

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

“Holding Forth The Word of Life” *Philippians 2:16*

Volume LXXVI

St. Louis, MO • October 8, 2013

Issue No. 10

Fall Paintball Retreat

Friday & Saturday
October 18-19, 2013
at Camp Garwood

Bring your own paint. \$10 to play includes air and food.
Rental equipment is \$35.

Friday night play starts at 8 p.m.

Saturday morning play begins at 9 a.m.

Remember to bring your own paintballs. Always use a
barrell bag or plug and remove the air from your gun
when not playing.

BRING A FRIEND!

CBC Received Largest Grant in School's History

\$6 Million Commitment for New Residence Hall

Students at Central Baptist College will soon have a new home away from home. CBC President Terry Kimbrow announced Thursday, September 12th, a \$6 million commitment from Max and Debbie Story of Magnolia for the construction of a new residence hall. Preliminary plans for the new, three-story, 150-bed residence hall are in the works. According to President Kimbrow, “My leadership team is working with Rik Sowell and Liz Hamilton of Rik Sowell Architects, in addition to other key players, to decide on an exact location for the new building. We know it will

be somewhere south of the existing campus.” The College has acquired a significant number of houses and lots south of the campus for future expansion.

“We are also looking at various models for room arrangement,” said Kimbrow. “Trends in student housing are ever-changing, and we want to be as efficient as possible while still meeting the needs of our student population.”

The new residence hall is the third major project of 10 to be funded by a capital fund-raising campaign entitled “Vision 2020: A Miracle in the Making.” Kimbrow explained, “Vision 2020 is

a plan to complete 10 major projects in 10 years to accommodate an enrollment of 2020 students.” The campaign was publicly launched in January of 2011 and has exceeded \$16 million in contributions. A campus facilities master plan, developed by Rik Sowell Architects, is guiding the future growth of the campus.

The initial phase of the campaign includes three projects. The first was the construction of the 38,000 square foot David T. Watkins Academic Building, occupied in August of last year. The sec-

First Quarter Deadline is Near!

The first quarter deadline for sending in your “DEW” (Dollar Each Week) offering for Camp Garwood is October 31st. Send your checks to:

Cathy Beardsley
911 Bethel Mine Rd.
Caseyville, IL 62232

Also, if you have not notified Cathy of your local DEW representative, she would love to hear from you. Email her at: Roncathybeardsley@yahoo.co.uk. or call 618-210-8072.

ond project, a 17,000 square foot Library, is currently under construction with an expected completion date of December 1 of this year. Both were constructed by Clark Contractors of Little Rock.

The new residence hall completes the first phase of Vision 2020. What's next? According to Kimbrow, “The second phase will target Mustang athletics. Though I cannot be more specific at this time, what I can say with certainty is that with 10 intercollegiate sports teams, we definitely need to upgrade our facilities.” CBC is an NAIA school and participates in the MCAC Conference.

Kimbrow also announced the naming of the new library as the “Story Library” to commemorate the continued support of Mr. and Mrs. Story. “What a fitting tribute to two of the most charitable people I have ever met,” Kimbrow commented. The Storys were also major funders of the first two projects in phase one of the 10-year plan.

Central Baptist College is a four-year liberal arts institution with an enrollment of over 800. For more information on CBC or “Vision 2020: A Miracle in the Making,” go to cbc.edu.

Annual Meeting of the BMA of Missouri

October 26, 2013 • 9:00 a.m.

Bethany Baptist Church
11211 Midland Blvd.
St. Louis, MO, Missouri 63114
Phone 314-429-2195

All Baptist Missionary Association of Missouri Churches are encouraged to send three messengers to represent your church in this important meeting and to enjoy the fellowship with your brothers and sisters from around the state.

BMA Ministers To Syrian Refugees

By Veteran Middle East Missionary
(via Baptist Trumpet)

This is a Baptist Trumpet scoop: we are moving from one worship center for refugees to three in East Beirut.

The following report is only a partial picture of what's going on. Read about it, pray about it and, well, giving ain't a bad idea.

Tell me, what would you do if 675 refugee families crashed the door of your church because they were needy and hungry? I agree, it is a good problem, but it is a problem, none-the-less.

These families came from areas where you and I could never go. Then God, in His time and through sad circumstances, brings them to us. Can we sit idly by and not help them? This is not an easy question to answer when you do not have a continuous flow

• See SYRIA Page 5 •



Refugees seeking God's Help

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• See SYRIA Page 5 •

Fall Festival

Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church

Doniphan, MO
U Highway (in the curve)

Saturday, October 19, 2013
2:00 -5:00 p.m.

Games, Food, Music
Fun for All Ages

We Hope To See YOU There!

+++ NEWS BRIEFS +++

Antioch, Ellington, writes that it has been a while since we have put a piece in the paper. We have had a lot of blessings come our way. One church in Illinois that we extended an arm to back in the fifties gave us a love offering. We put it to use and got a much needed sink with some of it. We want to thank them so much for the love they have shown us. Bro. Michael has been preaching some good sermons and we are really blessed to have him as our pastor. We have been having visitors come our way. Some are children of Maudeline Burns. We have a man who come every holiday. It is always good to have him. We have had a tree that died. The electric company cut some of it and we will have to cut the rest of it down. It appears that this tree is over 200 years old. Maudeline Burns, Reporter

Ozark Heights, Potosi, says the month of October is upon us! What a beautiful sight to see. Fall, leaves will be falling, nuts and acorns are really plentiful this year. It means God is providing for his little animals just like he is preparing us to meet the challenges of each day. Where do you stand? Faith and prayers are such powerful weapons and it is free and we only have to know Jesus as our Savior. Bro. Brian has some very good thoughts in the pastor's comment section of our bulletins each week and Butch's Corner gives us food for thought in a humorous way. We have been so blessed to have several new visitors in our services over the last several weeks. Our new members have already been serving the Lord in the church. We are so blessed to know that God is working and entreating new members to come and serve. Praise God! We owe so much to those who help take care of church business; Sis. Linda Fenstermaker (treasurer) and Sis. Loretta Wilkinson (secretary) do a great job. Bro. Gary fills in when needed; he's a very good speaker!

