

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

“Holding Forth The Word of Life”

Philippians 2:16

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God Created Man and God Created Marriage:

A White Paper by the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary Faculty
April 2015

During the August 2014 meeting of the Baptist Missionary Association of America’s (BMA) Coordinating Council, Dr. John Adams presented a report on behalf of the Moral Action Agency. The report included a sobering description of current trends that contradict biblical teaching on marriage. The council discussed the issue and requested that faculty of the BMA Seminary compose wording for a proposed amendment to the BMA Doctrinal Statement that articulated both scriptural teaching and the persistent belief of BMA churches regarding the institution of marriage. Following consultation with Moral Action’s executive director, the seminary faculty adjusted a prior statement, Article IIIC, and prepared a new statement, Article IIID, for the council’s consideration. Chairman Ed Stephenson presented the statements to Springhill Baptist Church, Greenbrier, Arkansas, for approval. Subsequently, Springhill Baptist Church chose to recommend that the BMA adopt the statements during its annual 2015 meeting as an amendment to the association’s Doctrinal Statement.

In addition to preparing recommended statements, the seminary faculty has prepared a formal exposition of Article IIIC and Article IIID for the purpose of clarifying the intent of each statement for BMA leaders and laypersons. Article III of the BMA

Doctrinal Statement rightly recognizes God as Creator of the world, angels, and man. The proposed changes to Section C attempt to update the article’s language and affirm biblical teaching related to the origin of human life. The new statement, Section D, attempts to affirm biblical teaching that clearly establishes God’s original and permanent intention for marriage to occur within the exclusive bounds of a monogamous heterosexual relationship. When taken as a whole, the BMA Doctrinal Statement reflects the inherent dignity of all individuals while addressing the realities and consequences of human depravity and the blessings of God’s mercy and grace. Such a view undergirds the heart of the paper. The authors hope that readers will recognize marriage as a blessing from God, bound by His principles and purposes, to both the joy of individuals and honor to Him.

Although the revision to Article III retains the current language of “man” and introduces the term “humankind” to Sec-

tion C, the major revision deals with the addition of the phrase “every person from conception.” In brief, BMA Seminary faculty concluded and affirmed the long-held belief of BMA churches that “the Bible teaches clearly that a person’s life begins in the womb.” Biblical passages such as Genesis 25:22, Exodus 21:22, Job 10:8-12, 31:13-15, Jeremiah 1:5, Hosea 12:2-3, Matthew 1:18-2, Luke 1:39-44, Romans 9:11, and Galatians 1:15 include both direct and implied references to the unborn as children filled with emotional capacity and called by God for specific purposes in life. Although the term “conception” does not appear in Psalm 139, the scripture’s teaching about fetus and embryo from the beginning stages is consistent with the idea of life beginning at conception and speaks unequivocally of life in the womb. Psalm 51:5 may also support this by acknowledging the inherent sinfulness of David at conception although the passage’s primary purpose is not a theological statement. Such passages clearly demonstrate the presence of life and personhood in the womb from the earliest of stages.

Being made in God’s image necessitates inherent dignity and worth and merits the respect of all other persons. The key biblical passage speaking to the uniqueness of human beings is found in Genesis 1:26-27, which locates their inherent dignity and worth in their design pattern. Genuine respect for others should always demonstrate God’s mercy and obedience to Christ’s teachings of how to treat those with whom one disagrees (Luke 6:27-38).

Proposed Article IIID also affirms the long-held belief of BMA churches that God created marriage and intended it

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Overflow Hotel To Honor Price

The University Plaza hotel has booked all of our reserved rooms in Springfield. The overflow hotel is The Holiday Inn & Suites, 2720 N Glenstone Avenue Springfield, MO 65803. Their phone number is 417.865.8600. The Holiday Inn is honoring the price of \$99 per night. Be sure to identify that you are with the Baptist Missionary Association of America. If you have any problem contact one of the Committee on Arrangements.

Leon Carmical, James Ray Raines, Jackie Manasco

(Editor’s Note: For more information on the national meeting, including committee contact information, visit the rotating ads on the Baptist Trumpet website: www.baptisttrumpet.com.)

[The Baptist Trumpet is the weekly publication of the churches of the BMA of Arkansas]

BMA Theological Seminary Press Release February 20, 2015

Seminary Dinner

Everyone is cordially invited to the annual BMA Seminary Friends Dinner on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. at the annual meeting of the BMA of America. The 2015 dinner will be in the Oklahoma-Illinois rooms at the University Plaza (headquarters) Hotel in Springfield, MO. The cost of the dinner will be \$25 per person. Each attendee will receive a special gift specifically designed for this occasion.

The 2015 Kellar Award will be presented to Brother Jeff Swart. Brother Swart is the twelfth Kellar Award recipient. This award, named in honor of the late Dr. Gerald Kellar, the founding president of BMA Seminary, recognizes a seminary alumnus for outstanding contributions in ministry typifying the legacy of Dr. Kellar.

Kellar Award Honoree

The Kellar Award honoree will be Brother Jeff Swart, a native of Girard, KS and the son of the late William L. and Evelyn Gaston Swart. He is married to Debbie Boore Swart, a native of Radley, KS. They have three children: Josh; Andy and wife, Carman; and Rachel and husband, Jonathan. They have four grandchildren: Laine, Ellie, Copeland, and Easley. Brother Swart and his wife live in Galena, KS, where he has been Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church since 2009.

Brother Swart has earned a B.A. in Sociology and Political Science from Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, KS, an M.A. in Professional Counseling from Liberty University, Lynch-

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Brother Jeff Swart

+++ NEWS BRIEFS +++

Briar, Doniphan, reports that the weather here has kept us “old folks” at home some but God is good—He’s always good! The Youth in the Harvest was held here on February 18th. There were at least, 59 folks in attendance. What a blessing to see our church pews filled! The Vice-President Bro. Dylan Brown lead the business session. Then, Bro. John and Sis. Hannah lead the youth in several fun games—with lots of laughter and encouragement. The winning teams of each game were rewarded with access to the candy bowl so they worked together hard and well. Bro. John then gave an invitation on “You Can’t Stop the Kingdom.” It was a message to remind both young and old that God’s will can not be suppressed. We are to keep working to spread the good news. We had one young man, Fred, who came in during the last of this message and asked to be prayed for and accepted the Lord! Like I said earlier—God is good! The next YIH will be held at Zalma MBC on March 13th. Since the foul weather canceled the 3rd Sunday singing at Briar, it was rescheduled for March 15th. We look forward to some great singing and fellowship. Our Quilting Club meets every 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month. The 2nd Saturday begins at 9 a.m. and the 4th at 1 p.m. Hopefully, this weather will be gone and our meetings will continue on schedule. Come join us even if you’re like me and can’t quilt a stitch! The fellowship is worth the visit. Till next time—God bless and Keep Looking Up!

