

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

“Holding Forth The Word of Life”

Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXVIII

St. Louis, MO • June 9, 2015

Issue No. 6

Do you seek PEACE?
Lonely?
Want to meet NEW “Forever Friends?”
Need REVIVAL?
Want to be a Blessing to others?
Need a “Pick-Me-Up?”
Do You Want To Feel Good About Yourself?
Want to be Inspired?
Want to GROW in the LORD?

**THEN
DON'T MISS
COMING TO CAMP AT
GARWOOD
July 27 - 31, 2015!!**

You will even feel better if you come anytime between now and then and help get things ready for this wonderful, blessed week!!
(Contact Bro. Chris Polk at 573-380-1975 to see what you can do before camp week arrives.)

Missions Symposium & Semi-Annual Meeting of the BMA of Missouri

May 15, 2015 the annual Missions Symposium of the BMA of Missouri was held at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Poplar, Bluff. Special guest, Bro. Scott Attebery and Bro. Todd West shared a new initiative called “Activate” which is a coach-driven

tool to help churches stop the decline and to experience good health and growth.

These brethren challenged us to realize the importance of evaluating our churches and shared ways to do this and the positive results it is having on those churches who are willing to apply the available tools.

Several of those present seemed to be eager to start the process and talked of plans for initiating this in some of their churches.

Saturday, May 16, 2015, the messenger of our churches gath-

Only Eight Saturdays Away

by Chris Polk,
Camp Director

At the writing of this report there are 8 Saturday's left until camp week. Camp is beginning to come together. There's plenty to do, but overall we are in good shape and looking forward to seeing everyone.

The Theme: “Wheat or Tares?” Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43. Our Evangelist: Bro. Shawn Hammontree. Worship leaders: The Harper family. We are going to have a great time!!

ATTENTION: if you are 18 or older you must read the camp rules, child protection policy, have a completed volunteer application and take the

ered to hold the mid-year business meeting of our association.

Newly elected moderator Bro. Brian Meade was well prepared with plans for congre-

• See ANNUAL Page 4 •

online training in order to stay overnight at camp. All of these can be accessed at bmamissouri.org.

Once you complete the application we will send you a link for the training. If you completed the application prior to last year's camp, you only need to review the camp rules and child protection policy.

There are some things you can do to help as we prepare for camp. Choose a responsible teen to represent your church as a DIT. Bro. Rick is requesting desserts and home-grown fruit

and vegetables. Sis. Deiatre is looking for help with recreation activities. You can continue to pray for us and all the folks that make camp work. If you have some free time there are some basic jobs to be done.

We have received \$737.50 from the mission symposium. I would like to **thank the BMA of MO** for the commitment to fund the new tabernacle roof.

I've been asked about our insurance costs per camper. We pay \$8,883.20 annually for Insurance. At 400 campers that's \$22.20 each.

Due to the resignation of Danny Kirk as Director of Mission for the Meramec Landmark Baptist Association, please send all future Meramec mission offerings to:

**Pastor John Dover
Friendship Baptist Church
630 N. Commercial Street
St. Clair, MO 63077**

+++ NEWS BRIEFS +++

Bethany, St. Louis, writes: Spring has come and now we are almost in the season of summer. We have been busy at Bethany and praising God for His goodness. We recognized all of our mothers as well as all of our ladies for their faithfulness on Mother's day. We were graced with the Pages filling in for us one Sunday. Sis. Sandra Zumwalt trusted in Christ as her Savior that day and was baptized by Bro. Hoffmann the following Sunday. The Boatrights also came our way. On the 17th we had a full house and special music from former members Darrell Eye and his daughter Megan, visiting from the Dallas area as we celebrated the retirement of our beloved pastor and his wife. We held a celebration in the afternoon as folks came and went and wished them God speed as they begin this journey in their life. We covet your prayers as we search for a God called man to come and shepherd Bethany. Congratulations to Aaron Brenner as he graduates from High School and looks forward to furthering his education. He is a fine young man and is a blessing to our Church. We know that the day is nearing for our Lord's return and we need to be ready. God bless. Kathy Chapman, reporter

Greetings from **Briar Missionary Baptist, Doniphan!** Not sure about the rest of you, but for me time flies! Seems I just wrote an article and here it is due again. We had one graduating senior from our membership this past May. Sheyenne Larmore finished her last year at Doniphan High School. What an exciting and trying time. We pray Sheyenne will stay strong in her walk with the Lord. Pray for all our youth--it's a hard world out there. This was our month for 5th Sunday singing. What a great day to be in the Lord's house. Of course, any day with the Lord is a good one. Through Sunday School (which has been extraordinary this quarter) into church service followed by what else? eating!! Top that off with some good old gospel singing!! We had 37 folks there and some were brave enough to sing and others brave enough to listen! Till next time--Keep Looking Up
Jon Carpenter-Pastor • Phyllis Williams-Reporter

Landmark, DeSoto, reports May has had 31 days in it, but seems that I have very little to report this month. One thing that I am sure most of us can agree on is that we have definitely had plenty of rain. In June, July and August, we may be praying for rain, but right now I'm ready for a little dry spell. Our pastor and his wife were able to attend the Mission Symposium in Poplar Bluff on the 15th, and then he attended the semi-annual meeting the next day. I understand it was a good meeting. Kelsey Stinson was involved in an automobile accident, but praise the Lord she is okay. We've had some sick folks, but rely on the Lord to answer prayers and He does. We had a good Mother's Day service. The men presented the ladies of the church with pretty corsages. We appreciated that very much. Bro. Bowerman has been unable to attend services for quite some time. He has been in the hospital, then nursing home for some rehabilitation and is at this time staying at his daughter's. We need to remember them in prayer. Denver has been blessed to be able to preach at Bethany and Pleasant Grove this month. We enjoyed attending services at both of these churches. We had our quarterly fellowship dinner on the 31st and I understand it was all good. Also, that evening we had the Lord's Supper.

