

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

“Holding Forth The Word of Life”

Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXVIII

St. Louis, MO • July 14, 2015

Issue No. 7

Missouri State Camp

July 27 - 31, 2015
Camp Garwood

By the time this is printed there will only be a couple weeks left until camp. I hope you're as ready as I am. Oh, there's still lots to do, but I'm looking forward to seeing everyone, how the Lord blesses.

This is my last opportunity to remind everyone 18 and older about the Child Protection policy. **July 22nd** is the last day I'm available to approve your application. If you haven't done so please go to www.bmamissouri.org as soon as possible. Read the camp rules, Complete the worker application and we will send you a training link.

Remember, each church is encouraged to send one youth to participate in the DIT's. The youth must be responsible and willing to accept some responsibilities during camp.

Let's not limit that request to our youth. There are plenty of areas we can use volunteers to help out during camp week. Anywhere from dorm inspections to recreation, kitchen, canteen help.

Also remember to bring desserts and fresh veggies for the salad bar to help out our cooks.

Most important, be praying for Bro. Shawn, the Harpers, all the volunteers and a great camp week. See you soon!

Bro. Chris

The Lonely Side of Being a Pastor

by Todd West
Director of Church
Solutions at DiscipleGuide

Being a pastor is something that can only be understood by those who have invested at least a portion of their lives being church pastors. I have tried in the past to “pour out my heart” to church leaders, family members, and other friends, and as much as they wanted to understand, they just couldn't. Where do pastors turn?

I have at times found comfort from other pastors who were like a pastor to me, but honestly, there are some issues that we are simply not comfortable sharing even with close pastor friends. Yes, our marriages struggle,

our kids struggle, we battle with the same temptations other believers face, and often yield to poor choices and find ourselves dealing with the consequences. Pastors are no different from anyone else in the church when it comes to temptations and struggles. As a matter of fact, it makes sense that pastors would be Satan's favorite target, because we are the leaders of the local church.

Pastors today are not finding the support they need to finish

BMA of Missouri & Meramec Landmark Baptist Association Church Treasurers

Thank You for your faithfulness in sending your church's offerings to support His work. Please help us by sending:

1. all checks and correspondence for Meramec Association Missions to:

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

2. all checks and correspondence for BMA of MO Missions should be sent to:

James Hoffmann
176 Bear Creek Dr.
Wentzville, MO 63385

Meramec Landmark Baptist Association

Quarterly Meeting

August 15, 2015 at 10: 00 a.m.

Fellowship Baptist Church, Potosi, MO

The church is located on AA Highway. Take Highway 8W out of Potosi and turn left onto Highway 185N. Stay on 185N for

well in the ministry. According to one study, “For every ten men who surrender to preach the gospel, only one will retire still in vocational ministry.” Pastors are leaving the ministry at an alarming rate, and churches are struggling to find anyone to replace them. It has been my observation that most BMA churches are going without pastors for two to three years before finding replacements, because the pool of pastors has decreased in the past decade. This is not a problem unique to the BMA, but rather common to all denominations in our nation.

Our director at DiscipleGuide (Scott Attebery) shared a burden with me some time back to establish a “Pastors Help

Line” to minister to our BMA pastors at critical moments in their lives and ministries.

I recently traveled to Colorado Springs to see what Focus on the Family is doing with their new Pastors Hotline. I watched that day as phones were being answered by people in the “call center” who have spent years in vocational ministry. These trained coaches/counselors can listen with an understanding ear and provide coaching/counseling to move pastors forward. Pastors are calling Focus on the Family about issues ranging from dealing with a difficult church member, struggles with pornography, anxiety/depression, personal marriage issues, parenting a pastor's kid, etc.

Association ministry in its

Camp Garwood Is THE PLACE TO BE!!! July 27-31, 2015

COME and Enjoy:

Great fellowship, singing, preaching, food and fun!

GIVE and Help:

Be a DEWer, Pay for Insurance, Bring an Offering!

Pray and Expect:

God's Blessings, New Friends, Lasting Relationships!

Work and Reap:

Eternal Rewards, Genuine Joy, A Spiritual Lift!

We look forward to seeing you THERE!!!

approximately 2.5 miles until you see the Highway AA/185 junction on the left. Turn onto AA and continue on AA about 2 miles until you see the church on the right. We cordially invite all to stay for a time of fellowship and a great lunch.

Mike Jarvis, Pastor

best form is all about helping churches and their pastors to be healthy. At DiscipleGuide, we are excited to offer the BMA Pastors Help Line to our pastors in the very near future. This partnership with Focus on the Family is just another tool that will help the BMA pastor and his family stay healthy.

There will be no cost to you or your church. Pastors, this is a gift to you from those supporting DiscipleGuide. Use it!

Within the next few weeks, you will see promotions for the BMA Pastors Help Line. Please don't be afraid to reach out and get help.

Pastors, we love you and want to help be a solution to the challenges you are facing.

+++ NEWS BRIEFS +++

Abundant Life in Christ, Charleston, rejoices in the profession of faith of Janisha and in the addition of Elaine Griggs by baptism.
Rodney Dunlap, Pastor

The theme at **Bethany, St. Louis** and most of Missouri lately has been “rain, rain and more rain!” God is blessing us with lots of it. And everything is green and beautiful! Bethany has had many blessings this month with God’s Word being preached by visiting preachers. We have had Bro. Richard Smith preaching for us as well as Bro. Caleb Houston. This reporter was able to take a few days of vacation and journeyed to Burlington, Ky. to visit with family. Thank God for traveling grace and safety. I returned home Wednesday evening just in time to witness a huge downpour and again thank God for getting Karen and I through that mess. The Hoffmann’s and Hauks took a vacation also this month and saw more of God’s handiwork. We congratulate Bro. Aaron Brenner on his graduation from high school. The church had a reception for him on Sunday evening the 28th. Our monthly ladies fellowship was held at the Hoffmann’s new home in Wentzville. It was time of fellowship and good food. Our church is involved in Community Helping Hands and this reporter was able to help collect food and personal items at a food drive on June 7th. This was indeed a blessing as I was able to greet people with a smile and a “God bless you.” Our youth and sponsors are looking forward to going to Camp Garwood this month. Pray for Bethany as we search God’s will in seeking a pastor. Kathy Chapman, reporter.