Brother Butch keeps up most of the maintenance work with help from some of his brothers in Christ. A big thanks to all the teachers and those who work with our youth. We know God will bless each one of you! We have been praying for those who have been ill, myself included! As of now everyone is one the mend! Fifth Sunday night, September 29th, Bro. Gary filled in as Bro. Brian got to take a break. The church gives our pastor time off each 5th Sunday. Bro. Brian is now preparing for his annual fall hike in the Great Smoky Mountains the first week in October, keep him in your prayers. We are looking forward to the our Walk for the World October 13th at Elephant Rock State Park, the annual Hayride at Butch and Loretta's October 18th, Harvest Sunday November 3rd, and have Pastor Appreciation Day scheduled for October 27th. Until next month, our love and prayers go out to all of you.

Brian Meade, Pastor
Georgie Brokaw, Reporter

Landmark, DeSoto, has certainly been enjoying the cooler weather and watching what God is doing with the fall colors. We had our annual elections in August and all of those newly elected to their offices/positions have started performing their duties. Bro. Murrell Tutterow had knee surgery on the 5th and seems to be doing quite well and thanks everyone for their prayers concerning his surgery. Now, we are hoping that he can get into the choir and sing with us. Bro. Denver Page preached the Sunday morning and evening services on the 8th at Springdale, while Bro. Kerr and his wife went away for a few days of vacation. That was a very enjoyable time for both of us. Bro. & Sis. Gibson, Bro. & Sis. Wayne Hawkins, and the Pages attended three nights of the National Quartet Convention in Louisville, KY. That

is always such a blessing. The Gibsons and the Pages attended the Meramec Association Annual meeting at Lower Doe Run on the 20th. It was a good and profitable meeting. The host church provided a wonderful meal with way too much food, but we did what we could to help them get rid of quite a bit of it. We had our regular Brotherhood and WMA meetings on the afternoon of the 22nd, with 6 ladies and 5 or 6 men attending. We always have good meetings and a good time. The 28th, several people went to Patterson, MO to attend the 50th wedding celebration of Gus and Donna Tegeler. They renewed their vows and, of course, food was served. The Tegeler moved to Patterson quite a few years ago, but although they do not get to attend Landmark very often, they are here more often than some that are members and live in the area. That is a shame, but I am sure we are not the only church that can make this report. We finished the month at church by observing The Lord's Supper, Sunday night, the 29th. We are still studying I Corinthians on Wednesday nights. It is such a good study and there is a lot of participation. Now, I have a great report. The 8th, we had a family of three join the church by promise of a letter and their young son came as a candidate for baptism. I am glad to report that he was baptized the 22nd. Praise the Lord. I want to go back a little and remind you of the time while we were at Lower Doe Run at Ellington. If you recall, I had repeatedly ask for prayers for a young couple that were attending the church and asking questions, but never made a commitment of any kind. Well, that young couple was saved right before we left. They had been living together as man and wife for many years and have two precious girls. They had made a decision the day they were saved that they would be getting married soon. They called Denver and

asked him to come down on the 24th to marry them, which he did. They were baptized the 29th. The Lord is so good and still working. Sometimes we lose hope that things are just not ever going to happen, but we have to remember that God is still in control. Thank you Lord for this reminder. Until next month or His Glorious Return,
Wayne Gibson, Pastor
Sharon Page, Reporter

Lighthouse, Malden, sends "Greetings to all." God is so good to us. What a joy it is to serve such a great and wonderful God! September 21st, our youth leaders, Justin and Misty Hankins, took some young people to the "No Greater Love" youth meeting at Kewanee and some of us "not so young" got to tag along. Bro. Caleb Houston had a very powerful message and, after the service, the youth enjoyed some sports as well as a bonfire and wiener roast. The SEMO Association is in the process of reviving the youth program. September 29th, our pastor had the privilege of preaching at Briar Missionary Baptist Church in the Cane Creek Association. After the service there was a delicious fish fry and an afternoon singing. It was a special time of worship, food and fellowship for Bro. Randy to share with Pastor Dennis Leonard and the warm and friendly people of Briar.

Thanks to former pastor, Bro. Richard Blagg, for preaching in the morning service here at Lighthouse. On the same day, Sis. Melissa, her sister and brother-in-law, Pearl and Ken Russell of Boise, ID, and her sister-in-law Trudy McVay, attended the Kewanee 78th Homecoming where they enjoyed a thrilling message of God's love by Bro. Tom McCannless and a feast prepared by the church, topped off with a time of special music and church history. Sis. Melissa, her six siblings and her mother were all saved and baptized at Kewanee where her grandfather, J. L. McVay, Sr., was a charter member and deacon, making this a day never to be forgotten. The Zinns were back home at Lighthouse that evening for the monthly Singspiration, where we enjoyed special music by singers from Bethel, Sikeston, as well as music presented by many of our people. We are seeing visitors every week and praying for an even greater moving of God in the days ahead. Randy Zinn, Pastor
Melissia Zinn, Reporter

Bethlehem Doniphan, sends greetings to everyone. We have had a decently cool summer as we swing into fall. As many of you may know September 6th our former Pastor, Bro. Clint Colburn, was called home to be with

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The Missouri Missionary Baptist

Established by the Baptist Missionary Association
of Missouri November 1937

The Missouri Missionary Baptist (USPS 355-500) is published monthly by the BMA of Missouri Publications Committee.

