

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

“Holding Forth The Word of Life”

Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXIX

St. Louis, MO • January 12, 2016

Issue No. 1

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday January 17, 2016

Dr. John M. Adams Executive Director – Moral Action

The sanctity of life defines humanity as being more sacred than the rest of God’s creation. In Genesis 9:3 God told humans that they have the authority to kill and eat other forms of life; but in Genesis 9:6 the murdering of other human beings is totally forbidden with the penalty pronounced as death.

God’s churches and individual believers should pause on Sunday, January 17, 2016, and reflect on the beauty of life in the womb and to pray for the proponents of abortion and euthanasia.

While the sanctity of life ethics may be disparaged by the world, it is God’s voice. The Bible is clear: human life is precious at all ages.

We are reminded by Ethics leader Dr. Russell Moore that we have to say things to each other that Christians shouldn’t have to say:

1. Mothers shouldn’t kill their - babies.
2. Fathers shouldn’t abandon their - families.
3. No human life is - worthless.

The very fact that these thoughts should be proclaimed is a true reminder of the horrors of this present world’s darkness. So may we join millions of others on **Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, January 17, 2016** and love life.

BMA of Missouri Mission Symposium & Semi-annual Meeting

May 20-21, 2016
at
Stony Point
Baptist Church
Mineral Point, MO

Mark your calendar and
make plans to attend!

National BMA Meeting

April 25-27, 2016
Gatlinburg Convention
Center,
Gatlinburg, Tenn.

Greetings from the Camp Gar- wood Director

We hope you have had a great holiday season. And trust the Lord will bless you in this New Year.

There’s a lot of things to report this month. And at the same time, there’s not much. Because I have a lot of incomplete information.

Work has begun on the tabernacle. By the end of the month the new roof. Insulation and ceiling should be in place. I’ll post pictures on Face Book as I get them.

We also met with the land surveyor this month. Along with putting markers up around camp we plan to cut a trail around the property. If you have always wanted to help but are busy in the summer. Here’s your opportunity.

If you have attended camp the past few years, or have read our reports, you know that we need more bunk space. The committee discussed several options. We could split our camp week by age or church size for example. All agreed that isn’t what we want to do. So we are looking into building options.

With that in mind. The committee has set March 6th as

Camp Garwood Sunday March 6, 2016

The Camp Committee has set a time for our churches to have a special day for Camp Garwood (see article below.) Each church is encouraged to emphasize the importance of the ministry of Camp Garwood on this day by:

- Having members share memories of Camp,
- Having special prayer for Camp, the camp committee, and leaders in this year’s activities,
- Taking a Special Offering to help with expansion.

Many souls are saved through our Camp Ministry, God has given us capable leaders, and we need to keep improving the facilities so this ministry can grow.

We pray that all our churches will get behind this effort and help us reap the harvest before it is too late!

What will YOU do?

Contact Bro. Chris Polk for ideas or more information

Camp Emphasis Sunday. We are asking churches to promote this as an opportunity to jump start this building project. It would mean a lot to myself and the committee. If our churches on that Sunday would set aside time to pray, promote and collect for Camp Garwood it would help tremendously.

While the emphasis Sunday focuses on the building project. We also want to remind you about the DEW fund. The Dollar Every Week fund has been such a blessing, as we have been able to continue camp improvements and operate in the black because of the faithful DEWers.

Be watching for the Spring dates and opportunities to come help. We look forward to seeing you soon. As always, Please continue to pray for us. 2016 is going to be a busy year.

Chris

573-380-1975 • PO Box 271 • Matthews MO 63867



Work on Tabernacle Progressing

The work of installing a new roof, insulation, and new ceiling in the Tabernacle at Camp Garwood has started and is progressing nicely. Funds for this project are already in hand and the money raised by the **Camp Garwood Sunday March 6th** will help with other needful building project to improve our facilities and provide more bunk space as our annual camp attendance grows.

Please let God lead you in helping on this special day!

World Missions Day
February 28, 2016
BMAMISSIONS.ORG/WORLDMISIONS

+++ NEWS BRIEFS +++

Briar, Doniphan (December) --"IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR"! Those who know me, know I love music. It speaks to the heart and tells wonderful stories. The best story of all is "JOY TO THE WORLD". 'Tis the season to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Hope all will have a joyous season. Briar is still waiting for the Lord to send a pastor. We know He has a special one for us and in His time we will have a shepherd. Meantime, we just have to keep praying and trusting. Thanksgiving was a special time at our house and I hope it was at yours. We here in America have so much to thank the Lord for. Let's all confess our sins and ask God to forgive our nation and bless us in the coming year. (1 Chronicles 7:14). Our Thanksgiving at Briar was the Sunday afterwards. Since it was 5th Sunday singing, we decided to eat and sing praises. What a great day in the Lord! Our former pastor, Bro. Dennis Leonard and his wife, Sue were there. Not only did we sing, eat, give thanks, but we also heard the Word preached.

Briar, Doniphan (January) -- We had a wonderful Christmas at Briar! God is so good and loving! Although, Bro. Randy didn't accept our call, I'm sure the Lord will send us the right man. As Christians, we need to pray for these pastors and their wives. After celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior with Bro. Leonard behind the pulpit, we had our annual party. It was loads of fun and makes us wish every unsaved person could have been there to see us Christians having a ball! Youth in the Harvest was held at Briar on the 11th of Dec. While the attendance was low as far as youth are concerned it was still a good night in God's House. Wishing you all a great and blessed New Year. Till next time Keep Looking Up!
Phyllis Williams--Reporter