Until next month or the Lord's Return,
Wayne Gibson, pastor • Sharon Page, reporter

Greetings from **Bethlehem, Doniphan!** We have had a very blessed month! God has been very good to us. When we are in God's will, good things happen. We were blessed to have

Bro. Matt Baker and his family with us one weekend of the month. Bro. Matt brought two wonderful messages to us and you could feel the Holy Spirit working. We have had some visitors this month for two of our morning services including a lady of the community. Bro. Tom Foster came to preach for us on the last weekend of the month. We could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit during both the Sunday morning and evening services. He told us he would be back for the morning service for the first weekend of June. We have had the joy of working on the program for the Youth In The Harvest for June as we are the host church. We are hoping to have a great turnout. Next month I will be reporting how the program went. We will also host the Third Sunday singing for June so I will report on it too. Continue to pray for us as we search for the pastor the Lord has for us. Until next month, may God bless and keep us all!
Yvonne Hill, Reporter

First Baptist, Potosi, sends our love and greetings to our brothers and sisters in Christ. God is awesome and shows us every day with all He is. Once again, First Baptist has received many blessings in the past month and we love sharing the news. The month of May has brought two new families into our church family. We are very excited to welcome Brian, Brandi, Jenna, Emmelei, and Owen Boyer into our fellowship. We are also excited to welcome Shane and Christy Pashia and their children Isaiah and Kaleb Pashia and Trinity and Jaxon Huffman. Several residents at Potosi Manor attended the afternoon services with us. Many joined in singing with us, including my aunt who is 97, followed by a message by Bro. Allen Joe Wilkerson. Sis. Anna Belle's Sunday School class hosted a senior luncheon which consisted of great food and fellowship. The GMA once

again prepared the Mothers' Day Breakfast under the direction of Michelle Knobloch, Alisia Wright, and Heidi Kay. Once again, great food and great fellowship. The GMA also gave the mothers bookmarks and all the mothers received a gift from the girls after the morning service. Graduates who were honored were Sarah Griffith and Austin Cooley. Joshua Porter was unable to attend but was also a graduate as were MAC graduates Amber Coleman and Shane Pashia. Sarah Griffith was also honored by the GMA for her continued work and support in the GMA/YLA programs. We have had some really good sermons from visiting preachers; Tim Boatright, Kyle Davis, and our former pastor, Bro. Jerry Jolly. Everyone is busy preparing for summer activities where we can share the gospel. There are so many unchurched families in Washington County which means there is an open field for witnessing salvation. GMA will be attending an overnight meeting at Garwood July 10. VBS Director Raven Porter is busily recruiting workers and teachers to help with WEIRD ANIMALS. Sports Crusaders Basketball will be in the afternoons of the same week. COW students are preparing for their week long mission trip. Finally, we have Jesus Camp (Kids Camp and Teen Camp). All of these activities have the potential of bringing many to Christ. Pray for us as we pray for you.

Jim Ainley, Associate Pastor • Deborah Rauhut, Reporter

Greetings from **Lower Doe Run Baptist, Ellington.** Blessings continue to flow in and through His church in Ellington. Fresh in our minds is His Hands keeping our pastor safe in a major accident on the highways. We are thankful for a Christian ER nurse friend who helped get through Mercy Hospital in Festus. Thanks Tracy. He is healing, back on the road and blessing the church with his leadership. We were able to help the Price family comfort friends and family in the funeral of their sister and aunt, Connie. We look forward to hearing Bro. Don Hoffman preaching again in the pulpit as the pastor and family are out. He has so much love for the Lord. It is an encouragement to all of us. What a wonderful thing that we can meet and fellowship with other believers. The Fifth Sunday Singing was held at Lower Doe Run last month. Four churches were represented: Lower Doe Run, Mt. Olive in Salem, Ohlman of Bunker, and Charity in Bismarck. Pray for one another in Jesus name.

Melvin Meade, Pastor • Carolyn Meade, Reporter

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FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS • May 2015

General Fund:

Balance May 1, 2015		\$	110,528.88
May Receipts:			
Church Offerings	\$	2,059.03	
ING Direct Savings Trans.	\$	21,343.98	
Total Receipts	\$	23,403.01	\$ 23,403.01
Total Available:			\$ 133,931.89
Disbursements:			
Director's Salary	\$	900.00	
Director's Expenses	\$	579.95	
Director's Love Offering	\$	1,500.00	
Mission Sym. Speakers	\$	400.00	
Security Document Shredding	\$	99.00	
Total Disbursements	\$	3,478.95	\$ 3,478.95
*Balance May 28, 2015			\$ 130,452.94

* The balance also includes the proceeds from the transfer of ING Direct Savings account into the checking account. As of the end of May all funds are in the checking account as all CD's have been cashed as they matured.

Mission Director's Final Report

Mid-Year Report

May 16, 2015

Mt. Zion Baptist

Church, Poplar Bluff, MO

This will be my final report before the BMA of Missouri as your state missions director. I have enjoyed the past 15 years serving you in this capacity. I have learned much about the state work, its pastors and lay leaders, and the churches that comprise this great association. I am wiser and my soul has been tempered having served with you. So, it was with sadness that I announced my resignation, effective May 31, 2015

to the Advisory Committee when we met last month at Perryville. God has given my wife and I a great opportunity to serve in an exciting new church plant in Northwest Arkansas. Although our ministry roots have been in Missouri for over 17 years, we feel that this move is God's will for us, and we look forward to this next phase of our life and ministry. Thank you for your kindness, support, and generosity over the years.

I am thankful to Bro. Todd West and Dr. Scott Attebery for their investment in our churches during the mis-

sion symposium. For those churches who gave a special offering to Camp Garwood, I say "Thank You". At the symposium an offering of nearly \$750 was received for the replacement of the roof on the tabernacle. In addition to the offering, the association voted to cover the remaining balance for this project from the missions funds.