Subscription price is \$10.00 per year
11229 Midland Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63114
Periodical Postage Paid at St. Louis, MO 63155

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

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Don Burke, Assistant Editor
DEADLINE for copy is the **FIRST TUESDAY**
of the month in which you want it to appear
See the MMB online at bmmissouri.org

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FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS • October 2012

General Fund:

Balance September 1, 2013		\$	22,931.59
September Receipts:	\$	4,973.96	\$ 4,973.95
Total Available		\$	27,905.54
Disbursements:			
Director's Salary	\$	900.00	
Partnership support J. Jones	\$	1,500.00	
Office Equipment	\$	14.95	
Director's Expenses	\$	20.00	
Band Fees/Deposit Stamp	\$	3.00	
Total Disbursements	\$	2,437.99	\$ 2,437.99
Balance September 30, 2013:		\$	25,467.55

Savings:

Certificate of Deposit	\$	67,122.63
Certificate of Deposit	\$	22,993.90
ING Direct Savings	\$	21,149.01
Total in CD's:	\$	111,265.54

Akansas Pastor Pens Historical Biography

Keith Lunceford, who has served as pastor of Park Avenue Baptist Church in Searcy, AR since February 1978, has authored a book about his years growing up in his grandfather's house in the cotton fields of Mississippi. *Loving Life at Big Creek* is a collection of 66 stories that speaks of the people of that region, their resourcefulness, work ethic and tremendous faith.

His grandfather, Eddie Dye, was a sharecropper and three generations lived together in a small house on the banks of Big Creek outside Clarksdale, MS. Eddie Dye was a rough-hewn man of the country. He was completely devoted to his family and to God.

The Dye family and their neighbors had their share of difficulty during a time of poverty, problems and prejudice; but they were a proud, resourceful, hard-working people. Their faith carried them through the easy times and the most difficult times.

"To his family, Eddie Dye was a larger-than-life figure of a man," wrote Bro. Lunceford. "He was feared, respected and loved. Even my father, who enjoyed success and rank in the military, referred to him publicly and privately as 'Mr. Dye.' I nev-

er remember anyone calling him by his first name — not even my grandmother."

Along with Eddie Dye and his wife, Maudie, Bro. Keith was influenced by his parents, an aunt who married the governor's nephew and Easter Johnson, his nanny, friend and playmate. Easter was the child of freed slaves who didn't remember when she was born, but she always had the Bible by her side.

Sometime humorous, sometimes pensive, sometimes entertaining — every chapter in *Loving Life at Big Creek* is thought-provoking and closes with a point of faith.

Bro. Keith has a commitment to Jesus Christ, a love of people, and a heart for service. He and his wife, Rita, have two children, Kevin and Lisa, and a granddaughter, Gracie.

Loving Life at Big Creek is published by Layton-Mills Publishers, LLC, and is available on Amazon in Kindle format. Additional information and a free PDF sampler are available at BigCreekLiving.com.

From Our Director...

I am looking forward to our annual meeting to be held at Bethany Baptist in St. Louis October 26. Pastor James Hoffmann and the great folks at Bethany have proven themselves to be wonderful hosts in the past and I know they will welcome us again. It's a great opportunity for all of us to connect with one another and conduct the Lord's business. I have been told

that there will be representatives from our Seminary and the BMAA Mission Office in attendance. Churches, please make it a priority to send your pastor and messengers to our annual meeting.

This past year I have enjoyed visiting and preaching in our churches across the state. Thank you for the invitations and the opportunities to speak about missions. For the moment, I cannot accept

any more invitations. After the resignation of Pastor Tim Boatright at Faith Baptist Church in St. Charles, I have been asked to serve as their interim pastor. Bro. Tim and Connie have served this church for 12 years, and we can only imagine how difficult it will be for this church to transition to a new shepherd. Please be in prayer for them as they search for God's man.

From Bro. Jones...

Bro. Jones requested we print the following report from his Associate Church Planter as a report this month.

My name is Jared Kathcart, and for the last year I have had the great opportunity of serving the community of Smithville, MO at North Lake Church. As Associate Church Planter, God has put many great opportunities in my path, and I am humbled by His willingness to use me. Ever since my high school years in the tiny Ozark town of Richland, MO, I have had a heart for student ministries. Camp, mission trips, weekly Bible study, lock-ins, and

much more had such impact on my life, and I didn't want the fun to end. When I felt God calling me to ministry, it only seemed right to pursue the call in the form of student ministries.

This decision lead me to Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, MO, where I completed a Bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies with a minor in Youth Ministry. After graduating in 2009, I wanted to continue my education in a Seminary setting, so I enrolled at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary of Kansas City. After four more years, and a May graduation, I can confidently say that I think I am done with college.

It was finally time to put all this passion, education, and experience to work.

After joining North Lake Church in the summer of 2012, their emphasis on Authenticity in Christ became very evident. Jamie Jones, the Head Pastor and Church Planter, has embodied this concept consistently, and has been a great example for me and his flock. When coming on board as the associate pastor and planter, Jamie asked me to develop and lead the student ministries of North Lake. This last year has been challenging and rewarding. Our 12 months have included a retreat, lock-ins, camp, community service, a

new weekly discipleship for 3rd-5th graders, Backyard Bible Clubs, and the miracle of three salvations. Disciples are being formed at North Lake Church, and I am excited to be used by God.

During my time in college and graduate school, I met, dated, and married the love of my life. Nikki Mereghetti (now Kathcart, thanks to the wonderful vows of marriage) and I met at Youth Front Camps in the summer of 2008. This last May, we welcomed Andie Grace to our family. I know I'm biased, but God has blessed me with what I believe to be the two most wonderful girls a man could ask for.