Greetings to all as we start another new year at **Bethany, St. Louis**. Maybe this will be the year the Lord returns for His church! Wouldn't that be fantastic! We are rejoicing over God's blessings again as we end this month. We had our Christmas fellowship on the 13th. After morning services with a great message and meal. Sis. Tiny Blanchard was surprised as four of her "kids" came to services. She had no idea this was happening. We don't see her speechless very often but it was close that day! She is very much loved at Bethany as well as all of our dear folks. After the delicious meal prepared by our ladies we dismissed evening services and some took fruit baskets to our shut-ins. Sis. Eileen Lewis was able to be with us that morning along with her son J.P. and his wife, Tanna. He so sweetly agreed to play the piano for us since both of our pianists were out. Sis. Lewis was one of Bro. Hoffmann's Sunday school teachers and we love her. The 20th and the 27th. Bro. Dunn and his family were visiting folks for the holidays and Bro. Raymond Cabello filled the pulpit. He is a God called young man who loves the Lord and loves to preach every time he can. We are thankful for him and Bro. Dunn and their willingness to lead out in service. We had six young folks and one very tired (me) sponsor go to Youth Alive at Chesterfield. Thank you one and all for your support, your prayers and allowing these young folks to have something to do on winter break other than sleep and sit in front of the television. The meeting was cut short due to the flooding and a lot of the folks that were there along with the praise band from First Baptist in Potosi checked out on Tuesday evening left but we still had a great time. The Panic Squad were great and two of our young folks were chosen to help them out during a couple of skits. We had a special time of worshipping around the piano with Mr. Elijah ? before the last session on Tues. night. It was great hearing those young voices raised in song and doing it so sweetly. Some of the folks did not get home

till the early hours of the morning of the 31st due to the roads being closed but as far as we know everyone made it home safely. We thank God for Bro. Michael's messages and the truth that was proclaimed. We pray for God's richest blessings on each and everyone during this coming year and we trust everyone is found not only being hearers of the Word but doers also. God bless you all. Nick Dunn, Interim pastor, Kathy Chapman, Reporter.

Abundant Life in Christ, Charleston. (December) -- We were able to turn on limited power in our new building in November, enough that we can now work on it no matter what the weather. We were blessed to host Friendship, Harviell for the annual Thanksgiving service and dinner the two congregations share. **(January)** -- We lost one family of three kids when we sold our former property and moved, but we have been having visitors from the neighborhood of our rented location and our attendance is up, even in spite of sickness. On our new building, we have the attic insulated, which was the necessary step to getting our heating and AC units set and final duct work installed. As of this writing (12/31) the electricians are finishing what electrical we had not done ourselves in the classroom area and running all the rough-in wiring for our auditorium lighting. We have limited power in the building-- enough to be able to work inside-- and also have working security lights on the exterior. Two different members donated a total of 20 dogwood seedlings and those have been planted along two borders of the property.
Rodney Dunlap, Pastor

Landmark, DeSoto, ladies started December by having our annual Christmas Party, revealing our Secret Sisters and exchanging gifts. I think every one had a very good time. Sis. Jean Hader-

lein went to Florida to visit her oldest son and his family. Her church family thought she was gone too long, but I know she enjoyed being with her family that she doesn't get to see very often. She ended up spending a night or two in the hospital while she was there. We are glad to report that she is back home safely. Bro. Tom McCannless blessed us with a good message on the 1st Sunday night of December. We were happy to have him visit with us. Our Christmas program was during the morning service on the 20th. It seemed to me that all there enjoyed it. We sang about, and read Bible verses about the names of Christ. Wednesday night before Christmas, we shared with one another some of our Christmas memories. We have just begun the study of James and are expecting many new lessons and blessings during these next few weeks of study. Denver was called to fill the pulpit on the 27th, at Elmwood, and it was good to visit some good friends. Seems that we could all talk about the experiences that we've had with the rain and all the flooding. But, at this time, the rivers seem to be going down and all I can say is, "Praise the Lord"? Certainly hope everyone and their belongings made it through all of it safely. Until next month or the Lord's Return,
Wayne Gibson, Pastor • Sharon Page, Reporter

Ozark Heights, Potosi is praying that everyone had a wonderful CHRISTmas and a great New Year. We were blessed as a church with a CHRISTmas program on the Sunday before with Bro. Bill Gau giving us history on the songs that were sung along with various people doing specials. Bro. Bill did an excellent job getting together the program for that morning. We also did a CHRISTmas eve service with music and scripture. We had a great turn out for that and thank Bro. Brian for putting that service together and all that were in the program. Our church had the privilege of sponsoring a great group of kids to Youth Alive. We had 11 teens and 4 sponsors. The trip was cut short because of all the flooding in the area, but the Lord watched over our group and got them home safely. Let us all start the New Year right by putting CHRIST first in all that we do as individuals and as a church. God bless you all.
Brian Meade, Pastor • Dawn Meade, Reporter

At **Bates Creek, Potosi**, December was a busy month. We put a float in the local Christmas parade for the first time ever. While it was a huge task to take on, it was certainly worth all of the effort. A special thanks to Bro. John Simpson for letting us use his trailer. We passed out lots of things to the local

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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 bmmissouri.org

STATE MISSIONS

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FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS • December 2015

General Fund:

Balance November 30, 2015		\$	124,422.08	
December Receipts:	\$	<u>2,096.74</u>	\$	<u>2,096.74</u>
Total Available		\$	126,518.82	
Disbursements:				
Assistant Director's Salary	\$	450.00		
Assistant Director's Bonus	\$	450.00		
Brad Miller, Web Manager	\$	1,200.00		
Designated for Northlake	\$	<u>30.00</u>		
Total Disbursements	\$	<u>2,130.00</u>	\$	<u>2,130.00</u>
Balance December 31, 2015:		\$	124,388.00	

From Our Assistant Director....

"The rains came down, and the floods came up" in many areas of our state during the last week of 2015. As far as I know none of our church properties around the state suffered major damage, but I am sure there was some wet basements and perhaps some services cancelled as many folks could not get to their church buildings because of the flooded roads.

The ALIVE conference dismissed early and several groups had long trips home due to the different routes they had to take because of flooded roads. From what I hear everyone made it home safely and we praise God for that.

One thing we were reminded of with the flooding is that man cannot prevent some things and must trust the Lord to help in difficult times.

Wouldn't it be great if we could see the Spirit of God "rush" into the churches of the BMA of Missouri, as flood waters came around our state with "power and force," making changes in the lives of us Christians that would convict and change our hearts and bring revival in our land!

God is able to do what needs to be done and wants us to trust Him and yield our lives to Him.

Just as most of us here in Missouri and Illinois focused on the weather so much it changed our lives for a few days, the Spirit of God "flooding our hearts" would help us focus on what God is doing, can do, and wants to do through us and many souls would be saved.