John Carpenter, Pastor • Phyllis Williams, Reporter

We, at **Bethany, St. Louis,** are wondering, “Where did the month of February go?” We woke up to a very snowy March 1st and cancelled morning services. We were able to have evening services. The Hoffmann’s took a week off the last week of February and Bro. Todd Walters and his family were with us the 22nd and blessed us with God’s Word. Bro. Todd is a young preacher from Bethel Baptist church, Lonedell, and is seeking God’s will in his ministry. Please keep him in your prayers. Please continue to keep Bro. Harliss Cooper in your prayers as he gets stronger after having a pace maker put in. He has been unable to attend services due to the extreme cold and we miss him. Sis. Brenda Schwaderer is improving and we covet your prayers on her behalf. We have several shut-ins that cannot come for services but we know they lift Bethany up in prayer. February 22nd was also mission Sunday. If you cannot support your missionaries financially then we ask that you use your calendar’s and pray for them daily. We should be doing this anyway, but sometimes we need a boost! We look forward to sunshine, warmer weather, and growth in the Lord. God bless and we will chat with you next month. May God bless and keep everyone safe.

James Hoffmann pastor • Kathy Chapman, reporter

Landmark, DeSoto, writes that it seems that we do not have a lot to report other than so much sickness among our members. Bro. Denby and Bro. Page both had surgeries in January and are both doing well. As most churches do, we have a prayer chain. It has been so active these last two or three months, sometimes 2-3 calls a day. Bro. Bowerman fell and bruised himself considerably, but is healing pretty well. Like other churches in the area, we’ve had weather related closures. Also, on the coldest Sunday morning, our bus didn’t run to pick up the kids, and quite a few of our adults didn’t make it out either, so we had quite a small group. We are studying in I Timothy and have one more chapter before moving on to II Timothy in our Wednesday night Bible Study. We are soon going to be having a prayer meeting on random Wednesday nights. We have so very much to take to the Lord in prayer with many requests and many blessings for which we are so very

thankful. We offer the condolences of Landmark to two of our members in the death of their sister, Janet Thomas, Sis. Betty Harrison and Sis. Jackie Couch. There was a memorial service at Landmark for her February 7th. It was well attended as this is a large family, but the thing that impressed everyone was when one of the granddaughter’s read a eulogy that she had written about her grandmother. We are looking forward to milder weather and being able to get out more. Til next month or the Lord’s Return,

Wayne Gibson, pastor
Sharon Page, reporter

Bates Creek, Potosi, sends Spring greetings to all of the sister churches. Our WMA is rejoicing in the fact that once again God provided for our small group. We recently held our Silent Auction with the best outcome yet. I believe that Sis. Fay Simpson’s baked goods took some of the highest bids with Sis. Brenda Huddleston’s right on her heels. A good time was had by all. Our WMA is also excited about a new community project that will benefit our local pregnancy resource center in Potosi. On a different note, we have had one of our younger members join the Marines. We ask that you join us in prayer for Bro. Gavin Wright along with his parents, grandparents, and siblings. Bro. Gavin is currently stationed in California for basic training. Finally, we end with God blessing our congregation again. Bro. Dustin Crocker and wife, Katrina will be welcoming a new baby girl in to their family soon. God is good...all the time.

J.C. Huddleston, pastor
Sara Buckley, Reporter

Greetings from **Lighthouse, Malden.** Psalm 116:15 says, “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.” We have had to say, “Goodnight; we will see you in the morning,” to three

precious ladies in our church family recently. Our dear sister, Darlene Pyles, went to bed Sunday night, February 1 and went home to be with the Lord in the early hours of February 2 while sleeping in her bed. We had her memorial service February 14 at Lighthouse. A few months ago, I officiated the graveside service of her daughter, Heather, also. Please keep Sis. Darlene’s son, and Heather’s brother, Josh in your prayers. We, then had one of our charter members, Sis. Ruby Cook, go home to be with the Lord February 16 from her home. Because of the snow and ice, we could not have her funeral service, which was held at Landess Funeral Chapel here in Malden, until February 24. Sis. Ruby and her family, the Cooks and Coopers, were instrumental in starting our church over 40 years ago. Please remember these families in your prayers. Both of these ladies are dearly missed. The weather and sicknesses of our people have us looking springtime.

Because He lives,
Randy Zinn, Pastor

Greetings from **First, Potosi,** to our brothers and sisters in Christ. What a month February has been trying to get in all the church activities. UPWARD has had to cancel practices, postpone games, and change celebration night while AWANA has been trying to get ready for their Grand Prix car races. Even our Friends Day that we always have on the first Sunday in March had to be postponed until March 8. Even with bad weather, our men have continued their study on Sunday nights at 5:00. Hopefully, the bad weather will stop, and meetings and activities will continue. May the Lord bless you in your endeavors for our Lord.

Jim Ainley, Assistant Pastor • Deborah Rauhut, reporter

Greetings from **Bethlehem, Doniphan!** Oops, I was so busy with my personal life last month that I forgot to send in the newsletter. So I apologize to everyone for this. We have had to close church several times in the last two months due to the weather. As always we have been able to attend the Youth in The Harvest programs. And we have truly enjoyed each of them. If you didn’t attend the last Youth in The Harvest at

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All preachers should be sure of what they say. Someone in the audience might be listening!!

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FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS • February 2015

General Fund:

Balance January 31, 2015		\$	19,489.72
January Receipts:	\$	<u>1,699.82</u>	\$ <u>1,699.82</u>
Total Available		\$	21,189.54
Disbursements:			
Director's Salary	\$	900.00	
Director's Travel Expenses	\$	<u>369.60</u>	
Total Disbursements	\$	1,269.60	\$ <u>1,269.60</u>
Balance February 28, 2015		\$	19,919.94

Savings:

Certificate of Deposit	\$	67,217.55	
Certificate of Deposit	\$	22,993.90	
ING Direct Savings	\$	<u>21,149.01</u>	
Total in CD's:	\$	101,265.54	

From Our Mission Director...