You Are Invited to a 90th Birthday Celebration

Honoring
Dr. John W. Gregson
October 31, 2013

**Dr. Gregson will preach
at 10:00 a.m.**

**BMA Seminary
Dorman Memorial
Chapel
Reception to follow in
the Gregson Center**

Best Wishes may be mailed
to:
BMA Seminary
P.O. Box 670
Jacksonville, TX 75766

• **NEWS From Page 2** •
 our Lord. He will be deeply missed by all that knew him. Our Lord has been continuing blessing our church as we had two more souls saved this month. Is that not the most wonderful blessing of all? We would like to thank Bro. Larry Edwards for bringing the messages to us on the 29th of September. It was a joy having him and Sis. Caroline with us in our services. By the time you are reading this the Walk for the World will be over for this year and we hope everyone came and enjoyed the fellowship with all of our brothers and sisters in Christ. We would also like to let everyone know about our Fall Festival October 19th from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. We will have plenty of music, food and games for everyone. All are welcome, so please come and join us. As we run around in the hustle and bustle of a worldly life, us that are saved truly realize we have a Father that loves us more than we can imagine. The biggest blessing of all is always seeing just one more person being able to make it into God's kingdom. If you have not been saved, anyone of us that have, would be more than happy to pray with you and talk to you. The final decision of where you will be is only up to you. We would all love to see you some day in Heaven. May God bless you all!

Russell Chitwood, Pastor
 Brandy Peeler, Asst. Reporter

Bethany, St. Louis, greets all the readers of the Missouri Missionary Baptist. We are happy to report that Pvt. Jacob Eye has returned state-side. He and Dawn are getting settled in Junction City, KS, as he is stationed at Ft. Riley. We were privileged to have Bro. Brad Banderman and his family with us September 29th, as he preached while Bro. & Sis. Hoffmann were on a well-deserved vacation. One of our long-time members, Jean Knowlton was called Home by the Lord September 7th. Sis. Hoffmann hosted the Ladies Meeting at the parsonage.

DiscipleGuide Encourages Missions with XPLORE

DiscipleGuide Church Resources is getting behind the mission movement by providing XPLORE, a six-lesson curriculum to prepare short-term missionaries to take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Executive Director Scott Attebery said, "DiscipleGuide is interested in serving our churches and our other departments. XPLORE is a way to do both. Our missions department is mobilizing churches through short-term mission trips, and churches are becoming more and more mission-minded. There is a new grass roots effort for churches to not just send money to the field, but to go to the field.

"XPLORE helps encourage this mission revival by making sure that mission teams understand the biblical basis for missions. But it's not just for mission teams -XPLORE will inspire Sunday school classes and small groups to get involved as well."

The book is now available for purchase at discipleguide.org, and DiscipleGuide introduced it at the 2013 BMA Mission Symposium at Antioch Baptist Church and Central Baptist College in Conway, AR September 10-11. DiscipleGuide handed out free copies of the book to churches in attendance. Pastors, Sunday school teachers and lay people are encouraged to go to discipleguide.org and search for XPLORE to see the new product.

Attebery said mission teams should definitely consider using XPLORE as a resource when planning a mission trip. The lessons help believers to prepare their hearts for service in the mission field and to live in a more missions-minded way after their mission trip, he said. Learning about God's heart for the nations in missions and then applying that learning in every-

day life is what XPLORE is all about. "The message of missions is on God's heart. XPLORE is a great tool to make sure it is on our hearts, too," he said.

Good food and a good time was shared by all who were able to attend. We are looking forward to hosting the BMA of MO Annual Meeting on October 26th. We will be serving lunch to all who attend. Our young people are looking forward to the Fall Paint-ball Retreat at Camp Garwood and are also making plans to attend Youth Alive during the Christmas break. We extend our sympathy to Sis. Kathy Chapman and her family in the recent home-going of her sister, Marilyn (Fields) Miller and to Bro. Abe Maclin and his family, and Emmanuel Baptist Church in Sikeston in the home going of Sis. Vi Maclin this past weekend. Our prayers are with them in this time of grief. Several of our members joined Sis. Eunice Compton and her family and friends in celebrating her eighty-fourth birthday Sunday afternoon, October 6th. The fellowship, cake and punch was enjoyed by all. James Hoffmann, Pastor
 Carol McDonald, Reporter

der dragon, the jealous dragon and the worldly dragon, just to name a few of the more well known ones.

How To Slay a Dragon

(More wisdom from Brother Ritechus N. Dignation) via *Dose of Reality* #301 by Joseph Harris

Some uninformed folks think dragons don't exist or that they did at one time, but are now extinct. As every Baptist preacher knows, dragons are alive and well and lurk around every church. They imitate their father, that ole dragon known as Satan. They breathe fire and cause destruction, smashin' things with their tails, trying to strike fear in the heart of anyone who would dare to stand for truth and righteousness. There are many dragons for pastors and leaders to face in churches and ministries today. Some of the most common are the power dragon, the gossip dragon, the slan-

"Hot Topics"

Theme of DiclepGuide's Winter Adult Study Guide

Pope Francis recently remarked that the church has become too focused on "small-minded rules" on hot-button issues like homosexuality, abortion, and contraceptives. However, he later clarified his remarks by saying, "The church's stance against gay marriage, abortion, and contraception has not changed." But he said the church must find a "new balance," adding that the "thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful."

Even the pope can get caught up in the controversial topics of the day when he attempts to apply the official position of the Roman Catholic Church to the changing attitudes of today's society. Your own pastor and your own church may encounter the same kind of reaction in your community when you seek to share what the Bible says about the key issues of the day.

Your Compass Sunday school study guide for adults for the winter of 2013-14 will help you examine the Bible's teaching under the theme "Hot Topics." The Corinthian church of the first century was unruly and worldly. The apostle Paul wrote two surviving letters condemning their ungodliness and offering corrective measures.