Our prayer for 2016 should focus on God and what we are willing to let Him do through us. We need to surrender to God's calling no matter what He calls us to do or where He leads us to go. We should be serving, praying, witnessing, planting churches being obedient to Him.

CBC to Add Band Program Prestigious Gunter to serve as Director

Central Baptist College has announced the addition of band to its programs for the 2016 fall semester. In addition Tim Gunter has been hired as Director of Bands and Associate Professor of Music. Gunter will begin recruiting immediately and anticipates to have 30 students for fall 2016.

Gunter is most well-known for his tenure as Director of Athletic Bands at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Ark, a position he held for 15 years. He has also served as Associate Director of Bands at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J. and numerous bands across the state of Arkansas. Gunter most recently has served as the Pastor of Worship and Discipleship at First Baptist Church in Camden, Ark. since 2012.

Gunter received a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education in 1979 and a Master of Music Conducting degree in 1993, both from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Ark.

CBC Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Gary McAllister said, "Several years ago, we had a band, which was really more like an ensemble. Although we had some good students and an excellent part-time director, we were unable to sustain

the program; as a result, we decided to disband and wait until we could provide proper support for instrumental music. I'm pleased to announce that the time has arrived! We will begin recruiting band members immediately and will start the new band program in fall 2016."

The CBC band will host concert performances and attend various CBC athletic events. Band scholarships will also be available for this new program.

McAllister added, "Tim Gunter is an answer to prayer. I prayed for a full-time band director who would be a good mission fit, but I never dreamed that we would hire someone of Tim's caliber. With over 300 students

Deadline for Information for BMA Directory and Handbook

Pastors and church clerks are reminded that the deadline for submitting completed annual church letter forms for the BMAA Directory and Handbook is February 15, 2016. If your church has not submitted your 2015-16 DiscipleGuide Church Letter form and offering between July 1, 2015, and the present, please do so quickly. If you already have sent your report and offering, we are most grateful.

You may complete and submit the form online at www.BMALife.org until February 15. The church letter form also can be found in the back of the 2015-16 BMAA Directory and Handbook.

The church letter form must be submitted to Information Services to be included in the next BMAA Directory and Handbook. (As in the past, the national association clerk will mail the one-page Letter of Representation form to churches prior to the BMAA annual meeting in April.)

This annual church letter form is our principal source of information to keep your church listings correct and accurate in the Directory and Handbook. If you need to contact Information Services, you may reach Linda Cary, Assistant Editor at lcary@discipleguide.org, Office: 501.358.4007 or Toll Free: 800.333.1442 Thank you for supporting this ministry of the BMA of America.

Linda Cary

Stampede Open House & Homecoming at CBC

Stampede Open Houses are designed to give prospective students an opportunity for a very personal overview of all that Central Baptist College has to offer in a convenient and flexible format.

Arrive anytime during the event hours and leave once you feel like you have experienced everything available and have all your questions answered.

The next Stampede Open House for prospective students will take place Friday, February 20 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. Register for Stampede Open House online by visiting cbc.edu/stampede or contact Admissions directly at (501) 329-6873.

And, for all the CBC alumni out there, this event is the official kickoff to 2016 Homecoming activities (February 20th.) So bring a few prospective students for a campus visit and reconnect with CBC at the same time!

Decrease Results in Increase

By Steve Crawley, Executive Director
LifeWord Media Ministries

Since 2013, the cost savings associated with the integration of departments has enabled Lifeword to divert overhead costs to the funding of additional ministry opportunities. Tactical moves made by Lifeword and other BMA entities have certainly brought extensive change and required considerable effort, yet they have decreased overhead costs significantly, resulting in an increase in ministry funds.

The following are just a few examples of new initiatives implemented in the past two years:

Community Radio (Low Power FM or LPFM)

Dozens of affiliate stations have been added in the
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• **NEWS From Page 2** •

children but the best gift we gave away was the gift of a Bible. Several Bibles were passed out along the parade route. It was neat to see people react to getting a Bible. It was a good reminder of the mission field that we have right in our own community. Bates Creek ended up winning 3rd place in the religious category of floats. Our youth group performed their first shadow drama for the church as our Christmas program. We had around 50 people come to watch the drama that night and countless others have gotten to watch it through the church page on Facebook. The drama portrayed the entire life of Jesus through nothing but music and shadows. It was a blessing to watch. Finally, our month ended with a group of students and sponsors attending Youth Alive in St. Louis. While our trip was cut a little short due to flooding issues, Youth Alive was once again an amazing experience. Along with our regular youth group, we had two visiting kids that got to attend. Thank you to all of you that spend so much time organizing Youth Alive. Kids and adult sponsors alike always come away from Youth Alive with a renewed energy and passion to tell others about Christ.

Sara Buckley, Reporter

New Year Blessings to all from **Stony Point, Mineral Point**. Dec. 7th we started a Prayer Service on Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. to pray for all the saved to get back to the service of our God. We go in reverently and just sit down and start praying silently and end with a circle prayer holding hands. It is a very moving experience. We were blessed to send 6 teens to ALIVE with Pastor Claude and Sis. Bea. Unfortunately they had to shorten their trip due to the flood waters. Pastor Claude tried starting the van for the trip home and the battery was dead. The Lord provided a way for him to get it started. The group left around 6:30 p.m. They traveled 3 miles per hour for 25 miles. They made a one and half hour trip in only 9 hours. Praise be to God they had a safe journey home! I understand our teens were comedians on the trip home. We are definitely blessed with a wonderful teen group.