Bro. Hoffmann has agreed to continue to serve the association as assistant director of missions and all checks can continue to be sent to the mail box address in Florissant, MO.

Bro. Danny

From Our Assistant Director of Missions...

We are in a period of transition as Bro. Danny Kirk has resigned as our Director of Missions and is now involved in another ministry outside of Missouri. We appreciate his 15 years of service as a pastor and fellow-laborer here in Missouri, and pray that God will continue to bless his ministry wherever he serves.

As assistant director of Missions my responsibility will be to keep records of offerings and expenses, assist our churches in any way I can

and work with the Special Missions Committee in making recommendations about our mission work in the future. We are hopeful we can have some concrete plans by the time of our annual meeting in October.

Most of you know that I have retired from the pastorate and therefore I am available to visit your church to discuss our work, preach, promote Missions, and promote the Missouri Missionary Baptist paper as oppor-

tunities arise. I welcome invitations to visit your church and even if not invited I might drop in anyway.

Note: Please continue to send your Missions Offerings to the address on the header on this page. Send offerings for the Paper to 176 Bear Creek Dr., Wentzville, MO 63385-3355. You may reach me by cell phone at 314-277-8644 or e-mail mmbpaper@charter.net.

I look forward to working with our churches and pastors as we bring glory to God!

Continued from April 2015 issue...

2015 BMAA Resolutions

The following resolutions were presented by "Moral Action" in their annual report to the churches of the BMA of America and adopted by the messengers at the recent meeting in Springfield, Missouri. Because of space limitations we were only able to print Resolutions 1, 2, and 3 in the April 2015 issue. Here are Resolutions 4 and 5.

Resolution #4

Sexual Abuse of Children

Whereas, God's word is clear in its affirmation that children are a gift from the Lord (Psalms 127:3-5) and,

Whereas, Jesus clearly showed his love for children; and

Whereas, the sexual abuse of children remains a criminal offense with more than 18 million victims last year in America alone, and

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the messengers of the Baptist Missionary Association of America, meeting in Springfield, Missouri, April, 2015, call upon all our churches and pastors to stand in the protection and love of children; and

Be it resolved, to report and seek legal prosecution of child abusers.

Resolution #5

Executive Administration Declaration

Whereas, God's word states that marriage is the union of one man and one woman, and

Be It Resolved, that we strongly protest and disagree with the proclamation by the President of the United States that the month of June be declared Lesbian, Gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) pride month, and

Be It Resolved, that the messengers of the Baptist Missionary Association of America meeting in Springfield, Missouri, April, 2015, pray for the executive leadership of our nation.

Editor's Note:

These "Resolutions" are offered as recommendations or suggestions that our churches should consider as they live spiritual and moral lives and are not binding upon our fellowship in any way. From some of the correspondence I have received Resolution #1 is being confused by some who think it is the addition to our doctrinal statement that we will vote on at next year's BMA annual meeting in April 2016.

The following is the recommended addition to our doctrinal statement:

"Article III – Creation

C. Man — As the crowning work of His creation, God created humankind (male and female) in His own image (Psa. 8; Gen. 1:27; 2:7). Consequently, every person from conception is of inherent dignity and worth and merits the respect of all other persons (Psa. 51:5; Psa. 139:13-16; Gen. 9:6; Matt. 10:28-31; James 3:9).

D. Marriage — God created marriage (Gen. 1:27-28; 2:23-24). Jesus Christ declared the creator's intention for marriage to be the inseparable and exclusive union between a man and a woman (natural man and natural woman) (Matt. 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9). Marriage testifies of the union between Christ and the church (Eph. 5:31-32; Rom. 1:25-27).

These amendments were presented by Springhill Baptist Church at Greenbrier, AR; Ed Stephenson, pastor.

These additions to our Doctrinal Statement were presented and discussed at this year's meeting in Springfield, MO and the messengers present at the 2016 annual meeting will vote (without further discussion) to accept them or reject them. If adopted they will be binding upon our fellowship just like the doctrinal statement we now have. Each church can record in their Minutes a motion to adopt these changes (for their own protection) once they are approved by the Association or make these changes to their doctrinal statement now.

• ANNUAL From Page 1 •

gational singing, a devotional, a message, and a well planned order of business. Bro. Russell Chitwood led the singing accompanied by Sis. Judy Fish at the piano. Host pastor, Bro. Matt Johnson brought a timely devotional based on Ephesians 3:20-21.

The messengers voted to amend our doctrinal statement to explain our belief on Creation (see “C” and “D” in Editor’s Note on page 3 under “Resolutions.”) This change took place immediately for our State Association Doctrinal Statement.

Bro. Don Burke was re-elected as our clerk with Bro. Dale Fish as assistant clerk. In the clerk’s report, Bro. Burke noted that thanks to the work of Ashley Acres we can now go to the BMA of Missouri web site and find copies of most of the Minutes since our association began. A motion was made and passed that we give Sis. Ashley a love offering of \$250 for her help in making these available online. To look up Minutes of the BMA of Missouri go to bmamissouri.org and click on “about us” then click on “Minutes” and select the year you need. Bro. Burke said he still needed copies of the Minutes for 1982, 1949, 1947 and all prior to 1946. If you have any of these please contact him about borrowing them so they can be included in the online archives of our association. Contact him at potosipastor@gmail.com.

Editor James Hoffmann gave the report on the *Missouri Missionary Baptist Paper* noting that we finished the first 6 months of this associational year with a balance in the bank of \$596.53 but since the end of March the offerings have dropped and we are near a negative balance for operating funds. He asked that we prayerfully consider increasing regular support for this ministry. He also pointed out that it looks as though postage is going to increase dramatically after the first of June this year.

Bro. Hoffmann also gave the Kenneth Gibson Seminary Student Grant Fund report noting that we helped Bro. Jamie Jones with books and tuition during the last 6 months and that another pastor is enrolling in an off campus program and we will be helping him within the next two weeks. There is a balance of \$20,903.70 in this account.