Greetings from **Ohlman Landmark Missionary Baptist Church, Bunker**. It has been awhile since we have reported any news but are looking forward to share what God is doing. This Spring and summer had brought many exciting events and lots of blessings. In April, the Harper family hosted a wonderful dinner and singing for all of the church family as a thank you for all of the love, support and prayers they have received since starting their ministry. April also was the month of for our week long revival with Bro. Scottie Rayburn of Mississippi. It was a great way to light the fires in our hearts to prepare us for the things God had planned for each and every one of us. June started with an opportunity for our older youth and youth leaders to attend Super Summer at Hannibal LaGrange College in Hannibal, MO. The week long camp equipped us on disciple training and furthering our relationship and missions for the Lord. In July our Pastor and many of our church family will be taking a trip to the Navajo Reservation in Utah. They will be knocking on doors, holding a backyard bible club and witnessing. The Bible club will be similar to VBS and will be at Bro. Andy Lahmanns church, Montezuma Creek Baptist Church. Please keep them in your prayers for safe travels and to reach many lives in their journey. We are so very blessed that God allows us an opportunity to reach others for him. He always works things out! The youth group will take their annual trip to six flags for some fun in the sun right before we spend an amazing week at CAMP GARWOOD! The kids have so much fun at camp and it gives them the opportunity to spend the week with other brothers and sisters in Christ their own ages in worship and learning more about Jesus. When we return we will have a week long Wacky World of Water vacation bible school. It will be all hands on deck to prepare and share the Good News of Jesus. Pray for us as we spread the Good News and help get others prepared for His return. Love to everyone from our church to yours!
Terry Sharpe, Pastor • Dottie May, reporter

Lower Doe Run, Ellington, sends Summer Greetings. We see the Hand of God in everything and praise Him for the hope that it gives in our troubled world. More and more as we witness to the lost and wayward, the words of the old hymn, “This World is not My Home” brings encouragement and hope. What a blessing George and Betty Rayfield are to us as they celebrated 69 years of marriage. Another blessing this month was that Helen Morris, Carolyn Meade, Dakota Williams, Alexis and Jayden Barker survived the long round trip and joys at the National GMA Retreat in Daniel Springs, Gary, TX. Jason and Jessica Prewitt are doing a great job managing the camp. It was good to see Bro. Speer visiting and receiving the check of more than \$10,000 donated by the GMA Project Committee for improvements to the Camp. We look forward to the State GMA Retreat at Garwood on the 10th and 11th of July with guest speaker Valarie Fish and of course the Family Camp the last week of July. Our church will host the Annual Logan Creek Association on August 15. Come worship with us at 10:00 a.m. through lunch and beyond. Our pastor and wife will celebrate their 50th Wedding anniversary August 8 at 2:00 p.m. at the Stony Point Church Activity Center. You are all invited to celebrate with them.

Melvin Meade, Pastor
Carolyn Meade, Reporter

Briar, Doniphan, declares “Isn’t it a wonderful time to be a Christian? Maybe with the world on a downward spiral, that sounds strange. This is the time for us to stand up and testify to the truth of God’s word and try to win as many as possible to the Lord.” Our Vacation Bible School will be July 15th thru the 17th from 6 till 8:30 p.m.. Bring the kids and come out and join us in learning about Jesus and have some fun! It’s with great sadness that we re-

port Briar is again without a Pastor. Bro. Jon and his wife, Hannah, feel the Lord is calling them to another place. While they were with us for only a short time, they will be sorely missed. Perhaps God brought them to us for motivation, as prayerfully we hope to be better witnesses in the future. Briar adopted Resolution 1 and Resolution 2 at our business meeting last week. The BMA presented these and other resolutions at the last meeting in Springfield, MO. They will be voted on at the next meeting in 2016. As a local church, it is important to us to have these resolutions in place now. I am as guilty (probably more so) as anyone concerning reading our Missouri Missionary Baptist paper. We need to stay informed as to the working of our association and learn the things we can do as individual churches to support our moral values. Let’s all “Stand Up for Jesus” Till next time--Keep Looking Up
Phyllis Williams---Reporter

We, at **Landmark, DeSoto**, lost our oldest church member this month. But, we do know that our loss is Heaven’s gain. Bro. Clifton Cooper, age 95, went home to be with the Lord June 9th. He had had a bad time for the last year. Up to that time, he was still in fairly good health. He had a stroke and about the time he was scheduled to leave the nursing home to return to his home, he suffered another one. When he passed away, he was still living in the nursing home. He will be greatly missed by family and friends. Never heard anyone say a bad word about this gentle man. The ladies of the church made and served breakfast to the men on the morning of June 20th. We had promised them a surprise speaker as we had asked Bro. Jim Ford to come speak to them a few words of encouragement, which he did. I think everyone that came had an enjoyable time and a good meal. The Harper’s were our Sunday night service the 28th. Zion dismissed their services and came down to join us. It was a very enjoyable evening. There are many on our prayer list. Bro. Earl Denby’s house was flooded and there is a possibility that he and his boys will not be able to live there anymore. He certainly needs our prayers along with those that lost everything they had, and those families that lost loved ones in the flooding. Until next month or the Lord’s Return

Wayne Gibson, Pastor • Sharon Page, Reporter

Greetings from **First Baptist, Potosi**, to our brothers and sisters in Christ. Praise the Lord, our prayers have been answered and we have elected Bro. Jim Ainley as our senior pastor. Miss

• Continued on Page 4 •

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FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS • June 2015

General Fund:

Balance May 28, 2015		\$	130,452.94
June Receipts:	\$	<u>3,976.88</u>	\$ <u>3,976.88</u>
Total Available		\$	134,429.82
Disbursements:			
Assistant Director's Salary	\$	450.00	
Designated for North Lake	\$	<u>30.00</u>	
Total Disbursements	\$	480.00	\$ <u>480.00</u>
Balance June 30, 2015:		\$	133,949.82

Assistant Mission Director's Report

This past month has passed fast as I tried to adjust to the added responsibilities of keeping books for the Missions account of the BMA of Missouri and tried to fit in a two week trip with some of our family.