Churches of the twenty-first century continue to grapple with many of the same issues. How will believers and your church respond to the attitudes of the world that stand in opposition to God's revealed standard? You and your church must decide how you will respond to today's attitudes on such issues as immorality, marriage, Christian liberty, spiritual gifts, suffering, tongues-speaking, and personal accountability. In his letters to the believers in Corinth, Paul addresses these issues and many others as God revealed His will and His standard for His church and His children. Ultimately, you will be challenged to understand, accept, and live by the Bible's position on controversial topics.

Ken Adams wrote the commentary for this series of lessons. Ken has served in key ministry roles in both the church and in the publishing ministry for over thirty-five years. He has served churches as a pastor and teacher. He ministered on the staff of DiscipleGuide Church Resources for more than twenty-five years, and he has been writing on the Compass curriculum team since 2008.

Ken's involvement in the Compass curriculum is another illustration of how DiscipleGuide is using the talents of BMAA contributors to offer quality resources to DiscipleGuide customers. To learn more about the Compass curriculum line or to order Compass products for your church visit www.DiscipleGuide.org.

So how do you slay a dragon? You don't. You turn him or her over to God. I know it sounds too easy, but there's really no other way. Preacher, if you insist on takin' on dragons personally, you are going to get burned, or singed at the least, and you just might get gobbled up. Taking on a dragon personally will lead to it becoming your fight, and brother, the battle is the Lord's not yours. Be reminded, vengeance belongs to God, not the preacher. This doesn't mean you don't sometimes have to face them and enforce truth and righteousness, but just remember, you are the enforcer and not the giver of truth; God is the giver and it is His truth. Keep in mind who and what the battle is all about.

And don't take it personally. The only reason a dragon attacks you is because it can't attack God directly, so you become the target. Also remember that sometimes God doesn't

• See **SLAY** Page 7 •

Pictures From Middle East

• **SYRIA From Page 1** •
of support to help these families. And even if we did, is it our goal only to feed them?

I have always been a fan of the sovereignty of God. I like to be responsive to His moves, especially when they relate to the affairs of nations and men. I like to see every event as a platform for sharing the gospel. I like to be used of God to snatch people from the fire.

This pretty much tells you where we stand in relationship to the Syrian problem we are facing. Though I despise war, I can always see God's hand as it allows me to share the gospel so that refugees who have seemingly lost everything can be saved for eternity.

This week, we made the decision to stop registering more families on the relief lists because we are running out of funds, space and personnel. Our team is visiting every family to map their needs and then decide what type of assistance would be best. The visit is always an opportunity to share Christ.

In the last week, we have had revival meetings at our refugee center east of Beirut and hundreds attended. Many stayed afterward to pray and seek the Lord.

Those of you who follow my Facebook page are staying up-to-date on what's going on here. We have given out 250 blankets, and mattresses are on order. We have set aside \$14,000 for mattresses and clothes.

When you look at the faces of these dear people and see the broken pride and the tears of loss and bewilderment, you wonder what tomorrow will hold for them. I saw one Muslim lady in one of the services who dealt with that question by singing, from the bottom of her heart, "I know who holds tomorrow."

Another gentleman came to me, weeping, after hearing the message. "They killed my brother before my eyes," he said. "Can I take revenge?" Then he broke down because he knew he had to wait on the Lord, forgive and be a

peacemaker. He also realized that this can only happen if his own sins are forgiven and Christ is the Lord of his life. With tears streaming down my face, I laid my hand on him and led him in prayer.

These stories are only a sampling of what we encounter every day here.

In America, we are so far removed from the sights and sounds of war. But here we see families that are torn apart, children are killed and mothers raped. And, in many cases, it falls on the shoulders of missionaries on the field to care for them, pray with them and for them and show them the way to Jesus.

"Joujou," who is in her thirties, is the leader in one of our Bible study groups. She has always been wheelchair bound and had been limited in what she could do here. But she loves the Lord and His Word, and now, for the first time in her life, she is able to share her faith with others and help them study the Word.

We are up to three Bible study groups, with an average attendance of 15 in each one. With the way things are going, next time you read an update there will be more.

Our refugees are learning English, and we are up to two classes. Would you like to teach? Would you like to share the gospel in English, then give them homework to memorize John 3:16 in English and explain it? Doors are open, would you join our team?

I am ecstatic that churches of the BMAA have taken interest in what is going on here. Now is the time to show the love of Christ in action. Not only do we need funds, we need people who are willing to serve among the refugees and share Christ with them.

Let me close with two urgent needs.

Prayer — There is resistance and opposition that we cannot talk about openly in this context. Prayer can break down the barriers.

Funds — We need plenty! In the past, our churches have responded with generosity,

and I am grateful. Would you do that this time also? I would like to raise \$100,000 for this project. I know we can do it. If 100 people or churches each gave a \$1,000, we could raise that amount in one day. I believe God and I have confidence in His people.

Thank you for trusting me to be your missionary in this part of the world. It is probably the toughest, and most dangerous, field on our missionary map. Your ongoing prayers and continued support have produced fruit for eternity. Please help me continue the work.

Please send all gifts clearly designated for Syrian Refugee project to: BMAA Missions Department, P.O. Box 30910, Little Rock, AR 72260.



WMA & GMA NEWS

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should be sent to EDITOR

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How To Respond To Aging Parents

I have always noticed in the 10 commandments, and again in Ephesians 6:2 that children are to honor their mother and father; and God did not put an expiration time table on this command. All children should honor their parents all the days of their life. I realize that for some of you; your parents have wronged you, or lived ungodly lives. But honoring is a condition of your heart and your obedience to what the Lord has commanded you to do. It is really about obedience more than how you feel. God does not say for us to honor them if they meet certain lifestyle requirements. We are supposed to love our families unconditionally. It does not depend upon their behavior or their lifestyle. It has to do with honoring our Lord from our hearts by doing as He has commanded us to do whether we understand it or not.