The Missouri Missionary Baptist Loan Association report was given. Treasurer David Griggs reported that the balance in this fund is \$ 353,818.77 which includes a balance on the loan to Cornerstone Baptist Church, in Raymore of \$33,100 and a total in the Grant Fund of \$4,582.25. President Dennis Baker noted that this “Grant Fund” is money that is available for grants to BMA of Missouri churches that have immediate financial needs. Please contact Bro. Baker if you need more information about this.

Bro. Dennis Baker, President of the State Brotherhood reported on the Men’s Spring Retreat and encourage our men and boys to watch for details on the Fall Retreat later this year. We will run the announcement in this publication as soon as plans are finalized.

Sis. Janet Widger gave the State WMA report and commended those who helped with the gift bags and other things for hosting the National WMA in Springfield in April.

Bro. Don Burke gave a report from the Alive Committee which revealed the following:

1. That the same officers be retained as last year. (Chairman - Jim Ainley; Assistant Chairman - Brad Banderman; Clerk/Treasurer - Don Burke.
2. Approval of the details for the 2015 Alive Conference:
 - Date December 29-31.
 - Location - Doubletree, Chesterfield
 - Main Speaker - Michael Trent
 - Worship Band - Jim Ainley Band
 - Increase cost of Conference to \$50 per person
3. Recommend that Dan Wisely be reelected to Committee/term ending in 2019.



BMA Seminary’s 58th Commencement

Sixteen individuals received a degree from the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary of Jacksonville, Texas during commencement exercises conducted Saturday, May 16, 2015. The seminary hosted the event in its Dorman Memorial Chapel on the main campus in Jacksonville, Texas.

John Bockmon of Whitehouse, Texas, Michael Cook of Whitehouse, Texas, Cristi Duvall of Brownsboro, Texas, Vasquez Granberry of Tyler, Texas, and Joshua Woolridge of Henderson, Texas received the Bachelor of Arts in Religion degree.

The Master of Arts (Religion) degree was awarded to Herman Johnson of Nacogdoches, Texas, Dennis Morris of Houston, Texas, Scott Schaller of Thorndale, Texas, Jordan Tew of Grand Prairie, Texas, and Lanny Williams of Mineola, Texas.

Brent Williams of Mabank, Texas received the Master of Arts in Church Ministries degree.

Recipients of the Master of Divinity degree included David Dixon of Neches, Texas, Wenjuan Durham of China, Anthony Slack of Rayville, Louisiana, and Bobby Yang of Tianjin, China.

The seminary also awarded the Doctor of Divinity degree posthumously to Louis F. Asher, former Professor of Church History and Biblical languages.

Jeff Swart, Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Galena, Kansas and BMA Seminary alum, presented the commencement address. Swart has served full-time in various Christian ministries for forty years.

In April 2015, BMA Seminary selected Swart to receive the prestigious Gerald Kellar Award. Swart’s educational background includes

a B.A. in Sociology and Political Science from Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas, an M.A. in Professional Counseling from Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia, and an M.R.E. from the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas. Swart also authored *The Church Planting Model*, which is used around the world to teach lay people how to plant New Testament churches.

BMA Seminary provides accredited theological education to qualified individuals by seeking to equip them for Christian service and leadership roles.

The seminary supports the educational needs of the Baptist Missionary Association of America and other groups who share a like commitment to the authority of Scripture by offering certificates, associate, bachelor, and masters’ degrees.

4. Recommend that Caleb Houston (Kewanee) replace Brad Banderman (term ending 2018), with Brad to be picked up as a committeeman by the Meramec Association.

This report was approved and the recommendations were accepted.

The Special Missions Committee made the following recommendation to the Missionary Committee and they were approved and accepted by the messengers present:

1. That we regrettably accept the resignation of Bro. Danny Kirk effective at the end of May 31, 2015.
2. That Bro. James Hoffmann, Assistant Director of

Missions will assume the responsibilities as outlined in the Missions Policy Handbook as we search for a new Director.

3. That Bro. Kirk be allowed to keep the laptop computer that was purchased last year with Associational funds.

4. That we give Bro. Kirk a severance package of \$100 per year for his 15 years of service.

5. That the Mission Symposium offering be designated to Camp Garwood for the new roof on the Tabernacle.

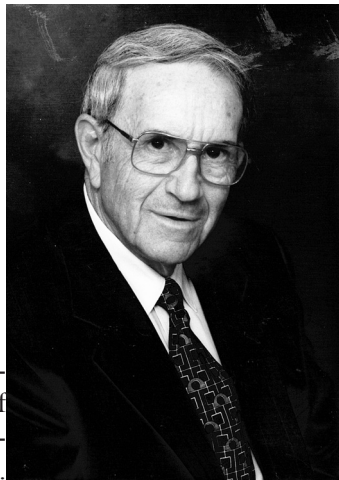
A motion was made to give Mt. Zion Baptist Church and her pastor a standing vote of appreciation for their great hospitality in hosting these meetings.

Following the adjournment of the business session Bro. Sean Kallner, Pastor of Springhill Baptist Church, Fairdeal, brought a very inspiring message entitled: *Turning Things Rightside Up* based on Acts 17:1-7. He pointed out that the three things necessary to have the right affect on those around us are: 1. Integrity, 2. Intensity, and 3. Involvement.

Our Annual Meeting will be held at Charity Baptist Church in Bismarck, Missouri, Saturday, October 24, 2015, starting at 9:00 a.m.

All churches of the BMA of MO are encouraged to be represented by letter and messengers at this meeting.