I read the sad story the other day of a 26 year old flight attendant who was fired from her job for posing for Playboy Magazine. What was interesting was the reason for doing something that would cost her job. She stated that she had a lung disease that would require surgery and that the outcome was not good. She decided to pose for the magazine so the world would remember her.

The world is filled with people who desperately wish to be remembered. Many are inclined to build monuments to themselves in one way or another. This is why the account of Babel, found in Genesis chapter 11, is so important for us. It exposes the underlying cause for building monuments.

And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." Genesis 11:4

What lessons are in this story for us today?

1) Man's plans will never thwart God's purposes.

God had commanded mankind to "fill the earth." Man preferred to cloister rather than to comply with God's command to spread out. In spite of man's greatest efforts, God's purposes prevailed.

2) Unity is not the highest good, but purity and obedience to the Word of God.

At first glance, we may commend the people for wanting to be of one voice and to be together in one place. Unity is a great virtue. Psa 133:1 states, "BEHOLD, HOW good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity"

This is a good thing, but the Bible also says: in Amos 3:3, "Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?" Ecumenism is the watch word of religion today, but it is a unity at the cost of truth. Some regard unity as a goal worthy of any sacrifice. God does not.

3) The Word of God, and not the works of our hands, is the only thing worthy of our faith.

The men of Babel began to look at work as the cure rather than the curse. They believed that the work of their hands could assure them of some kind of immortality beyond the grave. Here, I suspect, is the driving force behind many a workaholic. He cannot ever rest because he (or she) is never certain that a large enough monument has been built. Human endeavor is never satisfying, never fulfilling. Only work which is done for

the Lord and in His strength brings lasting satisfaction.

The work of missions and church planting is labor that can bring satisfaction to our hearts for we know it is the great burden of our Lord. When we give of ourselves to the cause of sharing the gospel with the world, we are content with making our Savior famous and the Kingdom of God larger.

• **SWART From Page 1** •
burg, VA, and an M.R.E. from Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, TX.

Brother Swart has been in full-time Christian ministry for forty years and has served as a North American Church Planter in Nevada, MO; Dean of Students at Jacksonville College, Jacksonville, TX; Assistant to the Director of Foreign Missions for the BMA of America; an English speaker for Lifeword Media Ministries; a church growth consultant for DiscipleGuide; and he has pastored churches in Kansas, Missouri, Texas and Arkansas. He has also served as an adjunct instructor at various Bible colleges, institutes, and seminaries and has spoken in 35 countries around the world.

Brother Swart is the author of The Church Planting

Daniel Springs Camp

Exciting things are happening in East Texas.

by Jason Prewitt,
Camp Director



Jason Prewitt,
Daniel Springs Camp Director

Daniel Springs is an exciting place to be. We were blessed to host the 2015 Frontline Pre-Teen Winter Camp for 4th thru 6th graders over the weekend of February 20-22. Counting staff members and attendees, we had about 130 on the campus. It was a boot-camp-themed program with a focus on Micah 6:8. We are proud of the eight pre-teens who accepted Christ as their personal Savior.

Can you believe that this summer, Daniel Springs will celebrate fifty years of partnering with churches in ministry? We are currently finalizing details for the busy and amazing summer season. All the planning (determining camp themes, working on Bible study materials and interviewing and hiring summer staff) makes for a busy winter and spring.

We are still taking applications for summer staff, so if you know a college student who wants to be used in ministry this summer by helping lead worship, Bible studies or recreation, send them our way.

Summer will be here before we know it, so look on the website to pick your week to come to camp. You don't want to miss it! Check out the summer staff application and summer schedule at www.danielspringscamp.com.



Diane & Doug Lee

Philippine Missionaries on Furlough

DOUG AND DIANE LEE have been serving as your BMA missionaries in the Philippines for 3 years.

We are seeking churches interested in partnering with us and our work in the Philippines. For the month of April, we are taking appointments. We are excited to share our unique music ministry with your church or association meeting. Please call 601-427-0128 or e-mail us at doug@musicervicesinc.com.

Bro. Lee sent the following message to the *Missouri Missionary Baptist* readers:

"We will be in your area the weekends before and after the National BMA meeting in Springfield and would love to visit with and present our work to some of the Missouri churches."

Model, which is being used around the world to teach lay people how to plant New Testament churches.

Brother Swart currently serves as Moderator of the BMA of Kansas and Western Missouri, as Chairman of the BMAA Missions Advisory Committee, and the Second Vice-President of the BMA of America.

§To make reservations for the Seminary Dinner, contact Carol Shine at 800-259-5673 or president@bmats.edu.

BMA of Missouri Meetings

The Missions Symposium will be Friday evening, May 15, 2015 and the Mid-year Meeting will be Saturday morning May 16, 2015 at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Poplar Bluff. Watch for the program and other details to be printed.

Family Ark Ministries

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Don't Live a Junk Filled Life

Most folks have a “junk drawer” in their kitchen. It contains parts, do-dads and thing-a-majigs that you may really need someday. Ha. Some other people even have what they call their “junk room.” This room collects all the priceless valuables you just can't seem to let go of. You say, “There is just no way I could ever part with that. It can't go in the garage sale. I will just put it in the junk room for the time being.” Right! Of course, living up here in the hills of Arkansas, some people are so blessed with so much junk; that it can't even all fit into their junk room so it spills out all over their front yard. The entire world can drive by and see a virtual cornucopia of plentiful junk that the Lord has blessed them with. It's not even for a season. It remains forever in the front yard. “I can't part with my 1946 Packard car. It's not junk. It's a little rusty, but we may need the parts someday.” Eventually, your junk drawer fills up so that you can hardly open it. Or you may have to spend a Saturday cleaning out your garage, your basement or your junk room because you have run out of room. You have to chunk your junk because there is too much of it.