When Bro. Danny and I talked of making the transition upon his resignation we decided to keep the Post Office Box he had used in Florissant in hopes that it might make things a little less confusing for all involved.

That has not worked as smoothly as we had hoped. I had forgotten that he was also the Missions Director of the Meramec Association and their mail went to the same P.O. Box.

Bro. Johnny Dover is the Director of Missions for the

Meramec Association and he has received some mail for the BMA of Missouri and I have received some mail for the Meramec Association. We have worked together forwarding those checks to the right Missions Account but we both feel that this confusion causes a delay in receiving and depositing your checks and that it would be best to close the P.O. Box and encourage our church treasures to send the BMA of MO offerings to my address and the Meramec offerings to his address. Of course I will keep the P.O. Box open for at least two more months and give time for everyone to make the adjustments involved.

Please note that the checks and correspondence

for **Meramec Association Missions** should be sent to:

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St. Clair, MO 63077

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James Hoffmann
176 Bear Creek Dr.
Wentzville, MO 63385

Treasurers who also send offerings to the **Missouri Missionary Baptist Paper** are encouraged to put both checks in one envelope and mail to Bro. Hoffmann at the address above. If you have any questions feel free to call me at 314-277-8644. Thank you for your patience as we serve the Lord and His churches in Missouri.

RND Quotes

www.josephharrismagic.com/end

If we all insisted upon and lived up to the standard of "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" everyone would be toothless and blind. Thank God there's forgiveness.



Brother Ritechus N. Dignation

Are You

DEWing it?

Give a **Dollar**
Every **Week**
to **Camp Gawood**

the damaged carport. Eddie called on several of the Builders who live fairly close to Jacksonville and work began on June 18th. There were 9 Builders who worked on the job during the next week. Because of the heat and humidity, the men started their work at 6 and ended at noon. They repaired the corner part of the roof over the kitchen, put new sheetrock up on the ceiling, and tore down the adjoining carport.

Lewayne Curry, wife of Virgil Curry, was able to join her husband on this job. We so enjoyed the fellowship with this couple.

The Master's Builders always enjoy going to Jacksonville College and catching up with the staff and our friends that we have made down there. They take such good care of us. Thank you for the meals and the fellowship we enjoyed.

If your church has building needs or if you have questions about The Master's Builders Ministry, contact Office Coordinator, John Mangum at (318)205-5155 or cell (318)607-4100 or Field Coordinator, Eddie Sikes, at (903)725-6549 or cell (479)462-1675.

Master's Builders Continue Helping

by Nelda Malone



Master's Builders on the job at Connection Point in Arkansas

April 27th, The Master's Builders arrived to help at Connection Point Mission in Brookland, Arkansas. They framed the foyer, worship area, storage rooms and bathrooms. This job needed extra sheets of sheetrock and bigger framing boards to meet code and the men worked extremely hard to meet these code guidelines. When you stand and watch the men as they work, as I often do, you will be amazed at how God strengthens them to be able to do the work that they need and want to do.

God sent a new friend and fellow worker on this job at Connection Point. Virgil Curry of Waxahachie, Texas, fit right



Prayer before working at Connection Point in Arkansas

in with our family and we praise God for sending him to us.

In June, Eddie Sikes received a call from Dr. Mike Smith of Jacksonville College, Jacksonville, Texas, requesting help from The Master's Builders to help in repairing Ragsdale House, which was damaged during a recent storm. A huge tree was blown onto the roof and carport of the dorm/house and help was needed to repair the roof of the house and tear down



Master's Builders in Jacksonville, Texas

• **NEWS From Page 2** •

Nevaeh Griffin was saved and baptized; she is very active in church activities. Nevaeh is the daughter of Shawn and Andrea Griffin and the granddaughter of Bro. Allan Joe and Phyllis Wilkerson. Paul and Sandy Fitzwater were blessed with the birth of two grandsons; Parker Wayne Cullins was born to Katherine and Roger Cullins, and Paxton John Davis, was born to Kyle and Phoebe Davis. Great-grandparents are Jack and Norma Jane Wilkerson. Raven Porter, VBS director, has been working diligently with other volunteers preparing for Bible School. She and the others decorated a float for the Moses Austin Festival and it carried VBS students wearing masks depicting the "Weird Animals" and posters inviting others to Vacation Bible School. The GMA and the youth group, are preparing for July trips. The GMA will be going to Garwood for their meeting and the youth group will be going to Jefferson County for their mission work. Prayers are going up for these activities. Pray for us in our endeavors of reaching the unsaved and unchurched people in our community through VBS and Sports Crusaders. Please pray for us as we pray for you.

Jim Ainley, Pastor • Deborah Rauhut, Reporter

Ozark Heights, Potosi, sends Greetings to all our brother and sisters in Christ. I apologize for missing last month, Sis. Georgie Brokaw has been busy caring for her husband Bill, who has been challenged with some health issues over the last couple of months. We ask you keep them both in your prayers. We were blessed to see Sis. Mary Dement back in our services along with Bro. Bob. Health has been a concern with them as well. Please keep them in your prayers. We love them so much and know they would like to be in our services. We enjoyed a great homecoming on the 3rd of May with Bro. Jim Ford as our speaker for the morning worship service. What a wonderful message he brought to us on a special day. Ozark Heights was started in 1962 as an arm off of First Baptist Church of Potosi and has been winning souls and preserving God's word ever since. We enjoyed a wonderful meal prepared by the wonderful and talented ladies of the church. Yes, I compliment them all I can, as I love to enjoy their wonderful meals and desserts. Crimson Gold was our special music following the meal and we truly were blessed with their music through the afternoon. Talent night was May 24th and we enjoyed a great evening of song and fellowship along with Italian food. We give Bro. Brian all 5th Sundays off and Bro. Nick Dunn did an excellent job filling in while our pastor was away. Please use this young man when you can, he is doing a great job working for the Lord in the ministry. June was another fun month with VBS the 22nd through 24th then had a pool night for the kids and young at heart to enjoy. We had 57 attend over the 3 days of Bible School. The theme was "Joseph's Journey" with Music, lessons, crafts and games. We had a wonderful time but were exhausted by the end. To top off the month Talent night we had singers from Springtown Baptist join with us for talent night. Wonderful talents were displayed young and old followed by a mouth watering BBQ put on by the men of the church. We surely have a wonderful fellowship and the food's great too. Speaking of food, we will be having a Fish Fry on July 26th for talent night. Hope ya'll come! So many other things that could be said but until next time, Ozark Heights sends our love and prayers to all our brothers and sisters!

