; and David Johnson of Yantis, Texas received the Bachelor of Arts in Religion degree.
- Brittian Bowman of Norco, California; Mary Hull-Lovett of Little Rock, Arkansas; and Laura Soto-Nordquist of Spring,

camp at Camp Garwood. In May, we added coloring books and crayons to our Christmas Shoeboxes. Betwixt and between all of these activities we have had wonderful Community Bible Study group sessions. Most studied The Model Prayer and one group studied The Best Yes book. In addition to these groups, we have other prayer and Bible Study groups going on all of the time. Celebrate Recovery has new people coming every week. It is amazing to watch God work with all who attend. There is always someone working through the 12-step program that is based on Christian principles (beatitudes). Sis. Brenda Wilson's Sunday School class always prepares food one night of the month and Hope Church provided the meal this past Friday. We are so thankful for those who volunteer to help us. I love walking into our church, even when no other person is there, because I feel the Holy Spirit all around me. It is a wonderful and blessed experience. Sometimes we need to be still and "let God." Please pray for us as we pray for you. Jim Ainley, Pastor • Deborah Rauhut, Reporter

Greetings from Briar Baptist Church, Doniphan! We have had a glorious month of May! Lots of rain, but rain is needed and brings forth flowers and lots of green grass. We were well pleased with the turnout for the Ladies Prayer Breakfast. A few of our ladies pitched in and helped the men with the cooking but they let the men have all the joys of cleaning up. The men really didn't seem to mind and they were still smiling when they were done. With May every year comes graduation as the school year comes to a close. We had several families affected by graduations of one kind or another: Bro. Joe & Sis. Elaine Hollomon had a granddaughter, Emmy Taylor, daughter of Brandon & Christina Taylor, to graduate from kindergarten; Bro. Avon & Sis. Brenda Hopkins had a grandson, Aaron DeGroot, son of Alan & Holly DeGroot, to graduate from high school; And Bro. Darrell & Sis. Donna Grubb, had a son, Gene Grubb, graduate from college with a degree in Electrical Engineering. Congratulations to each of these graduates. May God continue to bless each of the students and their families. We will be hosting the Youth in Harvest for the month of June and everyone is invited. Our youth are working on putting the program together and we are anxiously waiting to see what they will come up with. We are very proud of all that our young people are doing. They held a yard sale/bake sale in early May and all the proceeds are going towards their project of Christmas Shoeboxes to the Navajo Indians in Colorado this year and the food pantry for meals that they hand out to families in the community at Christmas. Their yard sale was rained out so they had another yard sale Memorial Day weekend. We will be working on our VBS program during the month of June preparing for VBS in the middle of July. May God continue to bless us all! Continue to pray for our country, our leaders, our Pastors and the churches without Pastors. David Grubb, Pastor • Yvonne Hill, Reporter

Tayon massived the Mastan of Anta (Destand Theel

Texas received the Master of Arts (Pastoral Theology) degree. Johnny Herring of Nixa, Missouri; Karen Karner of Laredo, Texas; Arnulfo Maldonado of Spring, Texas; and Stuart Priest of New Albany, Mississippi received the Master of Arts (Religion) degree. Sam Behnam of Jacksonville, Texas received the Master of Arts in Church Ministries degree.

• Joe Drisdale of Early, Texas; Preston Kelso of Greenbrier, Arkansas; Robert Lee of Nacogdoches, Texas; and George Martinez of Lewisville, Texas received the Master of Divinity degree.

Dr. Charley Holmes presented the commencement address in recognition of his twentieth year as BMA Seminary President. Holmes earned the Master of Divinity degree from the BMA Seminary and the Doctor of Ministry degree from Reformed Theological Seminary. Under his leadership, BMA Seminary has experienced substantial growth in all major areas of the institution including accreditation, degree programs, distance education, en-

## Faithful Soldier Called Home



Dale L. Schwaderer

Tuesday, April 2, 2019, Bro. Dale Schwaderer was called to his heavenly home. He was the beloved husband of Brenda Schwaderer (nee Sullivan); dearest father of Dale (Butch) Schwaderer and Darlene (John) Kennedy; dear grandfather of Maggie, Emma Schwaderer and Michael (Kylie) Baty, Sean, Erin and Devin Kennedy; great grandfather of Macy, Karter and Maximus. Brother of Marjorie, Larry, Mary and Paul. Our dear brother-inlaw, uncle, cousin and friend to many.

