2014 Annual Meeting of the BMA America

The theme for this year’s BMA of America meeting in Little Rock was “One In Heart,” and it proved to be prophetic because a sense of harmony was pervasive throughout the meeting.

This year’s attendance was about the same as last year, 517 messengers and 128 visitors. But a highlight was that eight churches petitioned to be a part of the BMA, four English-speaking churches and four Hispanic churches: Clinton Baptist Church, Clinton; Piney Woods Baptist Church, Northport, Ala.; Cornerstone Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Texas; New Heart Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, Miss.; Center of Life/Centro de Vida, Birmingham, Texas; Center Of Life/Centro de Vida, Somerville, Texas; Iglesia Bautista Sin Paredes De Salinas, Salinas, Puerto Rico; and Iglesia Bautista el Mesias in Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico.

The President’s Message by Ed Stephenson Monday night and the annual message by Missionary Eric Johnson were inspirational. Wonderful music was presented, including mini concerts by the Central Baptist College Singers and Choir and Violinist Jaime Jorge.

General Information

All proposed changes to the Statement of Principles of Cooperation were approved as presented.

The 2017 meeting of the BMA of America will be held May 1-3 at the Arlington Convention Center in Arlington, Texas, and the Sheraton Arlington will be the primary hotel. Next year’s meeting will be in Springfield, MO, April 20-22 at the University Plaza Hotel and Convention Center; and in 2016, it will be in Gatlinburg, Tenn., April 25-27.

Mark Livingston was chosen to bring the 2015 annual message, with Glenn Tropp as alternate. Newly elected national officers are: President Jason Aultman, First Vice President Paul White, Second Vice President Jeff Swart and Recording Clerk Jeremy Cooper (who succeeded himself). Continuing to serve are Recording Clerks James Ray Raines and Greg Medenwald.

Moral Action

Executive Director Dr. John Adams had to leave the meeting early because five families in his church lost their homes in the storm. The recommendations for this ministry were all approved and Dr. Adams was re-elected. Five Moral Action Resolutions were also approved: Appreciation for our Military, The Destruction Made by Gambling, Need to Elect Godly Leaders to Political Offices, Stand Firmly Against Homosexuality and Reaffirmation of U.S. Support for Israel.

Master’s Builders

Eddie Sikes noted that the Builders began in 1991 and have completed 128 projects. Two members of the group passed away this year and three more joined. Seven projects were completed this year, including four in Arkansas. Upcoming job sites include Daniel Springs Camp in May, Jacksonville College in June, Connection Point Mission in Brookland in September and a Missouri church in October.

Integration Update

Lifeword Executive Director Steve Crawley gave a brief update on the integration process. He reported that a “signed contract” is in place to sell the BMA Missions property for $1.8 million. A stipulation is that they must vacate the building by May 30. The facilities in Conway are now “80% complete” and the inside of the building should be ready in time for that move. He noted that the completion date for the entire project in Conway is now July 1. (The original date of June 7 was pushed back due to inclement weather.)

Bro. Crawley announced that Diane Ward, who has been serving as Walk for the World coordinator, will be the new Human Resources coordinator and will be assisted by Glenda Sellers. Bro. Crawley requested prayer for Ms. Sellers, whose house was destroyed by the tornado.

Integration has been ongoing, and work is being done in many areas to coordinate the ministries, increase productivity and look for cost savings. He also said, “The BMA Foundation will be a tremendous blessing for years to come.”

In order to “enhance communication with churches,”

• See BMAA Page 5 •

Getting Ready at Camp Garwood

There has been a lot of activity at Camp Garwood as preparations are being made for our annual Camp July 28th through August 1st! Just about a month and a half remain for everything to be done that will make it possible to have a good camp. We need help in at least two important areas.

Finances: The last of the dorm upgrading (the old boys dorm) is coming along well but more money is going to be needed if the upgrade is going to be finished in time for camp. What a joy it will be to have the nice shower and rest room facilities in ALL our dorms! This has been an expensive endeavor and your support has been tremendous, but it isn’t finished yet. Please help with special offerings so the dorm work can be completed along with the usual repairs and maintenance needed each year.

Workers: Between now and the start of camp there are a lot of things that need to be done. Water pipe repairs, cleaning dorms and all the other buildings, mowing and other landscape projects, painting, checking all the beds and tightening the bolts that hold them together, checking playground equipment, and many other things that are necessary for camp. A lot of these projects can be done anytime between now and camp.

Camp Packets will not be sent out this year. Everything you need to know about camp and the forms you need are available on the BMA of Missouri web site (bmaamissouri.org) and can be printed as you need them.

Please Note: If you plan to arrive at camp early this year please come prepared to work! There are always a lot of last minute things to be done the few days before camp and your help will be appreciated.

Make plans to spend a few days at camp soon and help get these projects finished before the camp starts. Contact Bro. Chris for more information. His phone numbers are: (home) 573-472-1038, (cell) 573-380-1975; email address is cpolk@cablerocket.com.

Emmanuel Baptist Church
David Griggs, Pastor
405 Hoffmeister Ave. • St. Louis, MO 63125
314-631-2213 • Email: david@92951@aol.com

Celebrates 50 Years!
June 8, 2014

All former members and friends are invited to join in this celebration
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Worship - 10:45 a.m.
Lunch - 12:30 p.m.
Singing & Fellowship - 2:00 thru 3:30 p.m.