Brian Meade, Pastor • Georgie Brokaw, Reporter

Greetings from **Bethlehem of Doniphan!** June was a wonderful month for us. We have had blessings of hearing Bro. Tom Foster and Bro. Dennis Leonard speak God's word to us at different times this month. It was a pleasure having both Sis. Evelyn Foster and Sis. Susan Leonard worshipping with us on the Sunday's their husbands were here. We were hon-

ored to host the Youth In The Harvest and the Third Sunday Singing. For the YITH program we did a trivia game on the Fathers of the Bible including trivia on our Heavenly Father. During the time of serving refreshments it was great to hear all has been happening at our sister churches in our Association. It was such a joy hearing everyone sing praises to our Lord at the singing also. Getting to share the blessing with Bro. Larry Edwards as they had a young lady saved in their morning service was wonderful. We can only imagine what type of rejoicing is done in Heaven when one is saved here on earth. We are working on a one day Vacation Bible School this month. The VBS will be held Saturday, August 1st from 9:30 to 2:30. Please pray for us as we prepare for a day of fun and learning for the youth in our church and the surrounding community. Our theme is a little different this year as each teacher will be teaching on different favorite Bible stories. Our verse for each child to take with them for the rest of their lives will be John 3:16. Continue to pray with us as we search for the pastor the Lord has for Bethlehem. Until next month, may God bless and keep us all!

Yvonne Hill, Reporter

Friendship, Harviell, will be hosting the Cane Creek District WMA on August 28, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. This is a different date than usual. Please mark you calendars and plan to attend. We have been able to do some work at Camp Garwood in preparation for camp and plan on another day or two. There is plenty to do to get camp ready. It is always fun when you are at camp, preparing for camp or attending camp. Please join us in prayer that camp will be a spiritual uplifting and souls will be saved.

Ernie Cate, Pastor
Becky Cate, Reporter

HELLO to all from **Oak Hill, Alton.** I know it has been a couple of months since I put an article in the paper. I will

try to catch up. In May we did not have any seniors to graduate from High School or College. Next year we will have three to graduate from High School. We also enjoyed eating at our fifth Sunday dinner which was GREAT! In June on Father's Day we gave each father a candy bar and an apple. The 29th my niece Cortney Moyer was saved, she is going to be baptized on July 12th and join the church. On July 12th my parents Jesse and Edith Williams will celebrate fifty years of marriage. On the 18th we are going to have one day of Vacation Bible School from 9:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. We are inviting all children from ages of Babies to sixth grade. It is never too early to start teaching children about the Lord. On the 18th is Cortney Moyer's birthday and the 19th is my other niece, Lauren Godwin's and Bro. Don Hufstедler's birthday. One incident that happened on the 19th eighteen years ago was my automobile accident. On the 21st is Lauren Godwin's husband Corey's birthday and he likes to tease Lauren that she is older than him. On the 31st Bro. Don and Sis. Marianne celebrate sixty-one years of marriage. Until next month we will be worshipping and praising the Lord. GOD BLESS!!

Edward Casey, Pastor • Jennifer Williams, Reporter

Missionary Furlough

An opportunity to have missionaries visit your church

We will be on furlough November 2015 through April 2016, and are beginning to schedule places to go and share about the work in Ghana. If you would like to have us speak at your church, organization or event, please contact us: brodale50@hushmail.com, or celia_broom@yahoo.com or message us on Facebook.

Missionaries Dale and Celia Broom

50th Anniversary

Baptist Church 13129 Old 8 East, Mineral Point, MO 63660.

No gifts are necessary but there will be a "money tree" growing in case you want to add anything to its branches. If you have any questions call Valarie Fish at 870-299-2890. If anyone wants to send a card or something to put on the money tree they can send it to Melanie Dudley @ 1445 Sunburst Dr, O'Fallon MO 63366

The Meade family served in BMA churches in Missouri and Illinois before moving to the Philippines as BMAA missionaries from 1979 until 2001. Bro Melvin is currently the pastor at Lower Doe Run Missionary Baptist Church in Ellington. Carolyn is retired from teaching and busier than ever.



The beginning

Melvin Meade, son of the late Elder Noel and Marie Meade of Ellington, MO and **Carolyn Fields**, daughter of the late Melvin and Helen Fields of Reynolds MO were **married 50 years ago, on August 7, 1965** at Mt Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Ellington, MO.

Their daughters, Valarie Fish & husband Dale of Emerson, AR; Melanie Dudley and husband Tim of O'Fallon, MO and Julia Evans and husband Brad of Cadet, MO **invite anyone who would like to come help them celebrate their 50th anniversary at an open house from 2-4 pm on Saturday August 8, 2015 at Stony Point Missionary**



Today

The Court Has Ruled: Now What?

via The Baptist Trumpet

The following information was sent to us by the Trumpet's insurance agent (Roger Peyton, Brotherhood Mutual Insurance) and he has given permission for it to be shared with our readers:

Q. What should churches and ministries know about the U.S. Supreme Court's decision regarding same-sex marriage?

A. On June 26, 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a 5-4 ruling, holding that the Fourteenth Amendment requires a state to license a marriage between two people of the same sex. The decision also requires states to recognize a marriage between two people of the same sex when their marriage was lawfully licensed and performed in another state.

The Case: Obergefell v. Hodges

This case began when a same-sex couple from Cincinnati, Ohio, filed a lawsuit alleging state discrimination against same-sex couples who have been lawfully married in another state. John Arthur was terminally ill and sought to name his partner, James Obergefell, as his surviving spouse, but was unable to do so under Ohio's same-sex marriage ban. The director of the Ohio Department of Health, Richard Hodges, was named as the defendant in the case. As the case made its way through the appellate courts, other same-sex couples joined in the complaint. And as the case continued to progress, the question before the courts became whether Ohio's refusal to recognize marriages legally performed in other states violated the Fourteenth Amendment's guarantees of equal protection and due process.