Dale was a faithful member of Bethany Baptist Church in St. Louis and loved to work around the church property using his skills and keeping things in working order. Dale was a Member of Machinist Union Local 837.

A Memorial Visitation was held April 13, 10:00 a.m. until time of service 11:00 a.m. at Bethany Baptist Church with James Hoffmann officiating.

rollment, finances, and physical plant. In addition to his duties as seminary president, Holmes has travelled globally and nationally to speak at ministry conferences or to teach at ministry training institutes.

BMA Seminary provides accredited theological education to qualified individuals by seeking to equip them for Christian service and leadership roles. The seminary supports the educational needs of the Baptist Missionary Association of America and other groups who share a like commitment to the authority of Scripture by offering certificates, associate, bachelor, and masters' degrees.

# <sup>L</sup>A Letter to All BMAA Churches

Editor's Note: I know this letter was sent to all our churches, but have included it here for your information, in case some did not receive it.

June 2019

Dear Church family, Pastor, & Staff:

Darla and I hope the very best for each of you as you receive this letter and promotion material in the June mail. It's time to promote Christ in our great nation. The A.C.L.U. and the Americans United for Separation of Church and State are determined to remove God from American life.

Would you please post our Moral Action posters in your church (feel free to make copies of this letter for each classroom)? Moral Action is a great gospel ministry and so needed in 2019-20.

Your offerings on June 30th or July 7th will certainly help. So, whether small or large offerings, we thank you in advance. Please mail the offerings to:

### Moral Action, P. O. Box 305, Mantachie, MS 38855

I wish for each B.M.A. church to consider us in your annual budget, also.

I count it a great honor to serve in your behalf before your U.S. Senators,

U.S. Congressmen and political moralists. Help us please as we stand up for Jesus Christ our Savior and the United States of America!

Respectfully,

Dr. John M. Adams

Joshua 24:15 "I Have Chosen..."

## My Four Favorite and Most Recommended Books on Pastoral Ministry

C. R. Curtman

I've been asked by other preachers through the years for any recommendations I might have of books that would help a man be a better preacher and pastor. I find it commendable any time a preacher indicates this kind of desire to improve himself as a minister.

Of course the Bible is the ultimate resource and authority on all thing pertaining to the ministry (as is the case relative to anything else). But, there are other books, aligned with biblical truth, that can be used in a supplementary way, to the great profit of a minister and those to whom he ministers. I am going to mention four of these that have been, for as long as I can remember, at the top of my list of recommendations.

#### #1 The Minister as Shepherd By Charles Jefferson

The Minister as Shepherd by Charles Jefferson (1860-1931) is a small book of only around 160 pages that exemplifies the truth that big things often come in small packages. I read it for the first time over forty years ago, shortly after I was called into the ministry. I believe it established some things in my heart and mind about ministry that have stayed with and helped me ever since. I've read parts or the whole of it again and again during these many decades, and it continues to stir me up to the great work that God called me to do as a pastor.

On page 136 of one edition of The Minister as Shepherd, Jefferson refers to an inscription that he saw on a solitary grave at the foot of the Apennines Mountains that said, "He was a good man, and a good guide." These are my sentiments concerning this author. I've always been grateful for the sheer providence of God that brought this book to my attention so early-on in my ministry.

#### #2 The Reformed Pastor By Richard Baxter

My original copy of The Reformed Pastor by Richard Baxter (1615-1691) in probably the most highlighted, underscored and filled-with-marginal-notations book in my entire personal library of over 5,000 volumes. This book is literally falling

apart now, and is held together by a rubber band. Needless to say, I cherish it. Why? Because it has done me so much good for so long. I can't recommend it too highly.

Charles W. Eliot (1834-1936) once said, "Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers." Certainly these are my sentiments regarding The Reformed Pastor. No book made a greater impact on me at the commencement of my ministry than this book. It did much to shape my mindset towards, and fundamentally established the course I would follow relative to, the pastoral office. This book has been and remains, a mighty good and valued "friend" to me, and is probably overall, the best book of its kind that I've ever read on the minis-

# #3 The Christian Ministry By Charles Bridges

It isn't an overstatement on my part to say that The Christian Ministry, by Charles Bridges (1794-1869) has proven an invaluable help to me throughout my ministry. And with no intent to denigrate any course of formal training, I would assert that this book did at least as much to instruct me in and for the ministry as any combination of Bible College or seminary courses probably would or could have.