Claude Evans, Pastor • Debrah Coleman, Reporter

Happy New Year greetings from **Zion, St. Louis!** 2015 was a great year, We are praying 2016 will be even a greater year to serve our marvelous Lord. There has been flooding all around Zion in the South St. Louis county area and in Jefferson County. We have had to travel a round about way to get to the church house as Baumgartner was and is still flooded. Pray for those that have been flooded out of their homes. Several that went out of town over the holiday experienced longer travel time getting back home. The Lord blessed Zion with a good Christmas service. It was good having several from Emmanuel come and participate in the program. Some from Zion then attended Emmanuel's evening service and participated in their Christmas program. Zion will be hosting the 5th Sunday Singing later this month. The service starts at 5:00 p.m. If able, come out and enjoy the singing and also bring a special with you. The Lord has blessed Zion with a pastor who is faithful to study and preach the Word to his people. We are thankful for our pastor and his wife. They are the BEST! If you are without a home church, we invite you to come and visit us at Zion. Pray for us in this new year and we will be praying for you. Dennis Baker, Pastor • Norma Womble, Reporter

HELLO to ALL & Happy New Year from **Oak Hill, Alton**. Praise the Lord we gained another brother, Cory Simmons. He was saved a couple of years ago he decided to join Oak Hill through baptism December 6th. Bro. Ed was really tickled and happy to baptize another young man. December 5th we had our Walk-of-Faith Fish Fry and had lots of good food and enjoyed a good time of fellowship. December 20th we de-

cidated to have a Soup & Chili Fellowship Dinner before Christmas. Our young kids used ice cream cones and made Christmas trees. Sis. Victoria and Sis. Cortney had a new game for our men and women and their kids to play. The men had a pair of pantyhose to put on their heads after the women and kids had to blow up balloons and put them in the legs of the pantyhose and who ever had the biggest rack one the game. We had a good time laughing at the men acting silly and having a good time. In January there is five Sunday's so we will be having our Fifth Sunday Dinner and everyone is welcome to attend. I hope I will have some more good news to tell you next month, but until then we will be praising and honoring our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. God Bless!!

Edward Casey, Pastor
Jennifer Williams, Reporter

Greetings from **Bethlehem of Doniphan!** I am sorry that I totally forgot about writing this letter for the month of November. I had my mind on planning a trip to Alabama and Florida. Bro. Bob and I decided to take a trip and go see my children and grandchildren. We left on Friday after Thanksgiving and got back home on the following Wednesday. The month of November was spent working with our youth for our Christmas program. We also had Bro. Jimmie (Sis. Dian Decker's son) and Sis. Rebecca Decker with us on the Wednesday evening service before Thanksgiving. Sis. Dian's grandson, Gabe, sang a special for us too. This is a tradition which we always enjoy here at Bethlehem. For the month of December we enjoyed the Christmas season tremendously. We had wonderful fellowship with our church families during our Christmas lunch and with Bro. Charles Michael and his family. (So I was told, as I was in Louisville, KY with a friend that weekend.) The children did a beautiful job with the Christmas program that was performed on

Wednesday evening before Christmas. Sis. Janice Colburn was in the Christmas program with the children and she did a great job too. The Fifth Sunday Associational Meeting will be at Bethlehem January 30th at 9:30 a.m. There will be several available preachers here. Each will be telling a little about themselves and what they feel God is leading them to do with their lives. Please plan on being here and meeting these men! Please continue to pray for Bro. Bill and Sis. Doreen Brown as Bro. Bill is still having several health issues. Also, continue praying for us as a church as we are still waiting and searching for a new Pastor. Until next month, may God bless and keep us all! Happy New Year everyone!

Yvonne Hill, Asst. Reporter

Lower Doe Run, Ellington sends New Year's greetings to our association churches. We look forward to what God has in store for His churches in 2016. Lower Doe Run members have a burning desire to reach our community with the Gospel. We are visiting neighbors to remind that we love them in Christ. Most of our members have health problems yet they make the effort to be in His Worship services every week. We have cancelled the Midweek evening until Daylight Savings Time in March. Members who live in Ellington are trying to meet in homes during this time away. We have asked the churches in Logan Creek Association to meet the fourth Sunday for our Singing since we have an appointment to do the Riverways Nursing Home Service on the fifth Sunday. Girls are asking about raising funds for National GMA Camp in June. We are thankful for their interest. We represented in the Youth Alive Conference in Chesterfield and were blessed even though we had to leave on Wednesday evening due to the floods. We pray for the many who lost all their things in the flood. May we bless our great God as He cares for us.

Melvin Meade, Pastor • Carolyn Meade, Reporter

• **From "INCREASE" Page 3** •

United States and abroad in the last two years. These efforts have resulted in many professions of faith, baptisms and disciples being funneled into existing BMA missions and churches, some even resulting in new church plants.

LifeWord has also conducted training over the last two years in Honduras, Guatemala, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, Tanzania, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Africa and the Philippines that prepares believers effectively share the Gospel with their communities using media. Additionally, Bible Institute classes in the Philippines and Guatemala have incorporated Community Radio training into their curriculum. Students learn broadcast/program production, recording, editing and setting up and troubleshooting the stations. Testimonies from around the globe offer an encouraging response:

Honduras — The Garifuna, who were among the first recipients of Community Radio, have set up five additional stations in their communities. In cooperation with BMA Honduras, they have also traveled outside the country to set up stations for other indigenous people groups and are training others to do the same.

Guatemala — The Garifuna have set up a station in the jungle. Consequently, a number of Kekchi villages are hearing the Gospel in their language for the first time, resulting in many reported professions of faith. Pastors and leaders in other Kekchi villages are being trained in the use of Community Radio, which should yield even more results.

Peru — Because of the concerted efforts of BMA Missions, LifeWord, BMMI and BMA Peru, the Lord blessed with professions of faith in the community of Picoy. One of these converts was the mayor, who is currently being discipled and has offered a place to set up Community Radio where a new mission/church is being launched this year by BMA Peru. Pi-

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coy, previously known to locals as the seat of paganism, will now have a church and a Christian radio station.

Eight hours from Picoy, in Mazamari, the Community Radio station opened the door to a hundred tribes, where BMA Peru leader and LifeWord representative Paul Tinoco has been following up. He reports many professions of faith, and both BMA Missions and LifeWord now have a presence in the communities of Shevoja, Bagua Grande and Concepcion Huancayo.

Philippines — Open Door Baptist Church in Pandan (a small Filipino village) and Pastor Jonathan Arturo started its Community Radio station two years ago to share the Gospel with nearby villagers. After a few months, station managers began receiving text messages from listeners in Melendrez, a place no one had ever heard of before. It was only five miles away on the other side of a jungle so thick that no one had ever gone there, but radio waves from Open Door Community Radio were able to penetrate! Melendrez now has a church with dozens of members. Since that time, Open Door has planted a mission church in the nearby village of Kalubihan and the people down the road in Hilonga have also begun to respond to the Gospel.