A Landmark Decision

This ruling does not appear to take away any of the rights religious organizations currently have under the law. Still, the ruling leaves unanswered questions that may lead to confusion and concern for ministries. In its decision, the Court began by recognizing the history of the subject of marriage, noting it is one of both "continuity and change." The Court then applied the following reasoning in making its determination that the Fourteenth Amendment requires a state to license a marriage between two people of the same sex:

- The fundamental liberties protected under the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment extend to certain personal choices, and among those is the right to marry.

- Because marriage is inherent in the concept of individual autonomy, supports a two-person union unlike any other in its importance to the individuals involved, safeguards children and families, and is the "keystone of the Nation's social order," marriage is a constitutional right.

- The right of same-sex couples to marry also is derived from the Fourteenth Amendment's guarantee of equal protection.

- Because the right to marry is a fundamental right "inherent in the liberty of the person, and under the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment," couples of the same sex may not be deprived of that right and that liberty.

The Religious Organization "Carve Out"

The Court then added a "carve out" for "religions and those who adhere to religious doctrines" by stating:

Finally, it must be emphasized that religions, and those who adhere to religious doctrines, may continue to advocate with utmost, sincere conviction that, by divine precepts, same-sex marriage should not be condoned. The First Amendment ensures that religious organizations and persons are given proper protection as they seek to teach the principles that are so fulfilling and so central to their lives and faiths, and to their own deep aspirations to continue the family structure they have long revered. The same is true of those who oppose same-sex marriage for other reasons. In turn, those who believe allowing same-sex marriage is proper or indeed essential, whether as a matter of religious conviction or secular belief, may engage those who disagree with their view in an open and searching debate. The Constitution, however, does not permit the State to bar same-sex couples from marriage on the same terms as accorded to couples of the opposite sex.

Chief Justice Roberts and Justice Thomas noted in their dis-

sents that the First Amendment guarantees the right to "exercise" religion. Chief Justice Roberts further noted that "exercise" is a word that the majority omitted from their opinion. So while this provision acknowledges the First Amendment rights of religious organizations to teach principles that are central to their lives and faiths, the dissenting justices expressed concern that it may not be broad enough to encompass the full exercise of those rights.

Chief Justice Roberts also noted that, "Hard questions arise when people of faith exercise religion in ways that may be seen to conflict with the new right to same-sex marriage." He then offered the following examples:

- A religious college that provides married student housing only to opposite-sex couples.

- A religious adoption agency that declines to place children with same-sex married couples.

- The tax-exempt status of some religious institutions that oppose same-sex marriage.

Chief Justice Roberts went on to state that there is "little doubt that these and similar questions will soon be before this Court." It seems likely that future cases will ultimately determine the full scope and effect of this decision for churches and other religious organizations.

So What Does This Mean for Churches?

This ruling does not appear to take away any of the rights that religious organizations currently have under the law. Still, the ruling leaves unanswered questions that may lead to confusion and concern for ministries. Common concerns include whether a pastor must perform a same-sex wedding ceremony, whether a church must make its facilities available for same-sex wedding events and if a church must provide same-sex spousal benefits to employees.

Communicate Expectations To Limit Lawsuits

All ministries should have biblically-based beliefs and policies documented in the by-laws, articles and other foundational documents of the organization. Stating the ministry's beliefs, along with applicable

Faithful Soldier Gains Victory!

"Alberta" Henthorn was born in Doniphan, Missouri on March 17, 1918, to Charles and Lucy (nee Collins) Wells, the second born of nine children. On October 16, 1933 she married Jesse O. Henthorn in Neelyville, Missouri. To their marriage was born three daughters, Marvie Maxine Thompson, Mary Marlene Jenkins and Wilma Faye Ward.



Alberta (nee Wells) Henthorn

In 1967, she and her husband became guardians for their two youngest grandchildren, Michael David Jenkins and Michelle Dawn Shell. She was preceded in death by both her parents, and siblings; Faye Wells, Grace (nee Wells) Fondren, Clarence Jackson Wells, Eugene Wells, Elmore Wells, Norman Emery, J.D. Emery and Norma Lee (nee Emery) Hawkins. She lost her daughter Marlene Jenkins, and son-in-law Norman Jenkins, in 1967, due to a tragic auto accident.

She gave her life to Christ at a young age, and was a living example all her life of Christian love and service. She was a member of Lindsay Lane Baptist Church in Florissant, MO.

Alberta had battled kidney failure and congestive heart disease. She passed away at her home, living with her granddaughter, Michelle and grandson-in-law, Kenneth Shell, on Saturday, June 6, 2015.

She leaves behind seven grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, four great-great grandchildren and one on the way. She will also be missed by many nieces, nephews and beloved friends.

Example of Marriage/Church Motion

The following note was sent by Bro. John Adams, Executive Director of the Baptist Missionary Association of America Moral Action in response to the request of many churches of our Association who needed to know how to incorporate this into their church records. Each church needs to adopt this as a safeguard in the future as we may be challenged to perform same-sex marriages.

Motion and second that _____ Church, its Pastors, preachers, staff, and members adopt the Doctrinal Statement Article III 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).

We declare that our pastors, ministers (licensed and ordained) not marry gay or lesbian couples while being a member of _____ Church of _____, and that our building and grounds not be used in gay marriages.

Footnote – this is an example that our B.M.A. churches can use to adopt in their church.

Dr. John Adams, Moral Action, Ex. Director

reference to Scripture in governing documents, can help avoid claims of improper discrimination. Churches and ministries will do well to clearly communicate that the ministry's positions and policies are based on sincerely held religious beliefs.

Statement of belief: Include a statement of the ministry's spiritual beliefs within the organization's governing documents or bylaws. This lays the foundation for the ministry to operate in accordance with its stated beliefs.

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WMA & GMA NEWS

Articles for this column

should be sent to **EDITOR**

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WebSite: travisplumlee.com

You Are in the Gifted and Talented Program

Sometimes we are our own worst enemy. We are enemies

to our self in our own thought processes. We look at others and wished we could be more like them. People think to themselves, "I wished I could sing like that. Look like that. Build things like that Play the piano like that." The list is endless. Envy and jealousy actually will not help us get through life. It actually thwarts our very progress. It leaves us empty and longing for things. We feel inadequate. We feel like we were short-changed in life. Let me ask you a question. Who wants all Christians to feel like that? Who wants all Christians discouraged, full of self-doubt and not believing they are a special miracle from God? That's right! Our adversary – the devil.