The Christian Ministry fills in a few gaps relative to ministry not dealt with either at all, or as thoroughly, as the other three books recommended here. An example of this is found in the material covered under Part II, entitled, "General Causes of the Want of Success in the Ministry," and Part III, entitled, "Causes of Ministerial Inefficiency Connected with Our Personal Character."

I can't recommend this book enough to preachers. Whether young or old, newly started, or veterans in the pastorate, I find it incomprehensible that any preacher could read this book and not be affected positively and helped immeasurably at a

# Press Release Baptist Publishing House May 30, 2019

We are excited to announce the launch of our new website: baptistpublishinghouse.com
This website is designed to be user-friendly, simple, and efficient. You will be able to learn more about the new Bible study curriculum, and preview all the children's materials as well. Our goal is to provide churches with a convenient way to order their Sunday School/Bible study resources. We will begin taking orders for the fall curriculum on July 15, 2019. In the meantime, go take a look at baptistpublishinghouse.com!

number of different levels in his ministry..

# #4 The Preacher: His Life and Work By John Henry Jowett (1864-1923)

This is fourth from the top on my list of books that I believe should be given priority in the reading of any man who wants to be a better preacher and pastor. It has been, and over the span of four decades continues to be a blessing to me in all the ways that are important to the ministerial success of a pastor.

The first sentence in the Introduction to this book begins with the words, "Jowett was a pastoral preacher." John Henry Jowett was not only a pastoral preacher himself, he was also one who knew how to define what this means. He knew how to explain how a man develops as a pastoral preacher, and how, day by day, he demonstrates in his life and his work that he is a genuine pastoral preacher.

What is true of the three books already recommended is true of The Preacher: His Life and Work. It is a truly great book that should be read and reread by all those aspiring to be, and those who already are, serving as pastors. There are very few books like this one in terms of its ability to, and the likelihood that it will, inform and inspire a pastor for his work,

Andrew Fuller (1754-1815) said, "A few books well chosen, and well made use of, will be more profitable to thee than a great confused Alexandrian Library." I have given a "few" books my highest recommendation here.

Obviously, I think these are the very best, and should be read first, but there are others that are well worth any time or money invested in them. Here are a few suggestions listed in the order in which I think they should be read:

- 1. Lectures to My Students, Charles Haddon Spurgeon
- 2. An All-Round Ministry, Charles Haddon Spurgeon
- 3. The Pastor as God's Minister, Earle G. Griffith
- 4. Confident Pastoral Leadership, Howard Sugden and Warren Wiersbe
  - 5. Preacher Talk, Herschel Hobbs
  - 6. Shepherding God's Flock, Jay Adams
  - 7. Criswell's Guidebook for Pastors, W. A. Criswell
  - 8. Pastoral Theology, Patrick Fairbairn
  - 9. The Pastor-Preacher, Quayle and Wiersbe
- 10. The Pastor, His Qualifications and Duties, Hezekiah Harvey
  - 11. Pastoral Problems, W. B. Riley

By the way, I think that it would be time well invested for non-preacher church members to read some of these books. Why? Because it will help them to understand how much is involved in the work of the ministry. This knowledge will help

• See BOOKS Page 7 •

## 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@iuno.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

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

# National WMA Chooses New Project for 2019-2020

When the National WMA met in Rogers, Arkansas, we celebrated reaching our goal for last year's project, We Are FREE. The National WMA gave \$60,000 to We Are FREE to furnish the first resident' home (which houses 12).

There were two projects nominated for the 2019-2020 National WMA Project. They are the remodeling of the Baptist Missionary Association of the Philippines printing building into a training facility for national missionaries, and the Missionary Care Ministry led by Bro. Jerry Kidd. The ladies chose the Missionary Care Ministry for our new project.

The Project Promotion committee, as well as several national officers, met with Bro. Jerry and Mrs. Sue Kidd regarding how we can help this year. Bro. Jerry shared what the Missionary Care Ministry has been doing and what they would like to be able to do in the future for our American as well as our national missionaries around the world.

This ministry provides coaching and counseling to missionaries on an ongoing basis in order to help them stay longer on the field. They also have provided conferences for the missionaries so that they can meet one another and be trained further.

The group set a goal for this new year of \$85,000. All the national WMA Officers, as well as the committee, are willing to come and speak to your district or local group about this project. Bro. Jerry also stated he is willing to come and talk about the project.