This junk craze can even apply to us emotionally and spiritually. All of us need to periodically evaluate ourselves and our journey. Part of life's journey is to occasionally chunk the junk on the journey. You can let thoughts, feelings, remembrances, labels from others and circumstances of the past build up inside of you till it actually starts defining who you are. It starts effecting how you behave as a person. And this is all junk. Someone else gave it to you. Someone else put it on you. Satan tells you that you just can't part with it. He reminds you of what a terrible sinner you are, so hold on for a few more years to those feelings of inadequacy that you allowed others to pour inside of your spirit. It sometimes is referred to as emotional baggage by therapist. I just call it junk in your head and heart.

There is also spiritual junk. Spiritual junk is stuff you allow (half-truths and lies) to stay in your head and heart and you soak it up into your soul as part of your spiritual journey. You may not even be aware of all of the wrong thinking you have in your head and heart. It has taken years for it to be in there, and it won't be easy to change the way you think. However, it can be done. You have to recognize the lies that have been told to you along life's journey. You have to mentally reject these lies. Tell yourself that it is not true about you. Then, you have to replace the lies with truth which only comes from what

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“to be the inseparable and exclusive union between a male and female (i.e., a natural man and a natural woman).” Psalm 24:1-2 teaches that everything and everyone belongs to God because He created them. Creating all things automatically establishes God as owner of what He created and affirms the reality that all of creation, including human beings, must submit to His authority. The Lord responded to a question from the Pharisees related to marriage that clearly demonstrated His belief in creation, in a Creator, and in the Genesis account of creation found in the Bible, “Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female. And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?” (Matthew 19:4-5). In this passage, Jesus referred to Genesis 2:23 and quoted from Genesis 2:24. Because God created both humans and marriage, humans must recognize themselves as accountable to His intent for marriage.

Genesis 2:24-25 identifies the special and exclusive relationship of the adult human male and female, joined together as husband and wife (Gen 2:24, 25), as the most fundamental and basic human relationship. This relationship is said to have been designed directly by God and serves as the sole basis for a distinct family unit in perpetuity (Gen 2:24, 25; Gen 4:1, 17) and is even intended to be interminable except under specific, extreme circumstances (Matt 19:8). These passages declare that God's reason for creating male and female finds its ultimate purpose in the ability of male and female to become one flesh. The concept of one flesh includes physical (i.e., sexual), spiritual, mental, and emotional components. While some may argue for the possibility of such oneness outside the bounds of the monogamous heterosexual union, such argu-

ments simply lack legitimate support from the Bible.

A marriage is to be comprised of a biological (i.e., “natural”) man and woman. Because of the brokenness of creation as a whole, and the human race in particular, humans made in God's image sometimes face difficult disorders of sexuality which call for great compassion and sensitivity among God's people. First, there are some who perceive themselves to be the opposite gender in spite of their physical sexual characteristics (i.e., a biological male identifies psychologically as a woman, or vice versa). As noted in Article IIIC., God has designed the human race to be male and female, and he has prohibited same-sex sexual behavior. Accordingly, Scripture does not make possible the separation of sex and gender as the transgender movement has done. One who is biologically male must strive, by God's redeeming and sanctifying grace, to live as a man, and likewise one who is biologically female must strive to live as a woman—hence the language “a natural man and a natural woman” in the doctrinal statement proposal.

It is important to note that cases of sexual or marital union outside the bounds of a monogamous and heterosexual marriage, even if found in the Bible, simply deviate from God's intention for marriage and should not be considered as examples for living or doctrinal truths. A great deal of thought, study, and debate has gone into the particular wording of these revisions in hopes of presenting well-articulated statements that both reflect biblical teaching and address important issues related to personhood, marriage, and sexuality.

The need for such clarification of biblical teaching, as described in the proposed amendments, comes amidst increasing political and social pressures to accept and promote ideas and actions that violate biblical truths. BMA Seminary faculty has made the entire paper available at <http://bmats.edu/marriage>.

An Open Letter from Moral Action

Dear BMA Churches,

As the proposed amendments to our doctrinal statement are presented via our BMA papers and hopefully adopted at the national meeting in Springfield, MO, we urge every church to adopt these changes by a motion, second, and recorded vote in the church's minutes. This is to be done and recorded by the church to validate the churches' and pastors' stand on Holy marriage.

Legal advice shares that our marriage stand should be simply stated and Biblically backed. This same advice declares a need for a positive position and not to camp on the negative. We Christians know of our positions on divorce, homosexuality, and the L.G.B.T. (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender).

We all know of the Boy Scouts of America resolution to remove the gay restriction in denying membership and the litigation against its Christian Boy Scout leaders who refuse to accept the homosexuals.

We also read of the 70-year-old Barronelle Stutzman who was sued for refusing to provide flowers for a same-sex wedding. There have been numerous lawsuits, according to One News Now, being filed for declining to compromise their conscience by not filling orders for gay/lesbian wedding cakes.

scripture says. You will have to take an action. You are going to have to actually study your Bible on your own.

Some of our junk actually has come from Christians. Some of our junk may have even come from pastors or other leaders in our church where we used to go, or the church we grew up in. There

has been many a messed up Christian because they have believed something that they heard in church years ago that was not true. There are false teachers a-plenty out there. There are wolves in sheep's clothing as well. I think sometimes, preachers don't even realize they are teaching something that cannot

Can churches be forced to perform gay marriages? Eric Johnston, President of the Southeast Law Institute, said that churches may be in for legal challenges over gay marriages. Johnston advises churches that haven't done so to clarify their stance, and to make it Biblical.

So, as the Moral Action's Director, I urge all BMA churches to adopt in writing these proposed Amendments of Creation and Marriage presented by our BMA Seminary faculty. God will see us through!

Respectfully,

Dr. John Adams

“He Has Chosen...” Joshua 24:15

be backed up with scripture. They just say it and repeat what they have always been told. That is why I always give tons of scripture with my points I am making during my teachings. I want people to look it up for themselves. Don't listen to me. Here is the truth in God's Word. Go

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A Challenge to the Meramec Association • Part II

by Pastor Ben Kingston, Bethel Baptist Church • Lonedell, MO

In light of my last letter you may not want to hear from me again, but I hope this paper finds you doing well and enjoying the grace and ministry of our Lord.

I would like to continue the conversation that we began last month about greater involvement in the camp and allowing this to be a catalyst for revival among our churches. (As Bro. Jim pointed out last week, this letter is to our Meramec Association Churches regarding our Meramec Church Camp that will meet July 19-25, 2015.)