If you have some memories you would like to share please come and share them with us.

If you cannot come, email your memories to the address above

Everyone Welcome!
Abundant Life in Christ, Charleston. The shell of our new building is up, minus windows and glass doors. Although it is currently no more than a glorified shed, it is highly visible from the Interstate.
Rodney Dunlap, Pastor

Kewanee, Kewanee, had a busy but blessed April. We continue to have visitors each Sunday. The Associational fellowship was held at Kewanee April 5th. We had a great turn out. We enjoyed special singing, and Bethel church did a great job presenting a puppet show. Bro. Jason Redden brought a closing devotional. Food and fellowship followed. Everyone seemed to have had a great time. We enjoyed missionary Bro. Trevor Dodson and his wife’s visit with us April 6th in our morning service. He talked about their mission work in Memphis Tenn. and then preached the message. April 12th the little ones had fun hunting for Easter eggs. The Harper family was with us April 13th in our evening service. They are such a blessing.
Let’s remember to continue praying for Dalton Harper and the family. The District WMA meeting was held April 15th at Kewanee. Sis Pam Wisely gave a wonderful devotional about being mission minded. The ladies of Emmanuel presented the program, “What is Easter all about?” It was a great program and reminded us that Easter isn’t about the bunny. It’s about the LAMB. We always have a great time of fellowship with our sisters in Christ. We had a full house on Easter Sunday with many visitors. Our Risen Savior was lifted up in song and Bro. Dan preached a wonderful Easter message. We had one go forward and give her testimony. It was a sweet service. We pray everyone was kept safe through the tornados and flooding from the storms that came our way April 27th and 28th. There were many in our area that had their homes flooded. We pray for the tornado victims and families that lost loved ones. Sometimes we don’t understand, but the Lord said these things would happen. The return of our Lord is getting closer and God is still in control. Many blessings to you all.
Dan Wisely, Pastor
Rhonda Bickerstaff, Reporter

Emmanuel, Sikeston, extends Christian greetings to our sister churches. We are happy to be experiencing some better and warmer weather. We started the month with a scare. Bro. Abe Maclin was in the hospital after a fall and suffered a broken hip, but the Lord was with him every step of the way and we are happy to report that he is home now and doing much better. Bro. Jason did a wonderful job presenting the Lord’s word at our Association Meeting at Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church. There was a large crowd from all churches. We had a wonderful time of worship, food, and fellowship. The Lord also blessed us with another great Easter Egg Hunt this past month. It was a little windy but that didn’t slow the kids down any. We had a good number of children come out with lots of games, crafts, and fun. We also had a nice visit from the Easter bunny that kept us all entertained. It was a very nice day to spend with the kids in the Lord’s house. We had a wonderful Easter service this year. We had many families and visitors that joined us. Bro. Jason presented a wonderful message and we had a great time of food and fellowship afterwards. The youth are getting closer and closer to preforming their missions program. We are pleased to say that they all participated in making crafts to send to the children in Honduras. We have received confirmation from one of our missionaries that the crafts were received and the children of Honduras will be getting them very soon. We are blessed to have more and more visitors each week and we can’t wait to see what the Lord has in store for Emmanuel. We pray you all have a blessed month of May.
Jason Redden, Pastor
Heather Hays, Reporter

Bethany, St. Louis, sends Greetings to all! We are feeling blessed and thankful for the beautiful weather! We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Bill Sappington who passed away recently and to the family of pastor Emory Shelton of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Ellington whom God called home a couple of weeks ago. We joined together for the Lord’s Supper observation on Palm Sunday, and were blessed with a beautiful service Easter Sunday morning. We welcomed Bro. Danny and Sis. Carolyn Kirk into our fellowship during the month. They are already being a blessing to us. Our ladies met at the home of Kay Morrison for their monthly meeting. This is a time of sharing friendship and food. Talent time was an opportunity for us to enjoy the talents God has given to many of our members. We sent messengers to the BMAA Meeting in Little Rock. They reported that in spite of some rough weather the meeting was very good. We look ahead to our GMA Coronation May 25th, in the evening service. The girls have been working hard to complete their steps. Our members are encouraged to attend the Mission Symposium at Faith Baptist Church in St. Charles May 16th and the BMA of Missouri Mid-year Meeting the 17th. James Hoffmann, Pastor
Carol McDonald, Reporter

Oak Hill, Alton. I would like to thank my dear sister Marianne Hufstedler for taking over the reporting duty while I was taking College classes. That way I could concentrate on my classes not having to worry about reporting. Thank the Lord I have completed them and have two Degree’s. On Easter our youth and our young adults put on a skit called the “Resurrection Connection” which went over very well. April 27th we had planned on having the Harper family to come and praise the Lord with us with their many talents by playing different instruments and their beautiful singing. We had to post pone their coming because of a sickness, but they made it certain that they would reschedule with us as soon as possible. I know the Harper family would appreciate any and all prayers for them. I would like to wish all of the Mother’s a Happy Mother’s Day. I hope and pray that everyone will have a happy and safe memorial weekend. Saturday May 31st at 5:00 p.m. we are having a fish fry at Oak Hill and all are welcome. For people who do not like fish or cannot eat it we have chicken strips available also.
Edward Casey, Pastor
Jennifer Williams, Reporter