The video will soon be available on the National WMA website (nationalwma.org) for you to download and show your group. There will also be a pdf file of the brochure available soon there as well.

If you have any questions, or you would like someone to come and speak, please contact Kelly Williams, Project Promotion Chairman, at kelgirl0805@gmail.com or 214-534-9875.

### Moral Action

## Children and Their Rights

**Proverbs 13:4** 

Dr. John Adams, Executive Director

Dr. Chuck Swindoll: "Sometimes I meet parents who think that if they love their children enough they will never have to exercise corporal punishment. Few things could be further from the truth. Proverbs 13:24 doesn't call that love: 'Those who spare the rod of discipline hate their children.' That may make us gag a little, but that's what God has said."

The simple fact is that fair, consistent, biblical discipline confirms your love for your child. Children don't know how to behave properly without the security that discipline brings. Discipline is essential for learning self-control, but take note: correction and discipline should be given while upholding your child's dignity and value.

Parents, and not the government, have the primary responsibility for the education of their children. The late President Ronald Reagan in an address to the National Commission

on Excellence in Education stated; "Parental authority is not a right conveyed by the state."

The following are radical ideas being upheld by court decisions:

- (1) Children have the right to divorce their parents and receive alimony.
- (2) Children are eligible for minimum wages if they do household chores.
- (3) Children should be able to charge their parents with child abuse if they use biblical disciplinary measures
- (4) Children have the right to sue their parents for being forced to attend church or to avoid going places with them.
- (5) Children and teenagers should have the right to decide whether to have an abortion, quit school, or to hire their own attorney.

The liberation of children by parents' slackness has been underway for nearly three decades – so gradually, that most parents are unaware of it. Christianity teaches that one of the most sacred of all rights and responsibilities of parents is to rear their own children.

# I. What Rights for Children Does the Child Rights Movement (World Forum Foundation) Seek?

John Eidsmoe, author of "God and Caesar" answers this question in behalf of Child Righters:

- A. Freedom from any kind of physical punishment. Sweden already has a law prohibiting spanking.
- B. Freedom from any type religious indoctrination. Parents should not be allowed to compel children to attend Sunday School and church.
- C. The right to divorce one's parents, arguing that a child should not have to live with his parents if he doesn't want to.
- D. The right to birth control information and abortion without parental knowledge.
- E. The right to choose one's own sexual preference.

These so-called kiddielibbers are certainly not profamily and it is unique in that it is led entirely by adults.

## 2019 Missouri Ladies Retreat September 6 & 7, 2019

Registration Fee: \$ 30.00 BEFORE August 1, 2019 \$ 35.00 after August 1, 2019

**Speaker - Sabrina Clayton** 

Drury Inn & Suites Arnold, Missouri (636)287-3111

Reservation Information:
Group Name: Women's Missionary Auxiliary of MO

Group Number: 2357337

Room Rate: \$ 114.99 (plus tax)

2 Queen beds (up to 4 people) Rate guaranteed until August 1, 2019

Room Occupancy will include: "Kickback" Supper & "Quick-start" Breakfast

Note: Please make room reservations directly with the motel. Be sure to mention Group Name and Number.

Ladies Retreat Registration Form (Make additional copies as needed)

Make check payable to:

Missouri Women's Missionary Auxiliary
and send with this form to:

Ladonna Baker

5146 Darkmoor Ln.

| Imperial, MO 63052  |  |
|---|--|
| Name:   |  |
| Address:  |  |
|   |  |
| Contact Phone:  |  |
| Church Name:  |  |
| Registration: (\$ 30.00 before August 1st) \$(Lunch included with Registration fee) |  |
| Late Registration: (\$ 35.00 after August 1st) \$                                   |  |
| Total Included: \$  |  |
| Ouestions?? Call 314-856-3661   |  |

They have been instrumental in that three decades ago most states set the age of independence of 21, today's legal coming of age occurs around 14.