Rufus & Mildred Crawford Endowed Scholarship Established



Rufus Crawford

Central Baptist College announces the establishment of The Rufus and Mildred Crawford Endowed Scholarship. Mrs. Crawford initiated the creation of the scholarship after Bro. Crawford's passing on March 8, 2015. Bro. Crawford graduated from Jacksonville Baptist College, Stephen F. Austin University, and attended the BMA Theological Seminary. He served with the Baptist Missionary Association of America for 67 years as an Evangelist, Teacher, Radio Speaker, Pastor, and Missionary to Brazil and Portugal. He also had a long tenure in the field of education as a teacher at a Seminary in Brazil and as President of Columbia Christian School in Magnolia. All five of the Crawford children (Stanley, Diann, Kay, Dixie, and Telma) attended and graduated from CBC.

The Rufus and Mildred Crawford Endowed Scholarship will give priority to licensed ministerial students majoring in Bible or Missions whose goal is to serve on the foreign mission field. It is such a blessing that Mrs. Crawford chose to honor the memory of Bro. Crawford by creating a scholarship that will continue Bro. Rufus' legacy by helping students whose goal is to serve on the foreign mission field.

Central Baptist College has over sixty endowed scholarships representing over \$2,000,000 in contributions. Endowed scholarships serve as a lasting tribute, and as with all of the endowed scholarships at the institution, the initial donation will be placed in the permanent endowment. The principal will never be spent; only the interest will be awarded as scholarships. The scholarship will be awarded by vote of the CBC Scholarship Committee, taking into account the qualifications and eligibility of the applicants as detailed in the scholarship agreement.

Memorial gifts to the Rufus and Mildred Crawford Endowed Scholarship Fund can be sent to Central Baptist College, 1501 College Avenue, Conway, AR 72034. Checks should be made payable to Central Baptist College with "Crawford Endowed Scholarship" indicated on the memo line. If you have questions or need additional information please contact Sancy Faulk, Vice President for Advancement, at 501.205.8799 or sfaulk@cbc.edu.

Is It A Good Idea or "God" Idea?

by Larry Barker

Larry Barker is the operations director for North American Missions. For more information or to contact him, visit www.bmamissions.org.

The title of this article was a challenge from my pastor, Todd West, that caused me to consider all the decisions I make. Are they directed by the Lord? He shared that USA Today reported that every individual can make up to 35,000 decisions a day. Wow, that's a lot but when you consider how many decisions we make as second nature it does add up. But what about the bigger decisions that we face? We are faced with choices every day where we must discern God's direction and leading in our lives correctly.

Nehemiah had a big decision as he was challenged to do something about his hometown Jerusalem. He was passion-

DiscipleGuide's "Tuesday Talks" Available

Tuesday Talks, the monthly webcast designed to minister to pastors, staff and churches of the BMA, has announced its line-up for the next six editions. Tune your web browser to www.bmalife.com/tv every second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. to tune in! **All previous editions of Tuesday Talks can be found at www.discipleguide.org/tuesdaytalks.**

May 12- "Going to Camp? Here Are Some Things You Need To Know!" Jason Prewitt, Director, Daniel Springs Baptist Camp

June 9- "I Found Out Some Things About My Church" Todd West, Pastor, Oasis, Maumelle, AR and Director, DiscipleGuide Church Solutions

July 14- "Three Vital Trends Every Church Must Prepare For" Dr. John Adams, Pastor, FBC Mantachie, MS and Director, BMA Moral Action Committee

August 11- "Make Your Sunday School Class More than a Lecture" Dr. Mark Livingston, Pastor, FBC Keltys, TX and Managing Editor, DiscipleGuide's Compass

September 8- "Is Your Church In The Recliner?" Larry Barker, Director of North American Church Planting

October 13- "Putting Your Church In a Position to Grow" Dr. Scott Attebery, Director, DiscipleGuide Church Resources

ate about his desire to see the walls rebuilt and the city restored to its former glory. The book of Nehemiah is often used to teach excellent leadership principles and in this area of discerning between a "good" idea and a "God" idea it serves us well again. There is a huge difference between

Honor Your Dad A Little Differently This Year

Are you looking for a different way to honor your dad on Father's Day this year? Why not make a contribution to the BMA Foundation in his honor? Your contribution will never be spent. It will be invested, and only the earnings from the contribution will be used to help all or any of the BMA departments and agencies as you specify. If your dad is deceased, a contribution to the Foundation in his memory would be most appropriate and meaningful.

Your contribution can help BMA Missions send missionaries throughout the world; help LifeWord Media Ministries spread the gospel by radio, television and the internet; help DiscipleGuide provide much-needed resources to BMA churches; help BMA Theological Seminary train pastors, teachers and missionaries; help Ministers Resource Services provide retirement services to pastors, church staff members and denominational employees; and help the Moral Action Agency articulate our beliefs on very important issues of our day. In assisting these departments and agencies, you will be helping build God's Kingdom as the departments and agencies assist BMA churches in carrying out the Great Commission.

Contributions should be mailed to P.O. Box 1188, Conway, Arkansas 72033, along with contact information for anyone you would like us to notify regarding your contribution.

DiscipleGuide Welcomes New Trustees

Four new Trustees were added to DiscipleGuide's Board during the 2015 national meeting of the Baptist Missionary Association of America in Springfield, Missouri, April 20-22.

Heith Mitchell is the pastor of Myrtle Springs Baptist Church in Quitman, Texas. He has a passion for church revitalization and is active in the BMA of Texas state missions department's "Revival in Texas" initiative.

Michael Treat is the associate pastor of student ministries at Central Baptist Church in Conway, Arkansas. Michael's desire to equip students with biblically solid discipleship will be valuable to DiscipleGuide's publishing activities and student conferences.

Tracy McMillan serves as youth pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Fulton, Mississippi. Tracy has been actively involved in SOAR conference, SOAR:lit curriculum, and Galilean Camp. He brings valuable experience and insight to the table for DiscipleGuide's student ministries.

Kristen Riddle is the president and Director of Clinical Services for US Compounding. Kristen's professional experience combined with her background in Girl's Missionary Auxiliary, Daniel Springs Camp, and SOAR conference will bring fresh insight for future progress at DiscipleGuide.