The very same people that feel like they have no gifts from God; are the same people who can look at a small child or a newborn baby and say without a doubt, "Oh, what a precious miracle from God." Well, you were once a baby and people ooohd and awwed over you too. Now that

you are all grown up, you have been slammed by a society that beats you down and you don't still see yourself as that special miracle from God. But you are. Every single believer is in the gifted and talented program for God. I used to speak in public school assemblies. I would tell all of those students that they were all in the gifted and talented program. Every child is created unique and special and wonderful by a miracle making God. He is our creator. And our Creator does not make junk, losers, nerds or geeks. He makes them in His image. Genesis 1:27.

You have been given gifts by your Father and He gifted you in certain areas so that He could use you for His purpose. Maybe you hear someone sing beautifully on Sunday morning and you know they are gifted in that area. You wished you could sing like that. But you fail to see that perhaps God gifted you with the ability to listen to the needs of others. People come to you when they need some compassion. You have been called and gifted to listen to others. Some people have the gift of gab. While it can get you into trouble sometimes, and you don't see it as a gift; it really is. You just let other people put you down over the years for talking too much. But God gave

• See *ARK* Page 7 •

ies John and Louella Page and the Cambodian culture. While the video was designed for the Sunbeam Program, younger GMAs and Galileans would probably enjoy it as well. It would be too juvenile for teens. During the video, the viewer takes an imaginary tour into the village where the Pages work. While the tour is "make believe", pictures are actual photos from the field. The trip culminates with a typical Cambodian meal. To access the video, go to: sunbeams-bmaa.net → Mission Videos → Cambodia link.

Missions in Mexico – children spend an imaginary day playing with Bro. Eric Johnson's children. The day culminates with a traditional meal from Mexico. Viewers are introduced both the Eric and Grady Johnson families, the Ricky Williams family, and the Tommy Rose family. Viewers stop by Bro. Eric's church to share a video with the children's choir as well as an open air market to purchases a snack on their return trip to the airport. The video is age appropriate for older Sunbeams as well as younger GMAs and Galileans. To access the video, go to: sunbeams-bmaa.net → Mission Videos → Mexico link.

GALILEANS

National Galilean Camp 2015 – is a pictorial overview of the 2015 camp. It is designed for two purposes: to recap memories from the 2015 camp and to motivate camp participation. To access the video, go to: galileans.com. → click on 2015 Camp Video → underneath where it says here is the link to the national camp picture video, click on 2015 Camp Video.

Cane Creek WMA Sponsored Ladies Retreat at Camp Garwood

September 18 & 19th

Speaker: Sis. Donna Hulvey

Services will begin on Friday night at 7:00 p.m. Meetings will be held in the kitchen. We will be having a bonfire with popcorn & s'mores on Friday Night after the first session, a continental type breakfast on Saturday Morning and chili & hot dogs for lunch.

Please bring items for a silent auction. All proceeds will go to Camp Garwood.

Registration fee is \$15.00 if registered by August 26. After that date registration fee is \$ 20.00. Fees collected in excess of retreat costs will go to Camp Garwood.

Mail registration to Sharon Lourance 281 County Road 2021 Oulin, MO 63961.

-----Please detach here and return to address above-----

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Church Name: _____

Dorms will be assigned beginning with the Old Kitchen Dorm and then the ladies dorms unless you specify a dorm. If you have a dorm preference, please circle your choice of:

Upper Girls Dorm Upper or Lower

Lower Girls Dorm Upper or Lower

Old Kitchen Dorm: (will be reserved for those who cannot walk great distances if other dorms are needed)

PLEASE NOTE:

You will need to bring your own bed linens, blankets, pillows and bath towels, etc.

**For more information please call: Sharon Lourance (573) 429-8716
or Becky Cate (573) 778-8647.**

Auxiliaries Acquire New Videos

by Carolyn Colvert • Contact her for more information at cfcolvert@cox.net

New videos developed to enhance the work of BMA auxiliaries include:

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY AUXILIARY

Best Day Ever – is the keynote address given by Pat Quesbury at the National Women's Missionary Auxiliary meeting in Springfield, MO in April, 2015. It provides the viewer an opportunity to enjoy the national WMA worship service. More importantly, it is a vivid reminder that struggles in daily living can be invaluable lessons in faith. To access Best Day Ever, go to: nationalwmaofbmaa.net → national keynote address → click on link.

Making a Joyful Noise in the Philippines – is the National WMA project for 2015-2016. The video is an overview of academic programs offered by the Baptist Missionary Association Bible College (BMABC) in the Philippines, enrollment data and composition of student body. Since the project goal is to raise money for practice studios/instruments, electrical wiring updates, water system and bathroom up-dates, and replacing windows, a justification for each need is presented. The intent is to motivate WMA's to meet or exceed this year's financial goals.

SUNBEAMS

Missions in Cambodia – is designed to teach young children (ages 3 – 8) about Missionar-

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

A Biblical Response to Supreme Court Decision on Same-Sex Marriage

by Dennis Baker, Brotherhood President

Friday, June 26th was a tragic day for our culture, but it was a fantastic day to have the hope of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Biblical faith cannot be legislated away by the Supreme Court. Our responsibility to love our neighbor and to seek the welfare of the city where the providence of God has placed us demands that we acknowledge that the Supreme Court's decision is an assault on social good and human flourishing in our culture.

As Chief Justice John Roberts noted in his dissent, "the decision of the majority rejects the rights of states to uphold the meaning of marriage that has persisted in every culture throughout history. The result will not be an expansion of the definition of marriage but rather a redefinition of marriage that is so expansive that the only logical boundary is merely that it involves consenting adults."

With the legal redefinition of marriage to include same-sex marriage now the law of the land, every church in America will be forced to clarify its biblical views concerning the family and marriage. In name only Christianity will be a casualty of the cultural marginalization of Christians and Christian ethics and to that we must say, "Good riddance." We need to be clear that solutions to the cultural challenges related to the Supreme Court's decision is not found in the White House, Supreme Court, or the halls of congress; rather it is the same place it has always been—the church house. The church is the only institution that Jesus promised, "the gates of hell shall not prevail against" (Matthew 16:18).