#### II. What are the Pro-Parents, Pro-Family Policies?

- A. Promotion of the traditional Judeo Christian values instilled in children by solid families and Bible teachings.
- B. Advocating the restoring of parents to the overall educational process of children and teenagers.
  - C. Opposed the government's role in facilitating and

• See RIGHTS Page 7 •

**Brothers....** Dealing with men's issues and Promoting the Fellowship

& Growth of Men in the BMA of Missouri

## Something to THINK ABOUT

by Dennis Baker, BMAMO Brotherhood President

The severe weather of Spring 2019 has resulted in lose of life, suffering, and grief for those directly affected by the tornados and flooding. People of all religious and political worldviews have been affected by the severe weather. Farmers are being affected financially, from the loss of animal life and crop production, that will affect the food chain for several years. Many moved with compassion have helped their neighbor's by providing food, bottled water, shelter, and prayers. Even individuals not directly impacted by the severe weather have been or will be affected. Many will suffer financially because of higher prices for food items and just the inconvenience caused by flooded roads and bridges. As with any tragedy, people will be questioning and asking "why." Is the severe weather the result of "climate change" or is there something that we can do to help relieve suffering? Many who reject biblical authority will look for answers through political legislation. A worldview that "God is in control" is being challenged and rejected!

Besides the severe weather many are suffering because of political division concerning the sanctity of marriage and the family, the right to life (both the unborn and the elderly), respect for truth, and security and protection of our neighbors. These are challenging times for people of faith! How do Bible believing Christians, who believe in the principles taught in the Bible to be the final authority in all matters of personal freedom, respond?

Just as Jude addressed the doctrinal (what one believes) issues of his day, we must address the doctrinal issues of our day. The issues of climate change, sanctity of marriage and the family, the right to life (both the unborn and the elderly), respect for truth, and security and protection of our neighbors are doctrinal issues and not only affect the ministry of our churches, they also affect the health of our society. The Ten Commandments, Exodus 20:7-17, provides boundaries that are essential for a productive society. A society that ignores God's boundaries will suffer. Thankfully, God is in control and He can restore an out of balance society.

Believers need to verify the facts and identity of the sources of their own worldview. It is dangerous to reject biblical authority by promoting one's own agenda. It is dangerous for believers to confront the issues in their own power. We must appeal to God's Word and the Holy Spirit's leadership!

Pride, greed, and covetousness has resulted in rejection of God's Word and His authority. The tragedy of rejecting God's authority is that people are not hearing the truth from God's Word concerning salvation. People are being deceived and going to an eternal hell because of rejection of God's authority. "New Revelation" needs to be tested by what the apostles wrote and by what Jesus taught. When someone says, "I have intellectual problems with the Bible," they probably have moral problems because the Bible contradicts what they are doing.

Faith, prayer, love, and mercy are the building blocks needed for building a firm foundation and society. Hope in Christ is an anchor that holds the believer in the storms of life, and like a helmet that protects believers in the battles of life.

Satan's influence is strong, and it takes knowledge of the Scriptures, a walk with God, understanding the strategy used by Satan, and the leadership of the Holy Spirit to be an effective influence on those swayed by worldviews that contradict Biblical principles. It is not enough merely to reprove false doctrine, but mature Christians must show love that assures those who have gone astray that God loves them and we, as followers of Christ, care about both their physical and spiri-

tual needs. We must be careful as we try to rescue others because We may become entangled ourselves. Our prayer should be that the Lord would give us the spiritual discernment to identify worldviews that contradict God's Word so that we can grow in the faith in the Lord.

Jude 24, "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling" reminds the Christian that Jude was not writing about the possibility of the believer sinning and losing his salvation. He is writing about the believer's daily walk with the Lord and the danger of going astray and stumbling. When the believer tries to live for the Lord in his daily life, God is able to help in our struggles. Jude 24, "and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy." The purpose of salvation is not simply to rescue sinners from hell but to glorify God for eternity. Today believers have spots and blemishes but on that day God's people will be blameless and Satan will not be able to accuse us before God. The believer has a strong motive for living for Christ and obeying His word. Our desire should be to bring joy to God's heart today as we anticipate the joy He will have when He welcomes us to heaven.

# • *RIGHTS* From Page 6 • encouraging adolescent sexual activity.

Families, not government programs, are the best way to make our cultural and spiritual heritages perpetrated, and our values preserved. We must be strong on the family unit.