Specifically this month, I would like to talk about a greater awareness, understanding, and participation in our camp ministry as a whole. A point of frustration for some of our folks that have rented the camp is that when they get there it looks as if it hasn't been cleaned in 3-4 months and ironically, that is exactly what has happened.

One of the funnier phrases and illustrations in my ministry has been: "what is everybody's business is nobody's business." When somebody doesn't do what is everybody's job, nobody does it and when nobody does it, everybody gets upset. The reality is that a 5-person committee cannot keep a facility like this clean on a monthly basis and that camp (which has been discussed ad nauseum) does not belong to 5 men – it belongs to the association. Therefore, we are asking the association and the individual churches to get involved on a deeper level so that when someone does rent the facility it looks like someone has cleaned it because truly in fact someone has.

So, how do we make this happen? I want to broach the subject today of a liaison approach. I'm asking each Pastor to appoint a liaison to the camp. This person will meet with myself and/or the committee will get on the same page as to the direction we're going and how we are going to get there, will exchange phone numbers, etc. This person will be the liaison between the camp and their church. When we have something we need the church to know, we will get the word out to the liaison. Likewise, when the church needs to get a message to the committee, they would do this through their liaison.

Case in point: the challenge I gave last month for each church to have a sign up sheet and encourage their membership to sign up for a particular night, or as many nights as they can come to worship services at church camp. The liaison would take charge of this list, keep it before the church and, if you will, lovingly hound folks to participate.

One of the things that I try to put in place as Pastor at Bethel is that when I ask you to do something, I'm not asking you to personally do it as much as I'm asking you to see that it gets done. So, if the liaison in your church never does the task themselves, but has that uncanny ability to get someone else to do it for them, that would be a perfect person. Or, if you have someone in your church who just cannot get enough of volunteering and they love to do everything themselves, this person would be a great liaison.

In the next month, I'm asking you, our churches, to please call me (636) 629-2526 with your questions and/or ideas of who would be a good liaison to the camp committee for your church. We will then set up training time, job description, etc.

Just to refresh the challenge from last week: Mikaela Sanders and I are challenging and asking anyone and everyone first and foremost to pray for revival to start in them. Then, if you have a physical need to get in shape, we are asking you to accept that challenge. One of the ways to motivate you to get in shape is to accept the challenge of running 'The Beast' obstacle course this year.

As I write this letter, I have taken a break and reviewed the video of myself running 'The Beast' last year and that me,

Saluting Our Soldiers With The Gospel

by Scott Attebery • Executive Director * DiscipleGuide Ministries

I have never served in the military. However, I have the utmost respect and gratitude for those who put their lives on the line for our nation's freedom. We owe a great debt to our veterans and active-duty servicemen

Brandon, my best friend growing up, is one example. After the attacks on September 11, 2001, he chose to serve in our armed forces. As a college graduate, Brandon could have chosen another path, yet he volunteered to serve our country. Today, he still chooses to serve. I cannot thank him enough.

being in questionable, I ran it in under 2 minutes. Our most in-shape young men and women run the course in just under a minute. So if you're not in shape and want to take up this challenge, for your own health's sake, get prepared! You probably know someone that has done a mud run or something along those lines. I certainly would not put this obstacle course on the same challenging level as those, but I guarantee you will fare better if you take this as a challenge and begin walking, weight training, watching food intake, losing some weight, and preparing on some level. The ultimate goal is to get our bodies to appear on the outside that we are taking very seriously the scripture 1 Corinthians 6:19 "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"

As I was watching this video of a 49 year old man doing something that he possibly shouldn't do, what caught my eye was all the kids that were watching me. Adults, your kids, your grand kids, the kids in your church – they're watching you and they need to. Let's give them an example worth following. May the Lord richly bless you and your church. **Please help us with Jesus Camp.**

Recently, Brandon and I had the opportunity to eat lunch together. In the course of our conversation, he shared an idea for ministering to our veterans and active-duty personnel. Unfortunately, he explained, these men and women often have difficulty transitioning back into life at home. For months or years, he explained, they have lived in a military culture with a different language, routine, structure, and practice. Those who have experienced live combat have been exposed to horrors that the rest of us will never encounter. Many live the rest of their lives with unresolved questions and uncomfortable situations. Many feel as though they will never completely fit in when they return home. Worse, they feel isolated and alone in the struggle.

As a former pastor, I was thankful that he brought up the subject. I shared with Brandon an experience I had Sunday after Sunday when a veteran in our church would approach me with tears and say, "One day I need to come up and visit with you about some things." I knew he was referring to his military experiences in war. And to be honest, the thought of that conversation scared me to death. Why? Because I didn't have any common experiences to reference.

Sadly, many pastors feel the same way and this has led to a "wall of silence" between veterans and pastors when it comes to the difficulties they endure on our behalf. The unfortunate irony is the fact that as ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the message we proclaim holds the only power over the difficulties that plague the souls of our veterans and active personnel.

Sadly, the veteran in our church passed away before we ever had a conversation. At his funeral, I couldn't stop thinking about how many decades he had wrestled with issues that only Christ could

resolve. While their willingness to put their lives on the line for our freedom reflects the gospel to us, we often do a poor job reflecting the gospel to them.

As ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ, we can do better. Our churches are full of these silent soldiers. Recognizing them during services on holiday weekends, although a good idea, simply isn't enough. Something more needs to be done –and it is long overdue. Our veterans are worth the investment.

Brandon's idea prompted several other conversations with friends who serve as chaplains, counselors, and VA social workers. Each of them has expressed similar concerns and a desire to change the culture of our churches.

Recently, I gathered some of these folks together and we began to discuss ways that we can help churches become "Military Friendly Congregations." After all, military families may be the most overlooked group of hurting people in the church today.

I am seeking your feedback. Whether you are a pastor, veteran, active-duty service man or woman, or a family member of someone who has served our country, would you please send me feedback to help us gather ideas? Perhaps you can share more of the struggles veterans and military personnel face. Maybe you can share examples of how other churches and ministries are helping. Or, perhaps you could just let me know if you agree that this is a legitimate need in our churches.