The four new trustees replace outgoing board members Greg Medenwald, Zane Clark, Mark Livingston, and David Norvell. According to Executive Director Scott Attebery, "These men have served us well over the years. DiscipleGuide has been blessed by their faithfulness. At the same time, God is faithful and has sent us wonderful new trustees who will do a great job leading us into the future."

a whim, an impulse, or a desire, and knowing 100% that God is behind our thoughts and plans!

Todd then gave us six principles of how to discern between a "Good" idea and a "God" idea based on Nehemiah 2:17-18, "But now I said to them, 'You know very well what trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end

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WMA & GMA NEWS

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Missouri State GMA Retreat

July 10-11, 2015

Camp Garwood

• IDEA From Page 5 •

this disgrace!" Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king. They replied at once, "Yes, let's rebuild the wall!" So they began the good work." (NLT)

Principle #1: God Ideas Start with a Burden – Nehemiah saw the condition of Jerusalem and it greatly troubled him. The burden grew and he knew he had to do something. The burden increased and it remained on his heart calling him to action. He could not escape this "God" idea! The King noticed his sadness and even wondered why he was depressed.

Principle #2: God Ideas Contain Present Reality – His hometown was lying in ruins and the situation was very bad. There are some who always want to be optimistic, no matter what, but Nehemiah admitted that something was wrong and needed to be done. He took a step toward being a part of the solution realizing He needed God's help and the help of others.

Principle #3: God Ideas Can Be Clearly Stated – Nehemiah was able to articulate the vision of what needed to be done next. "Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!" If you cannot clearly state the next move God desires you to take then you should wait until you can. If it is a little fuzzy to you it will be very foggy to those you are leading.

Principle #4: God Ideas Show Evidence of God's Approval - Nehemiah said this, "Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me." Have you prayed and sought His mind on the matter the same way Nehemiah did? Has God opened doors you could not have opened on your own and you clearly see him in this idea? You see His movement and His hand!

Principle #5: God Ideas are Affirmed by godly People - When Nehemiah shared the vision with them they said, "Let's start rebuilding" and they were encouraged to do this good work! There is wisdom in the multitude of counsel. If godly people you trust cannot see it you need to step back, reevaluate, and seek the face of the Lord. Seek wise godly counsel!

Principle #6: God Ideas are Always Met with Opposition – The walls began to be rebuilt but there were those who were against it from the beginning. Those people are still with us today! Nehemiah had to go to work with a trowel in one hand and a sword in the other. While he was building he also had to be prepared for battle. If you don't want any opposition then don't do anything! Oh, and then they will complain that you aren't doing anything!

Principle #7: God Ideas are very Unique to You! – (I added principle #7!) There are many good things you can be involved in, but God has a calling on your life and a purpose for you. God has uniquely created you and gifted you to fulfill His purposes and bring glory to His name. Good ideas are plentiful but God's perfect will for your life is distinctive and requires asking His direction!

Everyone has a lot of what they think are "good" ideas,

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Disasters - Diseases - Deaths

I cannot remember a time in my life when the whole State of Texas has flooded like it has this past month. Top to bottom was a flood, and it is a pretty big state. My sister called at almost midnight to tell me that their home in Houston was flooding. Since my family had experienced flooding years ago; she was calling to get ideas on how to keep the water out of her house. As the waters receded, we talked over all that had happened. We both put it into perspective that it was nothing compared to those who had their entire family swept away, along with their homes, across the state. Moving your furniture and stacking it up as high off the floor as you can; mopping up water in your home is all a huge ordeal. But it is really just an inconvenience when you think of the families who went on a weekend getaway to the Hill Country of Texas and were all swept to their deaths from raging flood waters.

Our little 4 year old great niece is battling leukemia. She is a real warrior princess. Her mom has quit her job and takes care of her full time now. She does home chemotherapy each day through ports in her arms. Then, once a week she has to go for the big tuff stuff at the hospital several miles away. Her two little brothers adapt well as mom and dad have to spend so much time with their sick little girl. Yet, through it all; my niece has never been closer to God. She is growing exponentially in her faith and relationship with God. For the first time ever, she called last week and we discussed scripture over the phone. When all the blond curly hair that flowed halfway down her back fell out – everyone cut off their hair in support. While my niece and her family grow in strength and courage from the Lord; the little girl just keeps on playing, and singing and being like a 4 year old when she feels good. She doesn't even know to have a bad outlook on life. When she is not sick; she is happy and playing and enjoying life. Her mom told me that on the way to get chemotherapy last week at the hospital; a man cut them off in traffic on the freeway. She said, "I would have honked and got so mad in the past. But it didn't even bother me. I thought that maybe he was battling some big problem and just wasn't paying attention, or had to hurry home for an emergency." She just prayed for him.

Our neighbor lady just around the corner from us is terminally ill. She told us recently that she is just about gone. We have been going over and praying over her. She is so appreciative and goes on and on about how wonderful it is. It is really nothing. I get kind of sad thinking of all the people who are hurting and no one comes to help them or visit them or pray for them. It makes me think that there are a lot of Christians out there who are too busy with their own pursuit of happiness to minister to the needs of others. Our neighbor is building this huge deck onto the back of her house. I thought it was strange that she would just be starting this major building project at

this point in her life. But I learned years ago that people deal with disease and death in their own unique way and it is never a good thing to judge others on how they choose to respond to their life situations. She said, "I have to do something. I want to enjoy coming out here on my deck. I have to do something that keeps me going. I need

projects to cause me to get up in the morning. It helps me still feel alive." I admire her resiliency, while I think of how many of us complain about having to do chores around the house on a day off. Should we be thankful that we even have a day off to do our chores? Should we be thankful that we have good enough health to get outside and work around the yard?