# III. What are God's Guidelines that Instill Strong Family Ties?

Some people may ask with sincerity, "What would be wrong with giving children every right of adults?" The Biblical News Service publication answers, "Attached to every right is a responsibility! To give children all adult rights is to burden their

# Report of the National Brotherhood Annual Meeting

by Richey Hester • Editor & Promoter

The National Brotherhood met on May 7, 2019 in Rogers, Arkansas at the National BMA Meeting. A theme verse was given by President Mark Jones. The verse was James 1:22; "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

The 2019-2020 officers were presented and elected. They are as follows:

President Mark Jones 1st VP Van Widger 2nd VP James Laminack 3rd VP Hank Burroughs Roy Caldwell Sec/Treasure Jimmy Thompson Asst. Sec/Treas. Editor & Promoter Richey Hester Galilean Director Kenneth Colvert Asst. Galilean Dir. Dan Williams Bill Thornton Song Leader Asst. Song Leader Matt Hudson

The Annual Project was discussed. **Moral Action** was nominated, and selected. The 2019 - 2020 Offerings will be used as follows:

65%-Moral Action 25%-Galilean 10%-Brotherhood

The Brotherhood officers want to encourage everyone to send the project offerings to Bro. Roy Caldwell.

We hope everyone has a safe and blessed summer.

#### • BOOKS From Page 5 •

them to better appreciate the labors of their pastors and to pray for them accordingly. Reading some of this material will also help church members to be more discerning and better able to evaluate men who may be candidates at some time or another to serve them as a pastor.

immature and inexperienced minds with the responsibility of forming judgments and making life determining decisions which are difficult for even the most mature adults. This is child abuse in one of its cruelest forms!

#### Scriptures of God declare great truth:

**Proverbs 1:8-9:** "My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother; for they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck."

**Proverbs 22:6**: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

**Proverbs 23:13-14:** "Withhold not correction from the child, for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell."

**Proverbs 29:15**: "The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."

**Hebrews 12:11**: "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."

Ephesians 6:1-4: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right. Honour thy father and mother which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

## The Master's Builders

by Nelda Malone, Reporter

The Master's Builders traveled to Summers Baptist, Summers, Arkansas to begin work April 22nd. This was our fourth time to have the privilege of working with the church on their Church plant. This is such a loving and caring church that we all consider them our family!

Diane Spriggs covered the dedication of this building in an article on May 1st. She also covered many of the projects the Builders worked on. I would like to add that one of the rooms completed in the older Fellowship Hall will be used as a food pantry and will also have supplies to help with foster care children that are brought to a family with little or no time to prepare. This will be such a benefit to the community! Also, Summers Baptist will be a designated shelter for the area!

Thank you to all who helped the Master's Builders as they worked. Bro. Paul Young is always there working and is a real "go-getter"! You too Ronnie! Dan Phillips and Kaleb Pilgram were there to help and we're always willing to work! Words are never adequate to express our appreciation to those who provided our meals. When we roll out of the parking lot, we "ROLL OUT"!

May 20th, the Master's Builders returned to We Are Free at Hebron Hills to put up sheetrock in the larger, two-story building which houses the office, medical exam rooms, counseling, reception area, etc., and 2nd floor staff housing. It has been a year since we first came to the Hebron Hills project and it is amazing what the Lord has done here. So many people have worked so hard to help this Vision come to pass. There is still much to be done,

but we can see it now! It is so exciting!

Thank You! to everyone who has helped with our meals and to those that saw to us getting whatever we needed. The Master's Builders are a small part of the work done here but we all count it a privilege to be able to help in this project.

The Builders plan to be at a job in New Caney, Texas, in a couple of weeks; then at Stoneridge Camp, in Smithville, Arkansas, in September; and then to Joaquin, Texas, in October. If you are close to a job, come see us, or follow us on Facebook, "like" us at The Master's Builders.

If you have questions about our ministry or if your church has building needs, contact Office Coordinator John Mangum at 318-202-5155 or (cell)318-607-4100; or Field Coordinator Eddie Sikes at 903-725-6549 or (cell)479-462-1675.

Less Vision, More Scripture

by Jordan M. Tew • Pastor, 8th St. Baptist Church Grand Prairie TX

A word we often hear in today's ministry world is "vision."

Pastors, church planters, and missionaries often use this word to clearly lays out God's vision for His church. Jesus did not ascend to Heaven without giving us a clear-cut plan for His

Pastors, church planters, and missionaries often use this word to speak of the plans for their respective ministries and the direction they will take over the course of time. As a pastor, I've noticed that this word has caused two primary reactions: 1. Some are invigorated, as they consider exciting ministry endeavors and strategies to fulfill them, 2. Some cringe, as the word "vision", brings to mind charismatic experiences and extra-biblical revelation. How should we view the use of this word, and more importantly, the theological implications of it in our ministries?