Africa — Among the Swahilispeaking people of Tanzania, 25 pastors in a small association of Tanzanian Baptist churches are working with LifeWord and the following individuals and entities to spread the gospel: BMA pastors, BMA Seminary professors, Evangelistic International Ministries (EIM) and BMA Missions. LifeWord has the opportunity to step in and help with a new Swahili broadcast that should be airing in 2016.

Please pray with us as LifeWord continues to co-labor in the kingdom work God has given us the privilege to be a participant.

— This article is a portion of LifeWord's Mission: World

We Are At Odds With God

by Keith Hamaker

Several years ago my Sunday School teacher read II Chronicles 7:14, *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."* He then explained that God is directing this scripture —not to the world— but to his Church ("my people...called by my name"). It's easy to point out the wickedness of the world, especially in our day, but God is referring to the wicked ways of his Church, a Church today that looks nothing like, and acts nothing like, the Churches we all grew up in. You remember, the Churches where the baptistery never completely dried out, and if we went more than a month without a soul saved at the altar we wondered why the Holy Spirit was not working in our Church. A time when if a school child was caught stealing someone's pencil, we knew the following Sunday every Church in town would preach a sermon on the evils of stealing and the dangers to both individuals and nations of labeling any sin as small or insignificant. There were no Reverend Love-Joys. My pastor preached personal holiness, not personal happiness. Today we have men marrying men and we can't find anything to preach about. This is true outside the BMA and inside the BMA. We are at odds with God.

We have polluted our Bible. *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us"* John 1:1, 14a. You cannot separate Jesus from the Bible. They are the same. They are Holy. We are not. *"[We] have received the law at the disposition of angels and not kept it"* Acts 7:53. We know it is our nature to break the law, yet we turn to the most unholy generation our country has ever seen and ask them to re-translate it every few years. This cycle of translation after translation started in the late 1960's. This was also the time the homosexual agenda started gaining ground. God gave the English speaking world the King James Bible, which was preached without question for 400 hundred years (until this generation came along), and that Bible —the Bible-- condemns it in no uncertain terms. The Bible declares in I Kings 15:11, 12, *"And Asa did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord...he took away the sodomites out of the land."* Over the years as the new translations came out the word "sodomite" was replaced with "pervert," then "male cult prostitute," then "male shrine prostitute," The latest version lists both "male shrine prostitutes and female shrine prostitutes.. Who's translating our Bible?

As each "new Bible" was released, those who oppose God and support this agenda were quick to use it to defend their sin. After the first translation Country singer Garth Brooks spoke of the lesbian relationship of his sister, "They love each other; how can that be perverted?" Then after the next translation, homosexual Congressman Barney Frank defended his live-in houseboy, "he is not a male prostitute." In each instance, ungodly men defended ungodly behavior with a "new Bible" hot off the press. We have wandered so far from God that we dismiss these translations as harmless. We are at odds with God.

Today we live in a country where you risk losing your job if you quote I Kings 15:11, 12. Not long ago a letter from a judge in a large county in Arkansas appeared in the local newspaper. This judge, who claims to be a preacher, defended the decision of a fellow judge to legalize sodomite marriage. He indicated Christ today would be in favor of homosexual marriage. Within the BMA, our morality is so confused that we teach our youth that

article, written by Steve Crawley with contributions from the LifeWord team. For the full report, see the March/April issue. (missionworldmag.com)

sodomy is just another form of adultery, and most members of BMA churches, if told of a leader in a foreign nation who drove "sodomites out of the land" would consider the actions of such a man ungodly, failing to realize that God himself praised King Asa for doing that very thing. Today King Asa would be prosecuted for a hate crime and most Baptists would agree. Even now many of you are angered by this letter, choosing to join the world's philosophy that God had a personality change between Malachi and Matthew. You cannot separate the Christ of the Old Testament from the Christ of the New, and you cannot separate the Lord Jesus Christ from his Holy Word. We are at odds with God.

We have polluted our Preaching. *"... it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."* I Corinthians 1:21b . Earlier I mentioned how years ago even the theft of a pencil would invoke sermons all across town on the evils of stealing and the dangers of tolerating such behavior. Now today it seems a month can't go by but what I hear of some man "praising" God that his live-in girl friend is getting baptized in his church today. Reverend Love-Joy officiating.

In Acts Chapter 7, the Bible uses Stephen to show us what real preaching is (and, for that matter real love,) "lay not this sin to their charge." Stephen told them they had rejected and slain the prophets, and betrayed and murdered Christ. "You have received the law at the disposition of angels and not kept it." Preaching is confronting a group with their transgressions of the law and allowing the Holy Spirit to convict them of their sins. That's how lost people get saved, and that's how saved people stay right with God. It was God's plan in Stephen's day, and it is still his plan today.

Stephen preached the law—period. Not that the law has disappeared, and today we should just sit around and smile at each other. For the last 30 years modernists have tried to convince us that the Church should water down preaching in order to attract a hostile world, that churches can only be successful if they make the message more world-friendly. The result is gospel preaching churches have been changed into local entertainment centers and faithful Baptists churches have been driven out of business by the dozens in every major city in the state. This man-made strategy is and remains a 30 year failure. Stephen didn't water it down, Peter didn't water it down, and Christ didn't water it down.

You cannot preach without declaring our transgressions of the law. That is how you show the lost their need for a Savior. Yet today, anyone who preaches transgressions of the law, even in BMA Churches, is labeled a legalist. The end result is we have abandoned gospel preaching. Who's defining our Preaching?

I am not a legalist. I am a sinner. I have transgressed God's Holy law. I am just as guilty of betraying and murdering Christ as the group Stephen spoke to. When the Holy Spirit convicted me of my sins, I wept my way to the altar. Maybe I was a legalist going up to that altar, but I was a redemptionist coming back. **And thank God for a preacher who wasn't worried about being "relevant to today's society," but loved people-- genuinely loved people-- like that Bible preaching Stephen.**

Preaching has been unpopular for 2,000 years, but it has never failed. Sadly, we don't want to be preached to today, we have declared it irrelevant in today's world, and we are at odds with God.