We must respond to this tragic cultural decision with biblical conviction and hope in Jesus Christ. Our cultural opponents on this issue are not our enemies; they are our mission field. We will not win them by compromising biblical truth, but neither will we win them by despising them. We must give them the gospel. Giving them the gospel means unapologetically preaching, teaching, and sharing a biblical view of marriage, and institution whose existence is for the purpose of reflecting the gospel.

Many discouraged believers will want to respond with bitterness and animosity, but remember these are not the fruits of the Spirit. Christians ought to be the last people to fall prey to doom and gloom hopeless theology because the tomb is still empty and a court decision redefining marriage will not redefine "the marriage supper of the Lamb."

As we move forward church policies regarding for whom we will and will not perform a wedding ceremony and whom we will allow to use our building for a wedding ceremony must be clear and in writing. Meaningful membership and willingness to do church discipline will continue to be vital. We must be prepared to respond in a gospel-centered way for the inevitable visit from a same-sex legally married couple. If the government says its okay, what can we do? Is not a gospel response but neither is "Get out."

We must continue to teach biblical values concerning the family and marriage. Peter wrote to a group of governmentally and culturally persecuted believers he described as "elect exiles." (Peter 1:1) They were looked upon with suspicion because of their commitment to Jesus Christ and accused of hatred and treated as social outcasts. Peter reminded them of the sufferings of Christ and subsequent glories and teaches them that they will experience the same pattern. (I Peter 1:11; I Peter 4:12-13)

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you that gift to be able to communicate and be an encouraging mouthpiece for Him. You again may think I don't help anyone with my mouth or with listening to my friends. But how do you know? Many things give God glory that are not revealed to us.

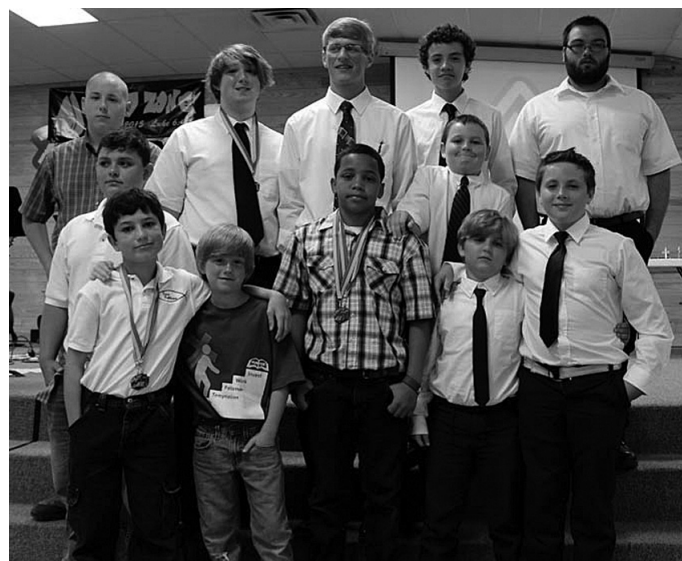
All the time I receive Facebook messages or emails where people tell me something I said changed their life forever. They never told me until now. There are probably many others who have not told me, but God used me to reach them with a phrase or a message. God uses you in the same way. We all have the same Holy Spirit. We all have the same strength, courage, power, sound mind, love etc... that God bestows upon all of His children. Just because you don't ever hear from someone, or see the end result; does not mean that you did not impact people's lives along the way. Trust God. He is using all of His children. He does not gift some and hold back from others. Some people have gifts that are more visible to the public. But they are no better than those people who have gifts that God uses in a secret way. He still gets glory.

We all have been given the gift of laughter. Next time you laugh, remember that we are the only part of God's creation that can laugh. It is good medicine and it is given to us by God. When we love our family and friends, love is of God. I John 4:7-12. That is a gift. If you are alive today, that is a gift. That is why today is called "the Present." It is a gift from God. So you see, we all have gifts as the body of Christ. You might just be the big toe in the body of Christ, but the big toe is still necessary to walk the pathway of righteousness. So, do not let the world, American society and others put you down so that over the years you stop believing in your special unique abilities in God. Psalm 139:14 states, "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right

Blessings From National Galilean Camp 2015

by Kenneth Colvert, National Galilean Director

National Galilean Camp 2015 is now a blessed memory, but the blessings from the Lord live on in our hearts and souls. Our theme, "Flood Zone" – Luke 6:45, with an emphasis on "Overflow" - John 10:10 was what we had longed and prayed for, for many months. It became a reality. God truly opened the windows of Heaven and poured out far more blessings than we could ask or think. Malachi 3:10. The results to date include 7 young men received Jesus Christ as personal Savior, 6 surrendered to the ministry including one young man who surrendered to the ministry at his home church as a direct result of camp, and 5 young men rededicated their lives to the Lord's service. Many of us old timers at camp observed that we had never seen anything like it. It was truly an old fashioned revival sent from God. I am so thankful that our young men could see the power of God at work and know that our God is real. We are praying for overflow in our Galilean



12 of the 17 young men who made decisions
for Christ at Galilean Camp 2015

camp, Galilean groups, and local churches. We pray that the revival will continue and spill over into our Arkansas Galilean Summer Camp coming up at Ponca Bible Camp July 24th –26th. This camp hosts our National Officer's meeting where we will plan for National Galilean Camp 2016. Let's all pray, "Lord, thank you for your many blessings and Lord, please do it again next year!"

Galileans Need Help

by National Brotherhood Editor Pat Spriggs,

National Galilean Director Kenneth Colvert wants you to know: "Our contributions are very low this year, and we are asking all churches that are willing to support the Galileans to pray and meet this need."

Galileans is a Godly, life-changing event in young men's lives. National Galilean Camp at Daniel Springs Camp in Gary, Texas, had an increase in attendance which calls for extra funding through the National Galilean Fund. Please do what you can to help. Offerings may be sent to Treasurer Dan Williams, 619 Mitchell St., Conway, Ark. 72632

well." You know what you really are? You are wonderfully made. Stop! Don't you dare add anything to scripture. That may not be what people tell you. That may not be what some commercial on TV tells you. But that is what God tells you that you are. We always want to build little kids up and tell them how special they are. We want them to believe they can do things. We don't tell some kid right before a ball game, "well go ahead but you are going to do a lousy job today. I just know

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Consistent response: If the church or ministry treats an individual or a group of people differently than it does another person or group, the odds of the ministry losing a lawsuit increase significantly. For example, if the organization offers its event center for rent to the general public yet declines to allow a same-sex couple to rent the facility, the individual whom the church declined may have a valid claim of discrimination.