First, I think we need to understand there is nothing at all wrong with planning ministry endeavors well. The Apostle Paul often made plans, raised funds, and communicated his ministry goals to the local churches. That is a healthy practice and lends itself to organization, efficiency, and productivity. God gave us brains, so there's nothing wrong with using them to make plans. He gave us mouths, so there's nothing wrong with communicating our plans to others. Communicating our plans to others, especially our local church, also lends itself to accountability. Perhaps, at times, our "vision" is not entirely Bible-based? The local congregation is able to hold us accountable, as we are transparent about our ministry intentions.

Second, we must understand God is not giving us any new revelation. The Scriptures are closed. There are no new verses or pages to write. Hebrews 1:2 reminds us that the final revelation of God is the Person of Jesus Christ. We have to be careful not to place our ministry goals on the same plane as God's revealed Word. I don't believe most are doing this within the BMA or other conservative Christian groups and denominations. However, there are many who do this regularly, claiming God has "given them a word" or "given them a vision for the ministry." These "words" and/or "visions" are regarded as authoritative and placed side-by-side with Scripture as the driving force of the ministry. In fact, these ministers will often commandeer Scripture in an attempt to proof-text the so-called "words" and "visions" they have claimed to receive. That's a dangerous place to be. As the old pastor and theologian John Owen said: "If private 'revelations' agree with scripture, they are needless, and if they disagree, they are false."

Finally, we need to remember that the vision for the church, church plant, mission field, etc. has already been given. The Bible

His vision includes the following:

church or the ministers who

would serve her.

- Operating under the authority of Christ and His Word
- Making disciples of all nations
  - Baptizing believers
  - •Teaching the Word of God

This short list is taken directly from the Great Commission, found in Matthew 28:18-20. In addition to this, we can add several things such as: observing the Lord's Supper (Mark 14:22-25), caring for widows and orphans (James 1:27), bearing one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2), financially-supporting missions and pastors (1 Timothy 5:17-18), practicing Christian accountability/church discipline (Matthew 18:15-20), and many others. What all these actions have in common is that they are drawn directly from Scripture. That is a good thing.

Outside of the 66 books of the Bible, there is no other vision for the church worth pursuing or implementing. There is no way to improve God's plan, nor is there a need to try. The Gospel is extremely relevant and that relevance is not bound by time, culture, race, or place. There is nothing we can

## **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.

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

**Brian Adams**, a member of First Missionary Baptist Church of Matthews is available to preach or as the Lord leads. Contact him by e-mail at <a href="mailto:bkadams27@yahoo.com">bkadams27@yahoo.com</a> or by phone 217-779-9264

**Denver Page,** a member at Landmark, DeSoto, MO is available for preaching as needed. (636) 942-3503

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.

#### Pastor Searches

**Ohlman Baptist Church, Bunker, MO** is in search of a pastor. Interested preachers should contact Bro. Larry May, 573-689-2713,

Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church, Park Hills, MO is in search of a pastor. Interested preachers should contact Barbarasue Marler, 573-358-5707

**Central Baptist Church, Union, MO** is in search of a pastor. Interested preachers should contact Tim Lomax, 2859 New Hope Church Rd., Sullivan, MO 63080 or call him: Home 636-629-8161 or Cell 314-779-5687.

**Black Creek Baptist Church, Poplar Bluff, MO** is in search of a pastor. Interested preachers should contact Gale Guthrie by e-mail (galeguthrie@icloud.com) or by phone (573-776-0136). Please leave a message and he will return your call.

**First Baptist Church, Galena, KS** is seeking a full-time pastor. Parsonage is provided. To send a resume or for more information, e-mail Cliff McQuillen @fbcgalena@gmail.com.

#### **SOME THINGS GOD CANNOT DO!**

- 1. He cannot keep a home together when the two are determined to break it up.
- 2. He cannot save you against your will.
- 3. He cannot keep you out of Hell if you are set on going there.
- 4. He cannot tolerate evil.
- 5. He cannot reject anyone who comes to Him.
- 6. He cannot deny His Word.
- 7. He cannot remember your sins once they are forgiven.
- 8. He cannot desecrate His Holiness.
- 9. He cannot take second place in your life.
- 10. He cannot accept salvation other than through Jesus Christ.

submitted by *Justin Arender*, Pastor, Faith Baptist Church, St. Charles, MO

do to make the Gospel ministry more relevant or effective. We need only to be faithful to God's Word. He will bless His Gospel, His Word, His ministers, and His churches. We don't need more vision these days. We need more Scripture.