The reason for these 3 stories - disaster- disease - death - is to shake us back into the realization of how thankful we should be for all that God has blessed us with. We should live every day to its' fullest and not worry about the little things. With God in charge of all that happens, we shouldn't even worry about the big things. You see, all people who go through disasters and tribulations gain a new perspective on life. They learn to appreciate life more. They live each day in the present and grab hold of all the beauty they can find. It is there each day if we look for it. People who go through fiery trials learn that all of this other stuff we get so hung up on is not really important at all. Homes, clothes, cars, money, jobs, what to do with your leisure time, worrying about losing a few pounds etc... is not important. People are important. Life is important. Jesus is important. Your relationship with Christ and to others is really all that matters. My advice to you all is to not wait for a disease or a disaster to strike to learn what is really important in life. Live each day to its' fullest and focus on what is truly important that day. Get an attitude adjustment. If a four year old with leukemia can sing Jesus Loves Me, then I think we can have a better attitude as well.

Life is too short, too frail, too unknown, to spend time worrying, fretting or fighting. Get busy focusing on what really matters and living each day as if it were your last. Re-adjust your priorities. Love Jesus, Love Others and Love the Life with which God has blessed you. That's all that truly matters.

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

Truth Never Dies

by Dennis Baker, Brotherhood President

I have received personal encouragement from preparing and leading a study of Baptist history, at church on Wednesday Evenings.

We have been studying how God used the Waldenses, Paulicians, Albigenses, Novatians, Donatists, and others to spread the message of God's saving grace in France, Germany, Switzerland, Netherlands, and England.

We have discovered that it may be hard to trace a succession of churches from the time Christ established His church to the present, but history reveals that truth never dies. Barclay, a Quaker, wrote of the England Baptist: "The rise of the Anabaptists took place long prior to the foundation of the church of England, and there are also reasons for believing that on the Continent of Europe, small hidden societies, who held many of the opinions of the Anabaptist, have existed from the time of the apostles. In the sense of the direct transmission of divine truth and the true nature of spiritual religion, it seems probable that these churches have a lineage of succession more ancient than the Roman church. (Barclay, the Inner Life of the Religious Societies of the Commonwealth, 12)."

Other historians have written that these groups contended for the sufficiency of Scriptures and the right of every believer to judge their meaning. They contended for the independence of the church; they exalted the divine Word as the only standard of faith; they maintained the essential purity of the church, and the necessity of a holy life springing from a renewed heart. They administered baptism by immersion to those who professed repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

What an encouragement, "Truth Never Dies."



**Daniel Springs
Improving Camp
Registration
Process**

Great things are happening at Daniel Springs in anticipation of the 2015 summer camp season, and we think churches will be pleased.

First, this year's registration is user-friendly and completely online. Simply go to www.danielspringscamp.com, select a camp week to register your group and pay by credit or debit card.

Also, to make things more straightforward, the regular registration fee is \$125 per attendee regardless of the preferred housing (cabin or dorm). This will allow Daniel Springs to adequately prepare for the correct number of campers (i.e. ordering food, supplies, t-shirts, Bible study materials, etc.)

Registrations made within fourteen days of the camp's start date will be considered late registrations and will incur an additional \$15 fee per attendee. Late registrants will not be guaranteed a t-shirt.

Registrations are transferable but not refundable and the balance is due at the time of registration.

Finally, we take seriously the safety of the students entrusted to our care, so to be in compliance with Texas state regulations, all adult sponsors are required to complete a background check and watch a safety video that is linked to

**DiscipleGuide
Partners
With
BMA Seminary**

DiscipleGuide partners every quarter with the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary for the purpose of ensuring theological accuracy in Bible study curriculum. Seminary faculty review every lesson of Compass, DiscipleGuide's adult Sunday school material, and Compass Teacher, the corresponding leader's guide.

"When it comes to teaching God's Word, accuracy is vital," explains DiscipleGuide Executive Director Scott Attebery. "That's why we are so thankful for the seminary's willingness to review our lessons. Scripture is the greatest treasure we have been given on earth, and we want to provide literature that is true to God's Word."

Seminary President Dr. Charley Holmes comments, "Even before I was a part of the seminary, it had an active role with DiscipleGuide Sunday school material. Seminary professors and graduates have written or edited numerous quarterlies and other helps. I am delighted to have one of our grads, Dr. Scott Attebery, as the editor of educational materials. We are blessed by having the privilege of assisting Dr. Attebery with reviewing the theological and biblical content of our BMA educational materials."

To learn more about, or to order Compass curriculum, go to discipleguide.org or call 800-333-1442.

Daniel Springs Baptist Camp. Churches are responsible for completing this process with each adult volunteer prior to arrival. Specific details for each sponsor are necessary for this process to be completed.

The Daniel Springs medical release form must be downloaded and filled out for each attendee. Please bring two copies of each release to camp, one for your group leader and one for the camp

2015 Freedom Offering

In our recent association meeting the messengers of our churches approved the report of Moral Action which made the following recommendation: "That all our BMA churches schedule June 28 or July 5, 2015, as the Moral Action "Freedom Offering" Sunday. This is an opportunity to honor or give memorials to our soldiers, both past and present also. Let's help Bro. John Adams represent our Biblical and Moral issues to those who lead our country. Take a Freedom offering this year.

**Maintaining Our
Christian
Freedom**



June 28th & July 5th
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2015 FREEDOM OFFERING**



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LAUNCHKIT
Ignite a conversation around Scripture

**New Launch Kit Bible Studies
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DiscipleGuide is proud to offer a new line of student Bible studies called Launch Kits. Launch Kits are lesson plans for

• See KIT Page 8 •

medical staff.

We are thrilled about this camp season and what God has in store for each attendee. We look forward to partnering with each church and to the relationships that will be formed during the summer!

Seminary Suffers Storm Damage

by Don Brown, Editor of Mississippi Baptist Paper

Jacksonville, Texas - The recent weather problems that the state of Texas has endured has affected BMA schools in Jacksonville, Texas.

BMA Theological Seminary, along with Jacksonville Baptist College, have suffered power outages and damage as a result of the storms.