Take Steps to Avoid a Lawsuit

To reduce the likelihood of an individual bringing a successful same-sex-related lawsuit against your church or ministry, consider the following steps:

- **Include a spiritual purpose provision in your governing documents/bylaws.** Be sure your organizational governing documents clearly state your ministry's spiritual purpose, your reliance on Scripture and the intent to advance the ministry in accordance with Scripture. Where appropriate, quote Scripture within the purpose statement.

- **Include a morals clause in your employee handbook.** Be sure your employee handbook includes a policy telling your organization's employees that the church expects them to support its spiritual purpose and behave in accordance with it. Including such a clause in your handbook, when applied consistently, can go a long way toward protecting the church from employment-related lawsuits.

- **Respond with sensitivity.** Train your clergy, staff and volunteers to approach individual needs and requests with empathy. Although you cannot meet every request or demand, the manner in which you convey your response is sometimes as important as what you have decided.

- **Consult with local counsel.** When revising organizational documents and ministry policies and procedures, involve a local attorney. A wide variety of federal, state and local laws apply to employment and facilities use, and consulting with a local attorney can provide guidance on any state-specific and local legal issues that you may encounter. You also should contact your attorney and your insurance agent any time you anticipate a claim against the church.

All ministries, whether supportive of same-sex unions or not, should recognize and understand the potential impact of this ruling. Following the steps listed above can help ministries continue to operate in accordance with their sincerely held religious beliefs and avoid claims of improper discrimination. Contact a local attorney for assistance with creating policies and procedures and for help in understanding how the law applies to your ministry.

Important Information

The information we provide is intended to be helpful, but it does not constitute legal advice and is not a substitute for the advice from a licensed attorney in your area. Accordingly, no attorney/client relationship is created through this process, and no legal advice will be provided. We strongly encourage you to regularly consult with a local attorney as part of your risk management program. (brotherhoodmutual.com)

The Church is Our Focus

by Scott Attebery

Someone recently asked me to describe DiscipleGuide's ministry. My first instinct was to share our four Cs: camps, conferences, curriculum, and church solutions. Before the familiar words could leave my mouth, something else came to mind: DiscipleGuide invests in churches.

We believe that the key to fulfilling the Great Commission lies in the local church. No other institution has been given the responsibility. Therefore, we work hard to help churches maximize their potential for kingdom work. Here's how:

Our camps focus on winning the church of tomorrow to Christ. Every year hundreds of campers trust Christ as their Savior and thousands more hear the gospel.

Our conferences inspire church members with relevant teaching and new ideas to take home to their local congregations. Students, senior adults, pastors, and youth ministers all find specialized conferences to address their needs.

Responses To A Letter

In the April 14, 2015 issue of the Missouri Missionary Baptist I printed a letter sent to the editor entitled "Open letter to all BMAA churches and to the moderators of the Washington County Association, the BMA of MO, and the BMAA" From: Bethesda Landmark Missionary Baptist Church 104 Fifth St. • Park Hills, MO 63601.

Their letter was followed by a reprint of a response to this issue by the President of the BMAA, Dr. Jason Altman, which expressed the thoughts he had concerning the use of speakers in our meetings from other denominations.

Since that time I have received two other letters, one from Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church in Doniphan and the other from an individual, Sis. Melba Hartley. Both letters were expressing agreement with the opinion expressed by Bethesda.

I want to acknowledge the reception of those letters and express the reason why I am not printing them.

As editor it is my responsibility to print those items I think are important, uplifting, informative, and otherwise helpful to our churches who support the work of the BMA of Missouri.

When controversial matters begin to arise in our associated work and I am asked to print "letters" concerning them, I feel it only fair to acknowledge them without showing bias and without carrying on the discussion for a long period of time.

It is my opinion that this matter has been presented properly and enough information has been given to express the opposition to as well as the reasoning behind using speakers "outside" the BMAA. Therefore I do not feel it necessary to print more comments on this subject. If anyone needs further input from me please feel free to contact me. I want to keep our people informed and hope you understand that it is not always an easy matter to know what to do.

James Hoffmann, Editor

Our curriculum sets the framework of a biblical worldview and belief system for our churches. Age-appropriate materials aid churches in training their members biblically throughout every stage of life.

Our church solutions ministry provides hands-on coaching for churches struggling with issues and challenges. Every church has room for improvement, and we want to help.

As you can see, we love churches! In fact, we want to be known as your church's best friend. Please let us know how we can help your congregation. Contact DiscipleGuide at info@discipleguide.org or 800-777-1442.

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it." No. We always tell them they can do it. We push them to believe positive things about themselves. I think it is time you give yourself a little push in the right direction. Read the Bible and know who you are in Christ. God doesn't want any of His kids to feel like a loser. You are His kid. He has gifted you. All Christians have one very special gift – eternal life through Jesus Christ. No one can take that gift from you. You are gifted. Now go and live it out.

AVAILABLE PREACHERS

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 573-521-6385 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-

Tim Boatright, of St. Charles, is available for pulpit supply. Contact him at 314-605-3143.

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.

BMAA Theological Seminary Offers Free Online Course

BMA Seminary will offer a FREE eight week course on the Life of Paul from September 9, 2015 until October 28, 2015. Registration for this FREE online course opens August 1, 2015.

This course is designed to enlighten the student in Pauline chronology and to survey pertinent historical incidents which affected or coincided with his ministry. Special emphasis is given to the environmental background of early Christianity as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles.

TEXTBOOKS:

Two required

The Holy Bible - student selected English translation
Paul His Life and Teaching - John McRay, Baker Academic, ISBN 080102403

To enroll contact the seminary at: <http://bmats.edu/other-educational-opportunities/free-courses/> or bmats@bmats.edu or Toll free 800-259-5673.

This is a non-credit course. You will receive a certificate only.