We have polluted our attitude toward sin. *"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent"* Revelation 3:19. Our society equates "love" with "license". The logic goes something like this: "If someone loves me, they will give me license to do as I please. After all, doing as I please makes me happy, and if someone loves me they want

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WMA & GMA NEWS

Articles for this column
should be sent to **EDITOR**

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Norma Womble
7421 Hillsboro House Spg. Rd.
Cedar Hill, MO 63016

Missouri State WMA

Saturday March 5, 2016

10:00 A.M.

Stony Point Baptist Church

13129 Old Hwy 8 East

Mineral Point, Missouri 63664

(Highway 8 between Park Hills & Potosi)

Theme: He (God) will provide

"Surprise" Guest Speaker

For more information call: 573-562-7036

Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee, Director

P.O. Box 163 • Mountain View, Arkansas 72560

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From Diane Spriggs: editor of the *Baptist Trumpet*, the publication of the BMA of Arkansas

To: Editors of other BMA State Publications

Most of you are familiar with our friend Travis Plumlee, and have run his articles in your newspapers. He has been a columnist at the *Trumpet* since about 1994.

Bro. Travis has been having some terrible health problems since August, and the doctors still haven't pinned down what is wrong.

I know he would appreciate your prayers.

For several months, at his request, we have primarily been running columns from back issues of the *Trumpet*. On Monday, I asked him to write an update, letting people know his circumstances so they could pray for him and perhaps help him financially.

I also asked him for permission to share the update with other editors for you to use or not use as you see fit.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need more information.

An Update on Travis Plumlee

At Sis, Spriggs' request, Bro. Plumlee gave the following update on his situation. I know he would appreciate any help you can give him, especially your prayers:

"I have been sick since August. Right in the middle of doing my summer camps, I became ill and six months later, we still do not know what's wrong. I tried doing one revival this fall, and then was in the hospital for 21 days. I've spent nearly the entire month of December at a hospital in Little Rock. I've had six hospitalizations.

"I have several teams of different doctors and they have

run every test known to man. There is no known answer. I am currently getting blood transfusions every other day.

"My wife and I are unable to work, so we have had no income since August except what individuals and churches have given. We thank the people, through God, for meeting our needs. We cling to Phil. 4:19 that God will meet our needs through Jesus Christ.

"I have already canceled all of my appointments through the middle of March for 2016 and I am waiting for God to lead me about my future ministry. The future is uncertain, but God's will for me is not.

"My wife and I are growing even stronger in our faith. Each day it is easier to trust God because we know He holds the answer, even if the physicians can't find it yet. We are just waiting and resting in the Lord and loving praising and thanking Him for His blessings.

"It has made me sad and heartbroken to cancel my conferences because I so love teaching God's people from His Word. I know that His will for me is good, acceptable and perfect, so I will do as He leads me to do.

"I pray that I might be healed just to share wisdom with the people He brings to me. It may not be hundreds at churches. It may just be my family. Either way, we look only to God and praise Him. Physically and financially, we are at the bottom. But God is at the top and will deliver His people. All glory in this trial be given to God."

Additional Editors' Notes:

Trumpet: Bro. Travis would not ask, but I will — donations to help the Plumlees may be sent to them at P.O. Box 163, Mountain View, Ark. 72560.

Fortunately, we have a wealth of Family Ark Ministries articles by him to choose from in our archives at baptisttrumpet.com.

MMB: I appreciate the update from the *Trumpet* and I also encourage you to PRAY for the Plumlees and

send them an offering as he has ministered to many of our churches in Missouri individually through conferences and to many of our readers through the articles published in the *Missouri Missionary Baptist*.

For Better – For Worse

by Travis Plumlee

If you read the last article, I wrote about how I will not give up with all my disease process. I have strong faith in God and I praise and thank him. This article goes with that one (see December 2015 issue of MMB). It is a testimony about spouses and their response to crisis and hard times. On your wedding day everyone looks good. You may never see your family dressed that nicely again. Ha. Everyone is happy. And they should be. Marriage is a celebration of a Sovereign God bringing two people together and making them one. Only He can do that. But after the dating and honeymoon; that moonlight and roses quickly turn into daylight and dishes. I don't think we listen very well to the vows spoken on our wedding day. We have so many other happy thoughts we forget some of the vows. I like the traditional vows. For better-for worse, for richer – for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish. Marriage is a holy covenant between two people and God. He only can make them one. He only can give them agape – unconditional love. He is the author and finisher of love. His greatest display of unconditional love was sending Jesus to die for us and give us the gift of eternal life.

During the last four months of much sickness and 5 hospitalizations; I have come to appreciate what a blessing my Godly wife has been. There are many of you out there. She is not the only one. And while there are thousands of spouses who fight the fight and stick with their spouse, there are hundreds who abandon their spouse at the first sign of hardship. Couples need to commit to their family. They need to commit to God to bring them through tough times. They have to seek God when they are weary or don't know what to do. But many spouses today in a self-centered society will only be there for their spouse as long as it is pleasing and they get something out of it. Sometimes in marriage, it is not better; it is worse. Sometimes, there is enough money and then other times you find yourself poor. There can be many years of good health for both, but eventually all marriages will have sickness enter in. It isn't shocking that it has happened. The bible tells us it will happen. John 16:33. I Peter 4:12 "*Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you.*"

My Christian wife never left my side. We have spent probably a total of several weeks in various hospitals. She never left me. She slept for weeks in a fold down chair. It wasn't even a little bed. She woke up every two hours as I did, when they came to draw blood or do another procedure. I would beg her to go down to the cafeteria. She would not. She would just pick at my tray since I wasn't eating. She left a few times to go get something to drink and snack on when they were going to wheel me away for test. I was in isolation, so no one could see me. Yet, a couple of churches called and were down in the lobby. She would go down and pray with them and thank them and then immediately return. The greatest blessing was her reading the Bible to me throughout the day. She would pray for me. And if I ever felt like it; we would pray together. She never went back home to get more clothes, but washed a couple of things during the hospital stay.