E-mail:
scott@discipleguide.org
Phone: 501-358-3847

**Are You
DEWing
it?
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Every Week
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A little from everyone
adds up to Great
BLESSINGS!!**

WMA & GMA NEWS

Articles for this column

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2015 National WMA Meeting and Minister Wives & Widows lunch

WMA Meeting

I want to encourage all of our ladies (WMA or not) from Missouri to make plans to attend the National Women's Missionary Auxiliary meeting April 21, 2015 and receive numerous blessings.

Our meeting will be in the ILLINOIS Room of the University Plaza Hotel and Convention Center.

- Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m.
- Meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m..
- We will take care of business in a timely manner.
- We will be blessed and encouraged to hear from a few aspects of our auxiliary work.
- We will be blessed to hear special music from Grace Etabag, Doug & Diane Lee from the Philippines.
- We will be blessed to hear former WMA President Pat Quesenbury speak to us.
- We will dismiss on time.

Pastor's Wives & Widow's Lunch

For the Pastor Wives and Widows, you are invited to a special lunch in your honor at 12:15 p.m. in the COLORADO B Room. You do not want to miss this!!

The TABLEROCK ROOM, will be used as a "Cry room" for small children for the morning of April 21st.

At this time I am not sure if it will be staffed.

All of these rooms as well as rest room facilities are clustered together in the complex, so you will not have to walk very far.

I want to thank the Committee on Arrangements of the BMA of American as well as the staff from the University Plaza Hotel and Convention Center for accommodating our requests in making these plans.

Janet Widger, President • WMA of BMAA

One Last Prayer From You...

A prayer of praise and Hallelujah to the good Lord who saved us...

Editor's Note: The following article appeared in the March 2015 issue of *The Baptist Herald* concerning the wonderful power of God as displayed in a family who are members of First Baptist Church in Galena, Kansas. It should cause all of us to Rejoice and Praise God!!

Jeremy and Danielle Layman regularly attend First Baptist Church in Galena, Kansas, along with their four daughters and they have more than once witnessed the miraculous hand of their Heavenly Father at work in their lives. The couple met in 2007, on a beach in Eilat while Jeremy was on a two-week leave between deployments to Iraq and Kuwait. They mar-

ried in 2010, and on June 24, 2013, Jeremy, the only father Danielle's eldest daughter has ever really known, adopted Amber legally in a court in Kansas. The August issue of the Baptist Herald introduced you to the family with an article written by Danielle titled, "Happy art thou, O Israel" and also stated that the family would be returning to Israel on August 31, 2014, to visit Danielle's parents and other family members while her husband, Jeremy, would be stationed in Afghanistan. Their daughter, Amber, planned to continue her education via internet by having her teachers send assignments and homework to her from Kansas. However, once the family arrived in Israel they were met with unforeseen obstacles as described in the October 2014 issue of the Baptist Herald.

Amber's biological father's parental rights had been stripped from him by court order for failing to assume his paternal duties to seek the best interest of his child. Israel updated Amber's records in accordance with the Hague International Convention, recognizing Jeremy as her father, and Amber's parents were reassured by their lawyer that it was safe for them to take the long overdue trip to Israel. However, once Danielle and her children arrived, the rabbinical court of Israel grabbed hold of Amber, effectively telling her parents, "You may go back home, but you'll have to give up your daughter to do so. She's staying here." The court re-fused to acknowledge the adoption decree because if they did they knew Amber would be raised by her Christian family in a Christian lifestyle. Therefore, Jeremy stopped everything he was doing in Afghanistan and flew immediately to Israel on an emergency leave to defend his daughter in court, but the Rabbis wouldn't even allow him into the court room.

Legally, the rabbinical court had no authority to preside over the case – any question regarding Amber should have been brought before the

court under whose jurisdiction she lived, that being the district court of Cherokee Kansas. But the rabbinical court wouldn't accept it. They wanted to be the ones with the authority because a non-Jewish court would consider the case from the child's best interest perspective, not the father's religious rights, and so the Jewish man would lose and the Christian family would remain intact. Therefore, the rabbinical court found a creative way to get around that legal obstacle – they extended Amber's stop exit order by a year and ordered she be enrolled in a school in Israel. If Amber was held captive in Israel for a long period of time, they could rule that it is her place of residence – which would grant them authority.

Amber's parents turned to government officials, to the Bureau of Consular affairs, to the State Department, the Embassy... they turned to the media, they founded a cause page on Facebook, and they asked every-one to help place political pressure on congressmen, to raise awareness of Amber's situation and most of all – to pray for them. But the situation seemed very gloom... there was no way out of Israel. They were trapped and there was nothing anyone could do to help free Amber. No one except One. Brother Jeff Swart, pastor of First Baptist, in his message the Sunday after the family escaped back to the United States said, "I prayed for them, I said, 'God... you made the blind see... now make the seeing blind.'"

After 4 months of a pointless struggle to free Amber from the tentacles of the rabbinical court, Amber's mom had taken a leap of faith. "We prayed to God for the redemption of captives. We prayed for justice. I asked God to help and I believed He would, but I didn't know how. We just went to the airport and started going through the check points, waiting for the moment someone looked at Amber's passport, ran it through the scanner, and ordered us to turn around and go home because it was flagged that she could not leave the country."

Israel's airport is the most secured in the world (according to Huffington Post). "No country in the world faces more terrorist threats than Israel, and no airport in the world faces more such threats than Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport" – it says online. So how could they possibly miss the fact that Amber was restricted from flight??? "It was nothing short of a miracle. Undenied," Danielle recalls "Amber walked past them, one security check point after another, and they couldn't see her. It was as if she was invisible. Not once was she stopped and asked to show her passport; all the portals were open to her and just as she passed through them – all security personnel just happened to look somewhere else... spacing out into the ceiling. I was there, watching her continuing to walk like a sheep amongst the wolves, and I couldn't believe my eyes."

It is hard to explain how Amber got out of Israel. There is no record of her ever getting out, and at first the rabbinical court assumed she was left in Israel alone when her mother and sisters flew back to the USA, so they declared her a missing child. "When they saw an article in the paper rejoicing because Amber was home, they demanded that I explain how I got her out. I wrote to them: 'God himself stepped in and helped my little girl. He would not allow for your evil plan to rip her from her parents' loving arms and leave her stranded as a homeless orphan in a strange country. She is HIS daughter first and foremost!'" I wrote very harsh words. They said nothing after that. Shahar, Amber's biological father didn't say anything after that either. Good prevailed again.