Here are some things to consider when choosing to honor one's parents who are elderly:

1) Do not patronize them with a condescending attitude. It is so easy to fall into this behavior when you are having to help your parents out a lot of the time. You get quick tempered and frustrated over their behavior. You may have to take them to the doctor, or help around the house and they are being stubborn. Or they make comments. And they move slowly perhaps. You get so put out that you start talking down to them. You may even be tempted to treat them like a child. This is dishonoring. No matter how diminished they become in the physical or mental state; you must always show respect to them and treat them as an adult. Do not do things for them and treat them like a little child. They are not. This hurts them even if they say nothing to you. Everybody deserves respect.

2) Involve them in all decisions. Unless your parent has become completely incapacitated mentally; you dishonor them when you make decisions for them and do not ask for their input. There may come a time when some adult children have to make decisions that are tough, but necessary, and the parent can no longer do this for themselves. But, involve your parent as much as possible in any decisions affecting their life. Even if they have memory problems, or are functioning at a diminished capacity; still respect their decisions as long as it is not putting themselves or others in danger. Driving can be one of those battle grounds. It is a huge bastion of independence for most people. They may not drive as well as they used to, or they may drive slower than you wished; but you don't take away their driving privileges unless they have become a danger to themselves or other drivers. Then, even if the parent doesn't realize how bad it has become; the most loving thing you can do is to protect them and others on the road.

But always pray and take your time. Don't be too hasty with this decision and others like it.

3) Always give your parents their dignity. It is dishonoring for you to stop caring about protecting their privacy, and humility because you are in a hurry and have to do something for them. Don't strip them like a mad maid on a motel bed. It may take longer time to button shirts or put on shoes. Deal with it. Don't get impatient and just take over dressing them. You may

Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter, MO. Visitation was Tuesday, October 8, 2013 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, October 9, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in the Rainey-Mathis Funeral Chapel with Pastor Jason Redden officiating. Interment was in the Missouri State Veterans Cemetery in Bloomfield, Missouri.

have to help them bathe or go to the rest room; but still try and turn your head or step out for a moment and give them as much privacy as possible. Regardless of age or mobility, all people deserve dignity.

4) Keep them as independent as possible. Independence helps them live longer and happier. Some parents want to just give up. Especially after the death of a spouse. Don't judge them or push them and tell them they should get over it. You don't get over losing a spouse. You just grow on. But let them grow on at their pace. Don't force recovery or tell them how they should feel. Encourage them. If they completely pull away from activities of daily living, then you may want to encourage them to get out more, or pick up some of their routine again. If this doesn't work, you may need to speak with their doctor – including your parent in the discussion- about options for medication etc... to help them function or stay independent. Don't let your parents give up and just fall on you for everything. That's not a healthy thing for either of you.

5) Always include them in family activities as much as possible. Maybe they are not as fun as they used to be. Maybe you wouldn't be either if you had to go through all the losses they have, or felt physically like they do. Maybe a family walk in the park may take a lot longer, but they are still part of the family. Help your kids slow down, and include grandparents in the walk. Your parents took care of you- don't be selfish with your time and discard them now. And if your parents didn't take care of you; you are a Christian and should serve them anyway. This shows honor.

None of this may apply to you now. But please, always pray and ask God for direction in dealing with your parents. Take a step back and ask yourself: Is what I just said or what I just did showing honor to my parent?

**Honor your
Mother & Father!!**

Ladies' Retreat

Sponsored by the Women's Missionary Auxiliary of Missouri

September 26-27, 2014

Drury Inn & Suites

Arnold, MO

Speaker: Mrs. Fran Hoover

Begin NOW to pray for this meeting.

Watch for more details in the near future!

A Lovely, Loving Lady Called Home

Violetta Ruth Maclin...

daughter of the late Lester F. Welch and Nellie May Causbie Welch, was born February 2, 1938 in Parma, Missouri and passed away on October 6, 2013 at her residence in Parma, Missouri at the age of 75.



Vi Maclin

"Vi" (as she was known by most of her friends) was a member of the Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church in Sikeston, Missouri and had worked in the office of Wagner Electric Corporation in St. Louis, Missouri.

July 18, 1956, she was united in marriage to Abraham (Abe) L. Maclin in Peach Orchard, Missouri. He survives at the home.

In addition to her husband she is survived by one son, Randall "Randy" K. Maclin and his wife Cheryl of Bishop, Georgia; by one daughter, Michele Maclin of Parma, Missouri; by one sister, Carolyn Sue Traylor of Maryville, Tennessee; by three grandchildren, Kristin Farra, Dustin Maclin and Andrea Maclin Mealar; and by two great-grandchildren, Brandon Kramer and Jada Kramer. Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by one son, Jeffery Maclin.

Sis. Norma Womble wrote the following about Vi Maclin: "Sis. Vi had been active in local, State, and National WMA for years. Several years ago Sis. Vi served the National WMA as one of the Recording Secretaries. For years she was the MO State WMA Bible and Tract Distributor. She would come to the meetings with tracts for each lady present and report how she used these tracts and gave ideas on how we could use them in our daily lives. Sis. Vi also started several years ago giving a Bible to a lady that the Lord laid on her heart. I was one of those ladies a few years ago and it was such a blessing and honor to receive a Bible from Sis. Vi. She loved her Lord and she loved the WMA. She was an encourager and great prayer warrior.

Sis. Vi suffered with diabetes and over the years had problems with her eyes, feet, her heart and problems with her legs. There were many times she attended meetings with physical pain. Praise the Lord, she is now free of all pain and having a wonderful time singing praises to her Lord."

Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Rainey-

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

Brotherhood Report

by Dennis Baker, Brotherhood President

The BMA of Missouri Brotherhood Fall Retreat was a great blessing! Men from five churches studied the Scriptures, fellowshiped, and of course enjoyed great food prepared by Bro. Lucas Polk. It was a wonderful blessing to have men from Bates Creek and Abundant Life in Christ attend for the first time.