The worst part - and her greatest expression of mercy- was taking care of me. This is not to denigrate nurses, but we had some very uncaring nurses and techs who probably should seek another line of work. You have to care about people if you are a health care professional. At night, they would never respond to help to the bathroom. Over an hour's wait, and

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

**A Timely Lesson For Men
From God's Word**

by Pastor Don Burke, Breton Creek Baptist Church, Potosi, MO

(Editor's Note: Bro. Burke posted this note on Face Book recently and has given permission for me to print it as I feel it is a lesson all men need to study and use to safeguard their lives.)

Tonight our church Bible Study takes us to the timely, even if somewhat awkward, passage of Proverbs 7. In a time when sexual moors and their Biblical standards are so totally out the window for in our society, this chapter cautions against the "forbidden woman"/adulteress -- in essence the gal who offers herself to the sexual interests of a man to whom she isn't married. Of special note is Vv. 10ff as it describes no less than nine hints that your gal may be the wrong kind of gal to get involved in:

1. She's dressed in a way that stirs a guy's attention to her body. (V. 10)
2. She's motivated by a hidden agenda (V. 10)
3. She's loud-and-proud (V. 11)
4. She disregards her place and her responsibilities (V. 11)
5. She lurks for her target (V. 12)
6. She's brazen (V. 13)
7. She can lie without flinching (V. 13) -- about her relationship with God and her interest in you (Vv. 14-15) -- in order to get you to drop your guard.
8. She is an active and ongoing source of temptation (Vv. 16-18)
9. She assures that you won't get caught (Vv. 19-20)

Men, Take Heed!

**Implications of the
Second Coming of Christ**
II Corinthians 5:10

by Dennis Baker, Brotherhood President

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Could 2016 be the year that Jesus returns? With all the turmoil going on in our country and world, many Bible students are getting excited about the possibility. The Bible speaks of many implications surrounding the Second coming of Christ. However, we will only focus on two: the basis of judgment and the finality of judgment.

All must appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to the he hath done, whether it be good or bad. John 5:28-29, Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. While some might conclude that judgment will be based on good or bad deeds, Jesus indicated that some who claim and even appear to have good deeds would be told to depart. Matthew 7:21-23, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

The standard on which the evaluation will be made is the

Just Suppose...

Just suppose your church membership was good only for one year at a time, and that its renewal depended upon your faithfulness in attendance, stewardship and service. Would you retain your membership?

Just suppose the membership was limited to those who would give a valid, written excuse for absences. Would your absences be acceptable?

Just suppose some parents could look into the future and see the dreadful results of neglecting teaching and discipline. Would they be different parents?

Just suppose people were as enthusiastic about church events as they are about sporting events. Would there not be a marked difference in the life of the church?

Just suppose you were called upon to explain why your church should continue your name on its membership roll. Could you do it?

Just suppose every member of the church attended as often as you. Would you need more seating, or would the building be closed and put up for sale?

Just suppose then that we stop supposing and renew our dedication to the high calling of Jesus Christ. Our attendance and stewardship would increase sharply.

As we come to the time of the year when we consider together the nature of our Christian lives and plan toward the coming year, it is something to think about.

North Hills, Sherwood, AR

revealed will of God. John 12:48, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." Even those who have not heard the law will be judged; "For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law," Romans 2:12.

Once judgment is passed, the judgment will be permanent and irrevocable. The

• **ODDS From Page 5** •

me to be happy. God loves me and wants me to be happy so he's okay with whatever makes me happy". If you examine this philosophy closely you will see it as nothing more than humanism with a religious tint. Our attitude toward sin is: God forgets our sins and we should too. --Wrong--. God does forget our sins, putting them as far as east is from west, but we are commanded to be of a contrite spirit (someone who has a deep regret over their sins) [Isaiah 57: 15]. We cannot have a contrite spirit if we forget our sins as fast as we commit them.

When I was growing up I was taught the Biblical truth that if we live in God's will and endeavor to be holy, God will bless our lives. We sang the hymn, "early let us seek thy favor, early let us do thy will." We were also taught the Biblical truth that God loves his children, but we didn't stop there, we finished the verse: " [and] As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." The false message of today is "God loves you unconditionally, just like you are, no reason to change, don't be zealous, don't repent." Even the music we sing is written first person, positive. The old hymns were 3rd person ("Jesus paid it all...") or first person, but negative ("I once was lost in sin..."). Modern music is almost all written in first person, positive ("I will praise you..."; "I will love you...") This is reflective of humanism, again with a religious tint. It certainly does nothing to call us to repentance, contrition or humility.

It's true nothing can separate a saved person from God's love. Once saved, God's love is unconditional. However, the focus of Christian growth should not be on keeping what we can't lose (God's love), but instead on seeking God's favor through a holy lifestyle. When my children were younger, whether it was getting a home run on the baseball field or bringing home a good report card, nothing seemed to bring them more joy than pleasing their father. The same is true of a Christian. God commands us to be holy (not happy), and being holy brings a Christian happiness. So why are Churches today preaching personal happiness, and not personal holiness? Because preaching holiness would have to include a call to change our unholy lifestyle and that doesn't sell today. We are at odds with God.

We are at odds with God, only because we have chosen to be at odds with God. But, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Our national survival is not based on how well we will get along with those who oppose us. Our survival will be determined by our willingness to humble ourselves and pray, seek God's face, and turn from our wickedness. Let's face our sins before time runs out for us and our country.

**First Quarter Financial Report
Missouri Missionary Baptist
October 2015 - December 2015**

Balance: October 1, 2015	\$ 107.62
Receipts:	\$ 8,362.42
Total Available:	\$ 8,470.04
Disbursements	\$(5,608.87)
Balance: December 31, 2015	\$ 2,861.17

Please note: Without the \$ 5,000. donation from Missions in October we would now be over \$ 2,000. in the RED. We MUST have the support of more churches this quarter or we will have to borrow money to keep printing the paper after March!

saved and the unsaved will be sent away to their respective final places. There is no hint that the verdict can be changed. Jesus concluded His teaching about the last judgment by saying, "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal," Matthew 25:46.