Ozark Heights, Potosi sends “Warm Greetings!” We have made it through another month. Cold wind and rain has also greeted us but more fair days and sunshine, flowers and trees are all in bloom; along with the allergy count. But God is great in supplying us with all that is good. We have been busy preparing for Homecoming May 4th and looking forward to having many visitors come join us in a day of worship, good food and great music. Bro. Ronnie Warren will be here to sing and use his many instrumental talents; along with his wife Sis. Mary Lou. We enjoyed him so much last year. He plays violin, flute, melodica, key board, guitar, harmonicas, and last but not least a carpenters saw. If you ever get the opportunity we would encourage you to invite them to your service. We welcome Bro. Tim Barnett to our church family recently by baptism. Bro. Tim was saved recently and joined the church; he is so excited to be a part of the Lord’s church. We have enjoyed new visitors every Sunday and welcome one and all. Bro. Brian keeps up the good sermons and also teaching us on Wednesday and Sunday evenings about the end of time. He is a good teacher and explains the book of Revelation. What a blessing he has been for us at Ozark Heights. Sis Dawn is a very good singer; as well as, many others, along with the choir who have been providing us with beautiful songs. We are working hard to get our parking lot recovered. Bro. Butch and his committee have been doing a good job with fund raising. We enjoyed talent night last week with great songs, poems and readings, followed by great food and desserts. Sis. Mary Dement has been at home for several Sundays and still very weak but some better. We are praying for you Sis. Mary; and send all our love and prayers for your quick recovery. We hope

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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
11229 Midland Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63114
Periodical Postage Paid at St. Louis, MO 63155

POSTMASTER: Send address change to:
Missouri Missionary Baptist
11229 Midland Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63114-1116

James E. Hoffmann, Editor
Ph: 314-429-0714 • E-Mail mmbpaper@charter.net

Don Burke, Assistant Editor

DEADLINE for copy is the FIRST TUESDAY of the month in which you want it to appear
See the MMB online at bmamissouri.org

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Page 2 • Missouri Missionary Baptist • May 13, 2014
Within the past couple of months, many of our BMA of Missouri churches have received a letter from one of our churches that has expressed dismay at the number of churches planted in the past decade or so. I, too, wish more churches had been planted and that the attempts that were made had been successful. I asked a mission leader about how we could intensify our efforts. He followed up my question with another question: “What do you need from the BMA of Missouri to start another church plant this year?” I had to pause for a couple of minutes and think about that question before I could answer. I responded with the following 3 needs:  
1. I need a church planter and his family with whom the association could recommend and approve of their election. I think it would really be great if we could raise-up a planter from our own BMA of Missouri “family”. They would already know the culture, the demographics, and the needs of our state. Less time would be needed for them to immerse themselves into the culture and community of the “Show-Me State”.  
2. I need 3 to 4 churches who would serve as “partner churches” to the new plant. Of course we need a “Mother Church” or “Sponsor Church”, but we also need the extended family to come along side of and help with the initial start up efforts and costs. Partner churches might provide people, funds, equipment, prayer, mission teams, etc. The more churches involved in the process, the greater the momentum and growth. Churches plant churches...not missions directors, nor missions department.  
3. I need our churches to increase their missions giving. I have heard the argument that if we had more church plants going, then our churches would rise to the challenge and increase their giving. I don’t believe that is the sole reason for decreased giving. I do believe that many of our churches are in a “survival mode,” rather than a “let’s expand the Kingdom mode.” When churches begin to feel a financial crunch, the first thing that is cut out of the budget is mission giving. I would be hard-pressed to favorably explain that line of reasoning to the Lord (2 Cor. 8:1-5). We need more money to support planters!  

As your state director of missions, I have prepared myself to assess, train, and coach church planters. It is my part-time job within the BMA of America missions department to do these things all across the world and we are finding great success! I am ready and willing to do the same here in our state, but I need your help. If the above three things could happen, then we could get started with one more church.

** See MISSIONS Page 7 **

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**Mission Director’s Report**

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**“Accusations Without Warrant”**

Dr. John David Smith, Executive Director of Missions

I offer greetings to the churches of the BMAA. It has been brought to our attention that an individual has mailed information to some of our churches with accusations concerning current North American church planter Brandon Cox. These accusations are derived from Brandon’s relationship/connection to Rick Warren and Warren’s approach to reaching Muslims. I want to inform our churches that this matter has already been dealt with according to biblical patterns for conflict resolution. This individual was afforded multiple interviews with BMA Missions leadership, the leadership of the sponsoring church, officers of our national association, and the BMA Missions advisory committee.

The conclusion of this multitude of counselors was/is as follows:

The missions advisory committee, made up of 15 men chosen by our churches, made the following conclusion (taken directly from the minutes): Motion and second, that after a thorough investigation, the committee affirms our support of Brandon Cox and that he is biblically sound and that the accusations made by _____ are without warrant. We partially base this conclusion on Brandon Cox’s statement: “Jehovah is God alone, and His Son Jesus is Savior alone. There is no other god and no other redeemer. His righteous jealousy demands exclusive and absolute obedience from His followers.” -Motion carried.

The leadership of Garrett Memorial Baptist Church (sponsoring church) made this declaration: We believe Brandon Cox is faithful to our Lord Jesus, to the preaching of the gospel, and have seen no evidence whatsoever that gives us concern.