To all the wonderful people who prayed incessantly on Amber and her parents' behalf, the family would like to thank you, and make one more request. "We are so grateful to you for all your prayers. They were answered; it is so good to be back home. **But we do need one last prayer from you... a prayer of praise and Hallelujah to the good Lord who saved us... it is so good to be home and to have our family whole again.**"

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

Encouragement in Historical Beliefs

by Dennis Baker, Brotherhood President

No one in the BMA of Missouri would dare question the Old and New Testament Scriptures as being the only rule of faith for the believer and the New Testament church. The Scriptures contain our doctrinal position on the important subjects of salvation, the church, and the life of the believer after salvation. The Scriptures provide comfort in the time of sorrow. The Scriptures teach us where man came from and why there is sin in the world. The Scriptures contain the only plan for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The Scriptures provide hope for both the life we now live and life after death. The Scripture are relevant for today's family and society as a whole. There is nothing that can replace the Bible in the life of the believer and the church. The church's mission is found in the Bible. The church's ordinances are found in the Bible. Instructions for church leadership are found in God's Word. Without the Bible the believer and the local church would be without direction and preachers would have no message to preach. Our entire belief system is found in the written Word of God.

I take comfort in that Baptist history reveals that the Bible has always been the rule and practice of the Lord's churches. The New Testament contains the history of the early church. A study of Baptist history demonstrates that there were churches that continued to practice the New Testament pattern.

There were two ordinances in the primitive churches, baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism was an outward confession of faith in Jesus Christ. They expressed a belief in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and a subsequent resurrection of all believers. They believed that the conditions for church membership were repentance, faith, righteousness, and the initiatory rite of baptism, which was symbolical of the changed life. They did not practice infant baptism, since infants are incapable of faith, which always, in the New Testament, is a prerequisite to baptism. They believed that Jesus organized the first church and that the Lord's churches will continue to operate on the earth until Jesus returns. The early churches were missionary bodies. They were obedient to the Lord's commission to preach the Gospel to the world.

I am encouraged that the historical beliefs that have been practiced by believers who were persecuted by fire and sword are still relevant for our generation. I am thankful that in every age Baptist has been advocates of liberty for all, and has held that the Gospel of the Son of God makes every man a free man in Christ Jesus.

Announcement
4th Annual Men's Spring Retreat
Camp Garwood
Located between Piedmont and Van Buren, MO.

Friday, May 1 and Saturday May 2, 2015

Make plans to attend and enjoy a time of fellowship, spiritual encouragement, and Christian fun.

**Fathers are encouraged to bring their sons
and all are encouraged to bring a friend.**

Call Dennis Baker for information. 314-471-8665

• **JUNK From Page 4** •

study it. Don't even get on the internet and read what some other person wrote about your issues. Go to the source directly. Go to God. What does scripture say? Let me give you a small example. I heard a preacher once tell the congregation that if they are divorced – then they are failures! So all my friends sitting out there who were divorced felt like scum. They were told they were failures, so they soaked up the shame. And now they can live out a shame based lifestyle. Satan loves it when Christians are convinced to live out a failure based life. This is why you need to study scripture.

I say that the divorced person failed in their marriage. Yes, it was a failure. But they themselves are not failures if they have Jesus, the hope of glory, in their heart. They have the victory.

We all have sinned. We all have failures in many areas of our lives. But it should not define who we are.

I have failed, but I am not a failure. I have victory in Jesus. II Corinthians 5:17 says the *old things are passed away and behold all things are become new*. Read on through verses 18-21. We have been reconciled to God from all our trespasses through Jesus Christ. These are shouting verses. Really-read them.

People have labeled you. Called you names. Put you down. Said you can't do this. You are always going to be this way. That is all emotional junk.

"You are a failure. It will never change. You can't do it." That is spiritual junk. There are scriptures to offset all of these lies.

Every 6 months, do a moral inventory of your life and chunk the junk. Clean the junk drawer of your heart. There will be more room for Jesus in there!!! You have a junk drawer in your heart and a junk room in your head. Clean them out with the truth of who you are in Christ Jesus. Be set free. While you're at it, throw Satan out in the front yard also.

Ronnie Floyd to Speak at BMA National Meeting in Springfield, MO



Dr. Ronnie Floyd

Dr. Ronnie Floyd, President of the Southern Baptist Convention, will be one of the guest speakers at the annual meeting of the Baptist Missionary Association of America April 20-22, 2015.

Bro. Floyd has been a pastor for over thirty-seven years. His experience, wisdom and passion for God make him a powerful proclaimer of God's Word. He teaches principles from the Bible that encourages and uplifts thousands of people all over the world via TV, the Internet, podcasts, radio, speaking engagements and books.

Since 1986 Pastor Floyd has served as Senior Pastor of Cross Church in Northwest Arkansas. Dr. Floyd's ministry as a local church pastor has been one of commitment to evangelism, discipleship, and the advancement of the gospel to America and around the world. In Dr. Floyd's twenty-eight years of ministry in Northwest Arkansas, the church has baptized over 17,000 persons.

In 2001 First Baptist Church of Springdale became a multi-campus ministry with the beginning of The Church at Pinnacle Hills. In 2010 the church changed its name to Cross Church, and in 2011 the church further expanded its ministry with the beginning of a campus in the city of Fayetteville. Each week, thousands gather in multiple worship venues. While meeting at various local sites and five campuses, the church is committed to planting churches regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Beyond his church and denomination, Pastor Floyd has spoken at many national and international conferences such as Promise Keepers and has been featured on numerous television and radio programs including Focus on the Family. Pastor Floyd has authored twenty books including The Power of Prayer and Fasting, revised and expanded; 10 Things Every Minister Needs to Know; and Our Last Great Hope: Awakening the Great Commission. His next book, FORWARD: 7 Distinguishing Marks for Future Leaders, will be released in 2015.

Pastor Floyd's proudest accomplishments stem from his personal life. He and his wife Jeana have been married for thirty-eight years. They have two sons, Josh and Nick. Josh is married to Kate, and they have three sons, Peyton, Parker, and Jack. Nick is married to Meredith, and they have two daughters, Reese and Norah and a son, Beckham.

"We're excited to have Dr. Floyd spend time with us at our National Meeting," said BMA President Dr. Jason Aultman. "This will be one of the highlights of our meeting this year. There will be several other opportunities for learning and growing as leaders that we will be offering at the National Meeting as well."