This editor spoke with Seminary president Dr. Charley Holmes on Thursday, May 28. He shared that the strong winds that passed through on Monday evening, May 25, had knocked out power for most of the city of Jacksonville. Holmes said their was evidence of some roof damage to some of the classroom areas. He stated that most of the other buildings, including houses and apartments on campus, have escaped any major damage.

The seminary has remained closed during the week. Dr. Holmes shared that dozens of trees were down on campus and the tops of the Magnolia trees in the front part of the campus were twisted and damaged. The school's telephone system was knocked out and will possibly have to be replaced.

Holmes noted that much clean up work was yet to be done and that non-insurance covered cleanup cost could approach upwards of \$25,000.

The following was taken from the Jacksonville Progress (the local newspaper) ... *Jacksonville residents joined utility repair crews and tree removal service personnel Tuesday in an effort to return the city to a more normal state after what National Weather Service officials categorized as "straight line" winds tore through many parts of Jacksonville, New Summerfield as well as numerous portions of the rural areas in the northern third of Cherokee County early Monday evening.*

After the shock and awe had set in and the picture taking was complete, many citizens put on their work clothes, rolled up their sleeves and began what was an arduous task for some — working to clean up what in some cases were massive amounts of debris left behind in the storm's wake.

Loving My Roots

I have friends from many different evangelical denominations. We love, support, and encourage one another in kingdom work. My roots happen to be planted in the Baptist Missionary Association of America (BMA). While there is plenty to say about the dangers of denominational pride and competition, there is also plenty to say about appreciating and loving the place God has planted you. From a human standpoint, if someone asks why the BMA, SBC, ABA, PCA, or IFBC exists; certainly we could point to a multitude of historical events -some noble, some not so noble. (We could also point to the fact that evangelicals love acronyms!) But the most important justification for the existence of any denomination is that God has providentially (through those human events) placed a group of Churches in a certain time and place to fulfill a role in the work of the Great Commission.

There are several benefits of focusing on God's providential establishment of a denomination:

1. It helps us avoid denominational pride and competition.
2. It gives us a kingdom mind-set.
3. It emphasizes that God has a kingdom role for our group -no matter the size.

When I look at God's providence in the founding of my own association, it opens my eyes up to the treasure I have been given. Every relationship within my denomination is not by accident -its by divine design. That means by loving my BMA roots, I am loving God's provision for me and for His

• KIT From Page 7 •

student pastors, small group leaders, volunteers, and parents that are easy to use.

Lessons are designed to ignite a conversation around Scripture as students discuss their faith in a life-changing way. Each Launch Kit is crafted for use with middle school through high school age youth. Since Launch Kits are conversation-based, the lessons do not have student handouts or worksheets. Instead, they contain a leader discussion guide that steers conversation toward living out genuine faith and a life centered on Scripture.

Launch Kits are sold per series, and the cost is based on the number of weeks in the series. Once churches or individuals buy a series, they own it and may reproduce as many copies as they wish.

Each series has been written and developed by Stephen Castleberry, a student pastor at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, Arkansas, where the lessons have been used with great success.

Find the growing Launch Kit series and an introductory video at DiscipleGuide.org under "shop," then "students," then "Launch Kit." (Launch Kit Logo included)

kingdom. So here are a few things I love about my roots in the BMA that simultaneously exalt God (I'm sure you could probably write a similar list for your de-nomination):

1. The BMA is a family. When I experienced great loss, they were there for me.
2. The BMA is committed to unity. That doesn't mean we always agree. Unity is found in how we choose to disagree.
3. The BMA is passionate about reaching the nations. This year we have more American missionaries around the world than in our entire history.
4. The BMA loves discipleship. At this year's national meeting, I heard the word "disciple" constantly. It's on our minds and its in our hearts.
5. The BMA does not pre-

AVAILABLE PREACHERS

The following names are listed as a service to our churches in keeping you informed as to preachers that are available. The publishing of a preacher's availability for preaching appointments or pastoral work should not be considered as a recommendation by the *Missouri Missionary Baptist*. Names are published at the request of the individual and will be published in three consecutive issues unless the editor is otherwise instructed.

Ron Beardsley of Sikeston, is available to be used as the Lord leads. Contact him at 573-380-3842, -5-

Denver Page, member of Landmark Baptist Church, DeSoto, MO, is available for pulpit supply or as the Lord leads. Home phone: (636) 942-3503 or cell: (314) 283-7243. -5-

Rocky Houston, a member of Kewanee Baptist Church is available for pulpit supply. Contact him at 573-748-5879 after 4 p.m. -06-

Dennis Leonard, member of Pottersville Missionary Baptist Church, Pottersville, MO, is available for pulpit supply or as The Lord leads. Home phone (417) 284-1277 or cell (573) 561-6414. -6-

James Hoffmann, member of Bethany Baptist Church in St. Louis, is available for pulpit supply. Contact him at 314-277-8644 or by e-mail at jmhoff@charter.net. -6-

Brad Akers, of Belgrade, MO and a member of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church is available for pulpit supply or as the Lord leads. Home phone 573-766-1405. Cell phone 573-701-1850. E-mail bakers001@centurytel.net. -6-

Pastor Search

Bethany Baptist Church, St. Louis, 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.

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July 1-3

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tend to take the place of the Church. My denomination understands it role is to support God's churches -not replace them.

6. The BMA does not pretend to be perfect. This may be my favorite thing about our association.

We know how to admit our limitations. But that's not a bad thing, because admitting our limitations is the first step to acknowledging God's powerful work through us. Ultimately, like individuals, de-nominations are vessels that God chooses to use. And so I choose not to criticize my roots, but instead to embrace them - because in His providence, God has given me this heritage for a purpose! And it is where I have am thrilled to have a role serving in the Kingdom. Maybe it was cool to criticize your denomination in the past, but no more. If you want to exalt God then you must love the roots that he's given you. How about you?

By Scott Attebery
DiscipleGuide Executive Director