Here is a statement from Brandon: There is no other way to the Father but by Jesus, the one and only Way, Truth, and Life. All of us are sinners, deserving of hell, but God freely offers justification and salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, for the glory of God alone. No matter the cultural context, we must be ultra-clear about this gospel. The preaching of God’s inerrant, infallible Word is the central aim and goal of my entire ministry. I’m thankful for the wise, godly men who have heard my mind and heart and have expressed their affirmation of my commitment to doctrinal soundness in all things.

The leadership of BMA Missions unequivocally declares our support for Brandon Cox. We rejoice in the obvious anointing of God upon his life and ministry, and we pray that He will continue to pour out His richest blessings on Brandon, his family, and his ministry.

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**Master’s Builders Update**

April 8th, The Master’s Builders began inside work on a new sanctuary at West Park Baptist in Ozark, Arkansas. The 12,200 sq. ft. building included a foyer and two bathrooms. The Master’s Builders framed walls, put in sheetrock, electrical work, set in a baptism, and built a 80x25 foot stage. The men were unable to do as much as they would have liked at West Park due to time constraints.

Thank you to the men of the church who came and helped, to pastor Troy Vaughn and his wife Rhonda for all they did for us, and to Debbie Waterman and the ladies of West Park for all the meals they prepared.

We head to Daniel Springs, Gary, Texas, to begin work on May 12th. We also plan to work a job in June. If you would like to join us on a job, we would love to have you. If your church has building needs, you can contact Office Coordinator, John Mangum at 318-202-5155 or cell 318-607-4100 or Field Coordinator, Eddie Sikes at 903-725-6549 or cell 479-462-1675. Nelda Malone-reporter
Faithful Pastor Called Home

Emory Lee Shelton son of the late Cruise Emory Shelton and Oda Mae Sloss Shelton was born at Potosi, Missouri, on July 16, 1959. He departed this life at his residence in Ellington, Missouri, on April 27, 2014, at the age of 54.

On October 5, 1985 in Park Hills, Missouri, Emory was united in marriage to Connie Pogue. Emory was the Pastor of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church. Emory’s hobbies included fishing, hunting, hunting mushrooms, digging roots, arrow head hunting and going on float trips. Emory loved God and his church family. His greatest joy was spending time with his family especially his grandson, Colton.

Emory was preceded in death by his Parents, and one sister, Karen White.

Emory is survived by his wife, Connie Shelton of Ellington, Missouri, one daughter, Sarah Shelton of Farmington, Missouri, his grandson, Colton Vinson of Farmington, Missouri, two brothers, Dean Shelton and wife Sandy of Potosi, Missouri, Robert Shelton and wife Leslie of Leadwood, Missouri, two sisters, Gloria Warden of Caledonia, Missouri, Mary Cory of St. Louis, Missouri, and one brother-in-law, Paul White of Belgrade, Missouri. Emory will be deeply missed by his family and many friends who will mourn his passing.

Funeral Services were held Wednesday, April 30th 1:00 p.m. at McSpadden Funeral Home with Pastors, Melvin Meade and Lee Miller officiating. Burial was at Doe Run Memorial Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers friends are asked to send gifts to McSpadden Funeral Home, 610 South Main St, Ellington, MO 63638 for funeral expenses.

Address Change for Disciple-Guide Information Services

Since the BMAA established Baptist News Service in 1954, the purpose of DiscipleGuide Information Services has been to provide the association with accurate and current church listings, statistics, and information.

In order to accomplish this, DiscipleGuide Information Services depends upon each BMA church to submit any changes in their church status, staff, and related contact information. Offerings and monthly support from each BMA church make possible our efforts to serve the entire BMAA association, its churches, departments, and agencies.

Effective June 1, Information Services’ new mailing address is PO Box 6146, Texarkana, TX 71855-6146. Our new phone number is (800) 333-1442. Please update your mailing list and contacts to prevent any delay in mail service. Whenever Information Services can provide assistance or answer questions, contact Linda Cary, assistant editor, lcary@discipleguide.org. Thank you for your help.
Beginning this summer quarter, our DiscipleKids Activity Sheets & Leader Guides will be bundled together as a download-and-print product. Instead of paying $2.30 per quarter for the Activity Sheets and $5.95 per quarter for the Leader Guide, you will get both for only $2 per child per quarter. The activity sheet/leader guide bundle is a download-only product. However, the DiscipleKids visual packs, DVD, and enhanced CD are still physical products.

Because the leader guide and activity sheets are now a download-only product, I wanted to take a moment to make sure everyone understands how to download, print and copy them. Here are a few simple steps:

1) Select a person in your church to download the files. If your church facility does not have internet access, consider asking for a volunteer to download the literature from home.

2) Order the Activity Sheets/Leader Guide bundle from discipleguide.org. Be sure to order the appropriate age group(s) for your needs. A quick-order form is available by hovering your mouse over the “shop” tab at the top of the home page and clicking the upcoming quarter listed at the top of the shop menu. Once you have submitted the order, you will receive a confirmation email. Then, another email will come with the files or a download link in that email (could take up to 15 minutes for the link email). The files are time sensitive so you should go ahead and download the files. The files may be emailed or copied onto a disc or USB drive for anyone who needs access to them. Some churches may want to let each teacher have access to the files for preparation.

If you order download items over the phone, the download link email will be sent approximately one week before the beginning of the quarter.

3) Print and copy the literature. You may choose to print a lesson each week or the entire quarter at once. Either way, print and copy the files using the method that works best for your situation.