President Aultman recently announced that this year's meeting would not only be a time of business, but also a time of encouragement and leadership development. Various breakout topics to help BMA churches do a more effective job of reaching their communities will be offered as well.

The Baptist Missionary Association of America National Meeting will be held April 20-22 at the University Hotel and Convention Center in Springfield, Missouri. We are praying for a well-attended, spiritual and progressive meeting.



Give Water, Give Life

By Diane Spriggs, Editor Baptist Trumpet

WATER FOR CHRIST

When someone gives to Water for Christ, a ministry of the BMA of America, they are giving to help fund people and resources to drill, pipe and install fully functioning water wells, often in remote locations where water is far away and unclean at best. Providing the gift of clean water will transform the living conditions and health situations

of an entire village.

The wells drilled by Water for Christ serve as epicenters where people gather, so they try to dig the wells near a Bible school or BMA church plant. That way, when people come for the physical water, they are also told about the Living Water, Jesus Christ.

A report on the last WFC trip to Ghana appeared in the Dec. 3 and Dec. 10 issues of the Baptist Trumpet. Those articles were written by Editor Diane Spriggs, who was part of the November 2014 team.

The next trip to Ghana will be March 13-27, led by WFC Director Tim Tyler, who is a member of Friendship Baptist Church at Greenbrier. With the help of Missionary Dale Broom and Ghanaian workers, he hopes to drill four new water wells this time. They will also check and maintain wells that were drilled by WFC during earlier trips.

Rodney Castleberry, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church at White Hall, will once again be part of the team. Although he also helps with the wells, his primary focus is evangelism. During the November trip, over 3,000 people heard the gospel and there were 841 professions of faith. Bro. Rodney visits the schools during the day and holds evangelistic campaigns each night.

Bro. Tyler is a Gideon and an integral part of each trip to Ghana is the distribution of Bibles, especially in the schools — elementary through high school.

Ben Temple, the third American on the trip, will be running media operations. "I am helping with the public relations aspect of WFC," said Ben. "There is no better way to tell others about this ministry than to see for yourself what happens and how it happens. I also want to be an asset to the team in aiding and supporting all efforts — evangelism, media, travel plans, labor, cooking — while learning the culture of Ghana."

The Biggest Need

A problem the team will face on next month's trip is that it is the dry season in Ghana and water is scarce. The drilling rig they currently use operates primarily by using a large amount

of water that is hauled in to help to excavate the ground and to help cull dirt, rock, mud, soil, cuttings and earth debris that must be removed from the drilling site. Many of the ponds and other water sources are almost dry now, and this could present a problem.

A heavy-duty air compressor (like the ones shown in this picture) would make Water for Christ's efforts much more efficient. The ministry is looking for a used compressor — high pressure, 250 lb. output with 700 cfm (cubic feet per minute) capability, in good condition. These compressors allow drilling to be achieved in locations where water is scarce and allow for drilling almost anywhere and at anytime. "Although a new one would be nice," said Bro. Tyler, "a used is preferred because the drilling location is in Africa."

The compressor will cost around \$20,000 used and is very expensive (estimate, \$15,000) to ship overseas.

If you'd like to help with this project, WFC is working with the BMA in Conway to get set up, hopefully by the time you read this, to be able to receive donations online. Water for Christ will also soon have a donation page setup on BMAMissions.org website, under the give tab or make a donation link. Donations can also be sent to Water For Christ, P.O. Box 878, Conway, AR 72033.

For more information, visit the WBC Facebook page at www.facebook.com/waterforchrist, Instagram User ID [water4christ](https://www.instagram.com/water4christ) or their website at www.waterforchrist.com.

How To Build A Church

- **PRAY** every day for your church and her leaders.
- **COMPLIMENT** your church every time you talk about her.
- **WELCOME** visitors who attend your services.
- **GIVE PRIORITY** to your church in your social engagements.
- **VOLUNTEER** to serve wherever needed.
- **ATTEND** every service

AVAILABLE PREACHERS

Ron Beardsley of Sikeston, is available to be used as the Lord leads. Contact him at 573-380-3842, -11-

PREACHERS PLEASE NOTE:

If you desire to have your name listed in this column you MUST contact the editor by phone, email, or through your church reporter.

Pastor Searches

Charity Baptist Church, Columbia, is seeking a senior pastor. Interested preachers should contact them at the following: mailing address: 1803 N. Charleston Cir. % Neil Bowers, Columbia, MO 65202; or call Neil Bowers, associate pastor, at 573-474-1030 or e-mail Neil.Bowers@centurylink.net.

Bethany Baptist Church, St. Louis, in preparing for Pastor Hoffmann's retirement May 17, 2015, is still searching for prospects for pastor. Interested preachers may contact the pulpit committee chairman Earl Johnston at 314-426-3780 or johnstonle@att.net.

I ASKED

**I asked God for strength, that I might achieve,
I was made weak, that I might learn to humbly obey...**

**I asked for health, that I might do greater things.
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things...**

**I asked for riches, that I might be happy.
I was given poverty, that I might be wise...**

**I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men.
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God...**

**I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life.
I was given life that I might enjoy all things...**

**I got nothing I asked for---but everything I had hoped for.
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.**

I am, among all, most richly blessed!

Anonymous

• NEWS From Page 2 •

Briar, you truly missed a blessing. Briar did a wonderful job of bringing in the youth and had all churches' youth very excited, as well as several adults from several churches. The only other thing I have to say for our church is that our prayer list just keeps growing and growing. We have had a few praises in the past two months. God wants each of us to stay on our knees to keep praying for each request by name. Please pray for the church each time you think of any one of us. Until next month, may God bless and keep us all!

Russell Chitwood, Pastor • Yvonne Hill, Reporter

Charity, Columbia, wants you to know if you receive this by March 14th you can still RSVP for Jim Ford's retirement party. We will need to get a count to the caterer by then. The party will be at Charity Church, 1401 Ballenger Lane Columbia, Missouri, March 28th at 1:00 p.m. RSVP to Neil.Bowers@centurylink.net or 573-474-1030. We are progressing in our search for a Senior Pastor. If anyone is interested or knows someone who might be interested please use the contact information above. God bless.

Judy Bowers, reporter.