If Jesus does return in 2016 will you be ready?

Where Is The Ark?

It is not surprising to welcome a new year with snow and freezing temperatures; but with record flooding is not so common. The temperature is hovering around the freezing level but without the snow or ice. Instead with much flooding all around the area.

Almost constant rain for nearly a week ended about the time the temperatures dropped. This followed a time of rain north of us causing the Meramec River to already be in flood mode. Local rain therefore pushed the flood level higher with cresting expected to be sometime in the afternoon of New Year's Eve.

I have included a picture taken from the parking lot of Zion Missionary Baptist Church showing the flood waters across



the street.

Perhaps the most often shown picture on television of the flood is a view from the air of the intersection of Highway 141 and Interstate 44. Other floods have closed 141 going under 44, but I don't remember it covering the interstate both east and west of 141.

At the moment of this writing about a ten mile stretch of the interstate between the intersection at Valley Park to Eureka is closed due to intermittent flooding.

Due to about 185 other road closings around the state, travel has been quite a problem. Another major closing was Interstate 55 just north of the bridge at Arnold. One person reported going home to House Springs from work in St. Louis took ten and a half hours for the normal 45 minute commute.

Also many of those traveling home from the Alive Student Conference at the Double Tree hotel in Chesterfield spent extra time on the road. Bea Evans reported that their normal hour and a half travel time back to Stony Point in Mineral Point took nine hours.

Update: Saturday, January 2 - Major roads back open - hwy 141 is still believed to be closed in areas. Some streets to Zion still flooded.

Norma Womble Via Zion Baptist Church Newsletter

I Mashed My FOB in Church

by Tony Cleaver

Let me start at the beginning before I got to the fob mashing at church. I recently traded my older pickup for a newer model. When the eager salesman brought the truck to the driveway, I asked for the key in order to test drive it.

"Sir, this pickup does not have a key."

"Then how do you start it?"

"Sir, it has a fob."

"What's a fob?"

The salesman who looked like he would celebrate his first birthday as an adolescent smugly held up what looked like a cocoon of some chrysalis process and proudly (yes, it was in a condescending manner) announced to me this thing he called a fob would do all I needed to drive this new model pickup. I took the thing called fob.

"Where do you stick it in to start it?"

"Sir, you don't have to stick it anywhere. Just have it in

your pocket. The pickup knows you have your fob on you."

"OK so I have my fob on me. Does the pickup then know I want it to start?"

"Sir, you have to press the start button."

"Where is the start button?"

"It's right there by the steering wheel."

I pressed the start button. Nothing happened.

"Sir, you have to have your foot on the brake pedal before you press the button."

Well, to conclude this fobic saga, let's just say before I drove the pickup out of the dealer's lot, I had to have a lot more lessons on "The Fob."

Now, let's switch to the church last Sunday. Keep all this fob business in mind. Obviously you are already way ahead of me in my telling this story. I was pulpit guest at a small rural church. You have heard of the old direction giving cliché of: "You can't get there from here." Well, this particular rural church is not on any GPS, Google map, or even US Department of Interior satellite information. You have to know where it is. You will not get there by accident.

The moderator for the service announced, "We are glad to have our pulpit guest this Sunday. He will speak now. By the way we are all hearing a horn honking outside. Mrs. Jones tells me it is a newer model pickup truck parked under the big oak tree."

Yes, when I stood up to speak, I had several things in my pocket. It must have activated the fob. I had mashed my fob in church. I quickly excused myself to go outside to take care of the horn honking that was clearly audible even to the lady with two hearing aids who had told the moderator about the annoying horn.

When I came back in, everyone was aware of my fob mashing. In order to save a little piece of my dignity, I announced I bought the pickup from a dealer of another denomination, and the horn was programmed to go off at a certain time if the service was not concluded. That way they

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 in three consecutive issues unless the editor is otherwise instructed.

Joseph Duckworth, a member of Kewanee missionary baptist church is available for Preaching or however the Lord leads. Contact him at 573-521-8039. -10-

Rocky Houston, a member of Kewanee missionary Baptist church is available for pulpit supply or as the Lord leads. Contact him at 573-521-6385. -10-

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. -10-

Brad Akers of Belgrade, is available for pulpit supply or as the Lord leads. Contact him 573-766-1405 or 573-701-1850 or by e-mail at bakers001@centurytel.net -10-

Denver Page, a member of Landmark Baptist Church in DeSoto is available for pulpit supply as God leads. He can be contacted by home phone 636-942-3503 or cell phone 314-283-7243. -12-

Richard Smith, from Matthews, is available for pulpit supply or however the Lord leads. Contact him at 573-931-0455 or through his Pastor, Chris Polk at 573-380-1975. -1-

James Hoffmann, is available for pulpit supply. Contact him at 314-277-8644 or by e-mail at jmhoff@charter.net. -1-

• ARK From Page 6 •

then I would wake her up to help me with my IV poles etc.... When I was really sick (and I will spare you all the details) it was my wife who put clean gowns on me and got down on her knees and cleaned the floors. She was vigilant in asking what meds they were giving me, and a few times they were wrong and she saved me. She would put a wash cloth on my head. After several days of no water, she fed me ice chips. She never quit. But most importantly- and please read this carefully - she never complained! God loves a cheerful giver. Do all things without murmurings and disputings. She just gave me unconditional love, and an outpouring of mercy. Since I am not able to work now, the richer or poorer vow, has entered the poorer side. She has never complained one time. She and I both know God will meet all our needs. Philippians 4:19. But it helps me as the head of the house for her not to ever bring anything about that up. So when we were happy on our wedding day and said for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health; I have seen it put into action by a woman of faith. Don't give up on your family. Don't pull away or leave. Cry out to God and ask Him to give you an outpouring of his love and mercy and strength and help your partner. That is the real test for the strength of a marriage. And all the people around will give glory to God when you let your light so shine before men that they see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

I want to finish by saying thanks Sharon, my bride; you have shown me Jesus.

could beat the other congregations in town to the café. Listening to the muffled giggles, I felt this explanation satisfied the crowd.

I have several life lessons learned about "The Fob." The most important one is: Don't mash your fob in a country church before you get up to preach.