If you need help ordering, downloading, or printing, please call DiscipleGuide at 1-800-333-1442.

DiscipleGuide Camp Ministry
Changesth Camp
by James Speer, Camp Director

Several changes will begin taking place at Daniel Springs Baptist Camp in the next few weeks. DiscipleGuide Director Scott Attebery announced the new camp director to take my place is Jason Prewitt and this begins several changes that will be exciting for the camp ministry. We will be needing to raise some funds so we can meet the cost of moving a new director on the field. This will mean that we will have 1 additional salary until my final day December 31, 2014. We will also need to provide transitional housing until we can get moved out. Some of our old equipment needs to be replaced and the cost of the equipment added to the cost for a new director on the field will put a crimp in our budget for the summer if we do not have some help. Our ice machine had to be replaced last month at a cost of $3,000 and our 12 ft. batting mower needs to also be replaced at a cost of about $12,000. We also have the Master’s Builders coming in May to help us remodel some cabins and build a few more beds and some of the money has been raised by groups and churches but we still need about $10,000 more to finish this project and the rest of the work they are going to be doing.

I want to personally thank you for the way you have responded to our pleas for help and we have tried not to beg unless there was a real need but we need these funds so we can complete the camp season with a healthy balance sheet.

BMAA From Page 1

town hall meetings have been scheduled for Aug. 22, Nov. 14 and Feb. 20; and think tank sessions will be held Aug. 26, Nov. 18 and Feb. 24.

Operating costs have already been cut $350,000, and Bro. Crawley said he expected that number to increase “as these departments come together and begin to work together physically.”

LifeWord Media Ministries

Bro. Crawley outlined four main goals this department hopes to accomplish in 2014:

• To continue to work with sister departments on an integrated strategy… while working with our local churches.

• To conduct research and development on a new language and to reach a new, unreached people group with the gospel. “A self-imposed moratorium on new languages has been in place for the last couple of years, but we are now reaching out again and looking for a new language that nobody has reached before… we have some good leads,” said Rick Russell.

• To embrace social media as new outreach tools, especially to reach North America and help local churches reach the people in their areas. He announced that Brandon Cox will join the LifeWord Team as a strategic consultant to lead this facet of their ministry. “Facebook is now one of the largest ‘countries’ and they have a new language we need to learn to speak,” said Bro. Cox. “The gospel does not change, but our methods do.”

• To implement a LifeWord Sunday (Oct. 26) and invigorate the Walk for the World (Oct. 15). Donny Parrish stressed the need for a Walk coordinator in each BMA church.

All of this department’s recommendations were approved and Bro. Crawley was re-elected as executive director.

Coordinating Council

“There is still some strong as all of us,” said Chairman Paul Bullock. “None of us are as productive as all of us. None of us are as strong as all of us. That is true for individuals, churches and associations of churches. In the Council’s work with the departments and agencies in the past year, an obvious strength has been a desire to work one in heart.”

The Council’s recommendations were approved when the constitutional changes concerning the BMA Foundation were approved. Charles Attebery, who was currently serving in the position, was approved to serve as interim executive director of the BMA Foundation on a part-time basis.

Ministers Resource Services

Executive Director Ron Chesser gave his “15th annual report” to the association. He noted that a third employee, Jane Hoy, who had been serving with DiscipleGuide, has been added to the staff on a part-time basis.

The BMA retirement accounts are doing well. They now have over 800 accounts, including all national departments and many state departments. During the past year, the department averaged over $113,000 in receipts from participants per month. At the end of last year, there was almost $15 million on deposit in retirement funds at MRS, a growth in assets of almost $11 million over the past 11 years. BMA retirement has averaged 8.03% each year for the past 11 years, and in 2013 they posted a 12.6% return to each account.

All MRS recommendations were approved, and Ron Chesser was re-elected.

DiscipleGuide Church Resources

This department only had four recommendations. The first two were very simple: that Scott Attebery be re-elected and that their budget be approved. The third concerned the “relocation of the DCR Texarkana offices to the LifeWord building in Conway and the liquidation of the Texarkana properties.” All three passed with no discussion. A fourth recommendation was added concerning the director’s benefits, including, at his request, a $10,000 cut in his base salary “until DCR finances improve,” and it was also approved.

A motion passed after this report that when the Texarkana facility is sold, and after all closing costs are covered, employees who were on the payroll April 1, 2014, be given a four-months’ severance package.

In his report, Bro. Attebery noted that Editor Charles Reddin has retired after 42 years with the department, but wanted to do so quietly without being recognized. James Speer will also step down as camp director at the end of the year. Offerings were encouraged for Bro. Speer to acknowledge his years of service and prayer was requested since he was scheduled for knee surgery later in the week.

Jason Prewitt, who has served as youth pastor at Farley Street Baptist Church in Waxahachie, Texas, since 2003, was introduced as the new camp pastor. It was also noted that this is the camp’s 50th year of operation, and several improvements have been made there in recent months.

Several conference dates were also announced: SOAR, July 1-3; Senior Adult Conference, Oct. 29-31; and Pastor’s Oasis, Oct. 14-16.

Bro. Attebery outlined several changes in curriculum and the way in which it is being made available. He also noted that a “new” Adult Compass series will be reintroduced — “What We Believe” by Dr. E. Harold Henderson.