After enjoying a great meal Friday evening, the men divided into small groups and dealt with the subject, "Hard Questions of Life-Why do the Righteous suffer?" In the small groups the men were asked to discuss six questions related to the subject. 1) How do the free-will choices of Adam and Eve cause suffering today? 2) How does our misuse of freewill cause others to suffer? 3) How does wrong theology concerning the providence of God cause suffering today? 4) Is suffering always the result of God's judgment? 5) Does God always reveal to His children why they are suffering? 6) Why is a correct understanding of Romans 8:28 and II Corinthians 12:9 necessary in the life of the righteous when they are suffering? After discussing the questions the small groups assemble together to compare notes. The discussion was enlightening, positive, and encouraging.

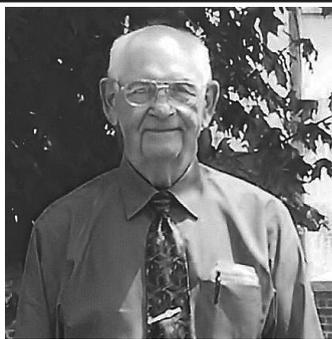
After breakfast on Saturday the men enjoyed the Third Annual Archery Contest. Compared to our first year the skill level of our men and young men is greatly improved. Lucas Polk was the first place winner and Brian Buckley was the second place winner. Going into the final round only five points separated the two. Following the Archery Contest, we enjoyed lunch and Gospel music provided by Bro. David Evans and Brian Buckley.

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

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

**Former Pastor
Called Home**

Elder Troy E. Martin, 83 of Corning, Arkansas, passed away September 11, 2013 at his residence. He was born March 15, 1930 in Lepanto, Arkansas to the late Frank Martin and Minnie Byrd Martin.



Elder Troy E. Martin

He is survived by his children: Gary Martin of Peoria, IL, Bobbi Gillis and husband, Jerry of Memphis, TN, Monica Sue Liepins and husband Guntis of Rockford, IL, and Dawn-Marie Coggins and husband Jason of Little Rock, AR; one brother Raymond Martin of Rockford, IL; seven grandchildren, Elizabeth, Ashley, Allison, Kathryn, Melissa, Jesse and Alexandra; and four great grandchildren, Ava, Davis, Amelia and Gillis.

January 30, 1959 at Salem, Arkansas, he was married to Lola Jean Deatherage. She preceded him in death April 9, 1969. July 1, 1975 He was married to Sandra Jones At East Moline, Ill. She preceded Him in death on February 27, 2011.

Food For Thought...

Please Note: "Food For Thought" articles have been submitted by the author for print, but do not necessarily express the opinion of the editor or the BMA of Missouri. Reasonable replies or rebuttals of articles in this section will be considered for future publication when submitted with the writer's name and the name of the church to which they belong and will be printed with the article.

Can A Dead Man Choose?

by Don Burke, Pastor

Breton Creek Baptist Church, Potosi, MO

Among the BMA churches where I grew up, to be a Calvinist was normally considered one step short of committing the unpardonable sin — or at least that's the way it seemed to me as a kid. As I grew older, though, I began to question such extreme views, and along the way even discovered that a number of our notable preachers were actually "closet" Calvinists. And later any remnant of uncertainty toward Calvinists was discarded as I studied three years at a Calvinistic seminary and saw first hand that they are not the monsters they were painted to be in my childhood.

However, the process of discovering that Calvinists are simply fellow Christians did not settle the questions of whether the tenets of Calvinism itself are correct. These questions persuaded me to pursue both formal (seminary) and personal studies on Calvinism, with a special interest in the Calvinistic-election vs. free-will debate. Much to the chagrin of at least one of my Calvinistic seminary instructors, my research confirmed the Biblical accuracy of our denomination's traditional leanings toward man's free will to accept or reject God's offer of salvation.

However, there was one objection that I have long felt unable to adequately address. In discussing the theological problems of Calvinistic-election — such as demonstrating that the active verbs in "whosoever will" and "believe on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ" naturally imply a sense of free personal choice — my Reformed friends would often cite Colossians 2:13 and Ephesians 2:1, 5, and ask, "How can one who is dead freely choose anything, including the choice to accept Christ?" That is a valid question, and worthy of a deeper consideration that I am now finally prepared to give.

To properly understand Paul's "dead" references in these passages, we must go back to Genesis 2 and 3 to see what this death really means. In chapter two God told Adam that if he sinned (by eating the off-limits fruit) then he would "surely die." Then in the next chapter, when Eve and then Adam ate of that fruit, the forewarned consequence of sin (death) began. But how could these two people be dead when they continued to live for hundreds of years?

To answer that question we have to look closely at the makeup of man. Created in the image of our triune God, man is similarly made of three distinct, unique, yet integrated components. There is obviously the physical portion of our being (our body) which is anything that can be seen or touched. Equally obvious to the Christian is our spirit component which communes with God. But there is also a third portion

He pastored the following churches: Antioch Missionary Baptist church at Oxly, MO; Bethel Missionary Baptist church in Rockford, IL; Landmark Missionary Baptist Church in Corning, AR and Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Piggott, AR. He was a licensed Electrician and retired from Quaker Oats Company after 36 years of service. He loved his church, his family and old cars.

Troy was preceded in death by his parents, two wives, one sister, Vera Durham and two brothers, Dave and Jerry Martin.

Visitation was Friday, September 13, 2013 at the Fowler-Sullivan Memorial Chapel in Neelyville, Missouri. The funeral service was Saturday September 14, 2013 at 11:00 am at Fowler-Sullivan. Burial was in the Antioch Cemetery at Oxly, Missouri with LaVerne Reed officiating.

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of our being — the soul (cf. Heb. 4:12). This is the area that houses the non-spiritual yet non-physical parts of who we are — our personality, our thoughts, our emotions, etc.