The future of Disciple-Guide is this department investing in our local churches, listening to them and hearing their needs,” said Bro. Attebery. “We want to network the BMA so we can all learn from each other.” He noted that some areas to be addressed could be pastoral search guidelines, how to start a church children’s department, coming alongside a pastor to help rejuvenate a church and helping new ministers get started.

BMAA Theological Seminary

Dr. Charley Holmes, President of the seminary gave his usual positive report of how the Lord is using and blessing SOAR.

See BMAA on Page 7 •
2014 National GMA Retreat

The National GMA Retreat will be held June 17-20 at Daniel Springs Encampment in Gary, Texas. The theme is “Trust in Jesus: Walk by Faith” (Prov. 3:5-6). Scott Atteberry, executive director of DiscipleGuide, will serve as camp pastor/missionary.

Registration begins May 1, and the fees are $120 for cabins and $130 for dorms. Register at: danielspringscamp.com. Click on the Overview Link at the top of the site. Then, click on Registration Details on the right-hand side. Here you will find the registration information as well as the required medical release forms that every camper must complete.

Texas law requires that all chaperones must complete the mandatory background check before they can attend retreat. To find this information, click on the Camp Chaperone link. Remember, every adult in your group must undergo the background check every two years.

The 2014 Project is 90% DiscipleGuide ESL Project and 10% GMA General Fund. The goal for this year is $25,000. Please send project money by May 15 to National GMA Treasurer Ruby Poteet, 8303 Middle Warren Rd., Pine Bluff, AR 71603; (870) 879-1378; rwp8303@aol.com.

“Afterglow” will be held this year on Thursday night after services and will be similar to the “singing bee” from last year! If you have girls who are brave enough to participate, please make a list and turn it in to Kaylen Fagala, National GMA Song Leader, when you get to camp. She will draw names out of a bucket to choose participants! Include on this list any girls who might want to present a special song or talent at camp.

Shining Stars: A special time for all girls in the Maiden through Princess Steps is planned for Wednesday morning of our retreat.

Queens’ Day: Kristin Herring and Jesslynn Spence have planned an exciting day for Queens on Wednesday. Girls should wear comfortable clothes and shoes.

National GMA Coronation: If your girls want to participate in the Coronation Wednesday night, you must send the form located on our website by May 15 to: Mrs. Jean Knight, 2978 Hwy 15, Wiggins, MS 39577; (601) 928-3764; goggyandpapa@gmail.com.

Miss/Jr. Miss GMA Presentation: State Promoters, please send your state’s Miss and Jr. Miss GMA participant’s folders as soon as possible to our National GMA Promoter: Jayna Williams, P.O. Box 321, Mineola, TX 75773; (903) 258-0284; jaynaw@gmail.com.

SILENT AUTION: This is one of our most popular project promotions at Retreat! Please bring several items to place in this auction. Bring special items you think would appeal to either counselors or to girls.

Project Fund Raising at Retreat this year: Silent Auction, Officer Competition, Candy Grams, Grab Bags, Photo Booth and Buttons. First Vice President Katy Hicks has challenged each girl or each GMA group to decorate a “road-related” item (car, truck, traffic light, traffic sign, traffic cone, shoe or walk-related item, etc.) and fill it with money. Be creative! Enlist your church to help fill it with loose change for the National Project. The “road-related items” will be judged at the retreat.

Project Nominations:

Please pray about our 2014–2015 National GMA Project! If you have a nomination, please submit it by 1:30 Wednesday afternoon to Mrs. Robin Clark. Each nomination should be signed by a counselor and should include the name of the church and the cabin number.

Retreat T-Shirts will be sold for $12 (2XL and 3XL will be $14). They will be mint green with the theme in royal blue on the front. Order forms are due by May 15th. Send order forms to our National GMA Treasurer: Ruby Poteet.

National GMA Officer Nominees: Girls should prayerfully consider serving as a National GMA officer! Those who want to be nominated must have the approval of their family, counselor and pastor before coming to retreat. Nomination forms should be turned in by 7 p.m. Tuesday evening to Mrs. Robin Clark.

Forms for National Officer Nominees, T-Shirt orders and Coronation Participants may be found on the National GMA website: www.nation- algmaofbraa.net

For more information, contact National Director of Youth Auxiliaries Robin Clark at robinclark@wind-stream.net. 191 Hwy. 285 N, Greenbrier, AR 72058; (501) 679-4867. You may also contact Mrs. Clark to receive a copy of the 2014 National GMA Newsletter, which contains specific camp information as well as all forms.
The BMA of Missouri Brotherhood Spring Retreat was a great blessing! The weather was ideal and eighteen men studied the Scriptures, fellowshipped, and of course enjoyed great food prepared by Bro. Lucas Polk.

Bro. Roy Callahan prepared a wonderful devotion entitled, "Are you ready?" Bro. Callahan's devotion focused on "Are you Ready" to serve the Lord when you face adversity in your Christian journey. Following our devotion time, we enjoyed personal testimonies from several of the men. It was wonderful blessing listening to their experience of salvation.

After breakfast on Saturday the men enjoyed the Third Annual Turkey Shoot. Jeremy Nettington and Roy Callahan were the winners of the Turkey Shoot.

There was a three-way tie between Brian Whitlock, James Callahan, and Don Adams in the Skeet Shoot with six of nine hits.

I would like to encourage the men of the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Missouri that do not have an organized brotherhood, to start a brotherhood within your local church. The purpose of the brotherhood is to promote Christian fellowship, biblical leadership education, and mentoring.

This ministry depends on the financial support of the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Missouri. We want to encourage your church to support this ministry.

• BMAA From Page 5 •

The ministry of the Seminary as workers are trained in Christ-centered worship. God in His providence has sent students to the seminary who have received training and have returned to their home countries to plant church, train workers, and lead others. Some students are planting churches here in the United States among their own language groups that have come to America.

All the recommendations of this department were approved which included the affirmation of the proposed budget, the reaffirmation of Dr. Charley Holmes as president and the recommendation that each church observe Sunday, May 18, 2014 as Graduation Sunday by having a special prayer for the seminary graduates and by receiving a special scholarship offering to support the training of future BMAA pastors and missionaries.

Don’t You Dare Give Up!!

Stop what you are doing right now. Denial that negative train of thoughts. Let's re-frame your thinking. You are going to make it. This is not going to get the best of you. You can do it. Fight!!! Please, don’t give up. Jesus will give you physical, mental, emotional and spiritual strength. God will give you abundant wisdom and direction if you just ask Him for it. There are people who support and love you and do not want you to give up. You may not believe it right now. You may not even know who they all are. But you have others pulling for you. But even by the very remotest possibility that you don’t think anyone cares whether you succeed or fail at this; God does. God loves you.

God is counting on you. He desires the best for you. He created you. He has a plan for you. You are one of His children and He never stops thinking and caring about you. Romans 8:37 says that we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. Jesus loves you. He really does. I think sometimes we take that for granted, or fail to appreciate the depth of His love for us. This verse does not say we manage our stress. It does not say we cope with our conflicts. It says we not only will be conquerors, but we will be more than conquerors. We will be victorious over all of our problems in life. We have, because of Christ, defeated death in this life. We live forever. Christ is in you. You have the power to conquer. You have the power to overcome. You have the power to take victory over everything that comes into your life. With Jesus, you face all disasters and conflicts and troubles from a position of victory. You are not headed for failure. You received the victory the day you got saved. So now you are moving through this life from victory unto victory. Jesus will take you around your problem, through it or remove it. It may not turn out like you thought or hoped. It may be a long desert march you go through. Sometimes deliverance and victory does not come until we taste the victory in heaven. But you have to come to the realization of this truth: God always delivers His people. He is not going to just leave you out there and say, “Good luck.” Jesus will never say, “That’s too big of a problem for me. I don’t know what for you to do.” Christ has all answers. God has all wisdom. In Jeremiah 32:17 there is nothing too hard for God. In Luke 1:37 there is nothing impossible with God. And in Mark 9:23 Jesus tells us that all things are possible to him who believes.

I know you may know all of this in your head. But you have to take it to heart and receive it. Believe and receive. If you are about to give up, cry out Abba-Father.

If you want to throw the towel in and say it doesn’t matter anymore; call out to Him. Call 333. Jeremiah 33:3. God says if you will call out to Him – He will come to you. Try it right now where you are. He will come to you. When God is upon you, and you are under the shadow of the Almighty; you will gain new wisdom, insight and mount with wings like an eagle. Isaiah 40:29-31 “He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

Maybe you are taking care of a loved one and feel unappreciated. Maybe you are in a family situation or a marriage where you think you have to do all the work and no one cares. But God cares. You are not helping others necessarily because they deserve it every day. You are serving others because God deserves it. It is like I tell people in my marriage conferences. You don’t love your spouse every single day because their behavior is so wonderful and they deserve it every day. You do it because Jesus deserves it. You show how much you love Him by loving others. You serve Him by serving others. So, carry on. Because He deserves it. And you will reap a reward in heaven. But we are not going through our trials with the right attitude just so we can get a star in our crown. We are doing it to “let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16.

I know I have used a lot of scripture references in this article. That is because the Word gives us hope. The Word is promises from God to us and He keeps His promises. If you are down, open the Word and find hope. It will dawn in your soul. Be honest in your prayers to God and tell Him how you are feeling and what you need from Him. He loves you and will help you. Then, take a little time each day and read something in the bible and you will renew your strength. Don’t you dare give up. We need you. People in the world need to see Christians who don’t give up and who renew their strength with the Lord. It is a great testimony about our Lord when other people see us going through difficult times and not giving up. They know, we live for something greater. Now get up, but don’t you dare give up!

• MISSIONS From Page 3 •

I have been in contact with a young man who is seeking God’s will about getting a new church planting effort going in the southeast portion of the state. I do not have his permission to share his name, but I would like for you to pray for him as he begins his first Bible studies with a group of people this month. It may be the beginning of a new church.
Resolutions of Moral Action
The following resolutions were adopted by the messengers of the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of America in their annual meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas April 2014

Resolution #1
Appreciation for our Military
Whereas, U.S. Military appreciation is needed. The cause and cost of freedom, democracy and peace is being advanced by the diligent and courageous performance of members of our United States military, who serve our country faithfully, both here and abroad, while they are aggressively engaged in the global war on terror; and
Whereas, All the conflicts have not been fought and or soldiers are still in the battle to win the war as well as restore civil order at the risk of their own lives; and
Whereas, Military service entails a comprehensive sacrifice from each soldier and from their families, friends, and communities, now, therefore, be it
Resolved, that the messengers of the Baptist Missionary Association of America meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas, April 2014, commend and salute our service men and women, in all branches of the military who are serving faithfully and honorably, both at home and abroad; and be it further
Resolved, that we pray for the safety and well-being of our military personnel at all times, with particular attention to those who are in harm’s way; and be it finally
Resolved, That we express reverent thanksgiving to Almighty God, the Judge of all nations, who is mightier than all armies and who alone is able to save, and ask His continued guidance and mercy upon our troops and our nation.

Resolution #2
The Destruction Made by Gambling
Whereas, the tidal wave of gambling in our country has left in its wake pain and destruction in the lives of countless individuals, including children, poor and the elderly, and
Whereas, many state governments have believed the lie that state-sponsored gambling will improve their local economy and provide funds for education, despite evidence to the contrary, and
Whereas, state government by tacit approval of the so-called benefits of gambling become a predator rather than a protector of its constituents, and
Whereas, the commercial advertising of gambling further increases the negative effects, and
Whereas, often the tide of gambling has been turned in America by God’s people who knelt in confession and stood in convictions;
Be it Therefore Resolved, that we, the messengers of the Baptist Missionary Association of America assembled in Little Rock, Arkansas, April 2014 call on all Christians to exercise their influence by refusing to participate in any form of gambling or its promotion; and
Be It Finally Resolved, that we urge our political leaders to enact laws restricting and eventually eliminating all forms of gambling and its advertisement.

Resolution #3
Recognize the need to elect Godly leaders to political offices
Whereas, politicians sometimes will proclaim Christianity; and
Whereas, some corrupt politicians use religion for political ends; and
Whereas, these type of political leaders are guilty of selling faith for corrupt power;
Be it therefore resolved, that we born again believers in Christ work to elect good and Godly men and women who share our Biblical values and who support our churches’ policies of morality; and

Resolution #4
To stand firmly against homosexuality
Whereas, Christians can and should minister to homosexuals and lesbians in a biblical manner; and
Whereas, God can work through our lives to minister and touch those that are practicing this immorality; and
Whereas, our pulpits and lecterns can proclaim the destructiveness of the Gay Rights Movement in America;
Therefore, be it resolved, that we urge the Baptist Missionary Association of America messengers meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas in April 2014, to take a Biblical stand against homosexuality in a Christian manner.

Resolution #5
Reaffirmation of the United State government to support and help protect the Jewish nation of Israel, God’s people
Whereas, we believe Jehovah God attested both the existence and the continuing existence of the Jewish people and be the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ; and
Whereas, we pray for peace in the Middle East; and
Whereas, we Christians believe that the present state of Israel maintains a divine right to the land given to Abraham;
Therefore, be it further resolved, that the messengers and churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of America meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas in April 2014, urge the United States government to maintain a recognition of Israel and support unequivocally her right to exist as God’s people.

Prisoners Bible Crusade
Free Bibles to Chaplains for Inmates in the USA
804 KJV English Bibles; 228 Spanish Bibles; total 1,032;
100 New Testaments;
230 John/Romans; All Study Books 2,076; 457 Study helps. Total for all Bibles and materials is 3,895.
These were sent into 17 prisons. Chaplains report 19 people saved (23,852 since 1/1/2000).
Three new Chaplains requested Bibles (Since 1973, 223,379 Bibles; 60,549 New Testaments; Total all Bibles and study materials: 663,651). All Bibles, books and materials given free of charges.
Personal note:
I have traveled 498 miles, and witnessed 1 profession of Faith in Jesus Christ in 2014 (353 since 1/1/2000), visited 2
I have visited 6 churches, 6 association meetings and made 12 prisons visits, teaching 12 Bible study classes in prisons, I also sent a total of 345 CD/DVD sermons into prisons (3,917 since 1/1/2000).
Our Thanks for all the support and prayers for this ministry.
Isaiah 55:11 inside prisons!
Serving His Servants
Paul E. Lee, Director PBC, Phone: 601.798.1341, Email: pbc8paul@datasync.com

Be it therefore resolved, that we urge these Godly political representatives to take care of the public trust; and
Be it therefore, further resolved, that the Baptist Missionary Association of America meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas, April 2014, work diligently to elect good and Godly men and women to public offices in the United States.

Resolution #5
To stand firmly against homosexuality

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 on 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.

Richard Smith, a member of First Baptist Church in 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. -5-
Jerry Cain, a member of Bethesda Baptist Church in Park Hills, MO is available for pulpit supply as the Lord leads. Contact him at 573-760-6813. -5-
Rocky Houston, a member of Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church is available for pulpit supply or however the Lord leads. Contact him 573-521-6385 (cell) after 3:00 p.m. -5-
Don Adams, a member of Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church is available to preach. Contact him by calling 573-380-9215 or by email at TLAdams_hotmail.com. -3-
Perrin W. Seay, a member of Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church in Lemay, MO is available for pulpit supply as the Lord leads. Contact him at 411 Passport Lane, Apt. A, St. Louis, MO 63129 or by calling his home 314-200-8362 or his cell phone 314-402-0906. -3-
Tim Boatright, former pastor of Faith Baptist Church in St. Charles, MO, is available for pulpit supply as God leads. You may contact him at 1543 Boone Ct. St. Charles, MO 63303 or by calling 314-605-3143. -4-

Full-Time Student Ministry Pastor Search
Farley Street Baptist Church, Waxahachie, Texas is receiving resumes for the position of full-time Student Ministry Pastor. Those who are interested are asked to send resumes to resume@farleystreet.com.

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