So, which of the three parts of Adam (and Eve) died the day he sinned? The answer is both one, and all three. At the instant he sinned, his intimate connection with God was severed because his spirit immediately and completely died. But did his body and soul do the same? Did Adam's body immediately keel over when he sinned? No, it only began the process of dying, but would not be totally dead for some time.

What we easily see to be true for the body serves to illustrate what is equally true for man's soul: That which is in the process of dying may not be totally dead.

If this is difficult to accept, consider this: Jesus said that there is no greater love than to give up one's life for another person. So say there is a

• See **DEAD Page 8** •

• **SLAY From Page 4** •

slay and remove the dragon; He leaves it around to occasionally come out of the lair. Then you have to live with it, enduring small and occasional outbursts of fire and smoke. When God leaves the dragon, it's sometimes God's schooling to prepare you for bigger dragons down the road. On the bright side, every once in a while, a dragon gets tamed through the soul savin' all powerful blood of Jesus.

So just remember the Pauline prayer for justice (not revenge) when this wise apostle was givin' sound pastoral advice to young Timothy: "Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil. The Lord reward him according to his works."

• **DEAD From Page 7** •

soldier on the battlefield that throws himself on a live grenade, choosing to sacrifice himself in order to save his comrades. According to Jesus, that is an act of love; and isn't an act of love a good act? And if that soldier is lost, his self-sacrifice is still an act of love and goodness, right? According to Jesus' statement it is.

So if a lost soldier makes a choice to do an act of goodness, where did that choice come from? It wasn't from his spirit, because his spirit is dead and incapable of good. The only answer is that the dying-but-not-yet-dead soul made this choice. And if a dying soul is capable of freely making that good choice, then it is no stretch to see that it can also make the free choice to accept God's offer of salvation.

Am I saying that a lost man can save himself? No, not in the least. It's like a man who has been in a terrible accident. He is dying, but has been offered life-saving help by an EMT who has come to his aid. Like the lost man, this accident victim is in absolutely no position to save himself and, left to his own abilities, he is doomed to die. But like the accident victim, the lost man has been offered life-giving help, and all he has to do is freely choose to accept that offer. All the goodness he can muster to heal his fatal wounds is no more than putrid rags. However, his dying-but-not-yet-dead soul is quite able to freely accept the life-saving efforts offered from someone else. He is saved, not by his own efforts or his own goodness, but solely by those of the One that offers him aid. And all this dying-but-not-yet-dead man had to do is freely accept that offer.

Doesn't this contradict our belief in the total depravity of man? No, it doesn't. Total depravity simply means that sin has entered and infected every aspect of man, i.e., his body, his soul and his spirit; and, like a cancer, it will ultimately consume all that he is. There is no part of even the best person that is good enough to effect the spiritual healing needed to save himself from Hell.

But does this inability to save oneself make a lost mother unable to freely choose to give selfless love for her children, or make the lost soldier unable to freely sacrifice himself out of his love for his fellow soldiers? Certainly not. So the too-sick-to-save-itself soul may still be alive enough to freely choose good decisions, and can do so without undermining the doctrine of total depravity in any way.

Doesn't the Bible at times describe man as being totally dead, and speaks of it as completed action? Yes, it does. However, it also, at times, describes man's salvation in similar completed-action terms, while it elsewhere speaks of our soul as still in the process of sanctification and our body receiving its glorification in our future — both of which are a part of our total salvation, and both are far from complete at this point in time. See, from God's timeless point of view, both the total deadness of the lost and the total alive-ness of the saved are done deals, which explains why the Scriptures sometimes present them as completed action. But from our own present temporal-bound existence, the dying of the lost soul and the sanctification of the saved soul are both a matter of process. This means that the lost person that God draws to Himself still has the ability to freely make a right choice within his dying-but-not-yet-dead soul.

As strange as it may sound, in the final analysis a lost man is dead while he is also in the process of dying. It is to his dying soul, not his dead spirit, that God presents the offer of salvation. If that dying soul will freely accept that offer, God miraculously reverses the consequences of death — immediately giving full life to the spirit, progressively enlivening the soul through sanctification and eventually glorifying the body at the resurrection of the dead. And until that time when either God removes His offer or the lost man's soul grows too dead to hear it, that soul can freely choose to accept or reject that

Dim Lights, Big Screen, Loud Music, and Smoke Optional

I watched a portion of an "entertainment event" recently on my television. It was a "performance" and it was an "experience." It was well choreographed, staged, and produced. The lighting, sound, and even the pyrotechnics produced the "right things at the right time." The "experience" was much slicker than the carnival that came to my home town years ago—even though the process might well be the same—simply in a more techno-rich environment.

Some churches have "performances" and "experiences" in their "worship" services. To be certain our society is a different culture than even one decade ago. Some churches present the Gospel well in the arena of dim lights, big screen, loud music, and yes, smoke optional. There is no doubt some come from the "experience" with a heart changed by God.

Bill Hybels, one of the leaders in the church growth movement, has said, "*Some of the stuff that we have put millions of dollars into thinking it would really help our people grow and develop spiritually...it wasn't helping people that much. Other things that we didn't put that much money into and didn't put much staff against is stuff our people are crying out for... We made a mistake. What we should have done when people crossed the line of faith and became Christians, we should have started telling people and teaching people that they have to take responsibility to become 'self feeders.' We should have gotten people, taught people, how to read their bible between services, how to do the spiritual practices much more aggressively on their own.*" (Reveal: Where Are You? by Cally Parkinson and offer of life.

(PotosiPastor@gmail.com)

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.

Rocky Houston, a member of Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church is available for pulpit supply. Contact him at 1-573-521-6385 or e-mail houstonrocky@yahoo.com. -7-

Dwayne Swinehart, recently resigned as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Hemlock, Michigan and is available for pastoral service in the Illinois/Indiana area. You may contact him by mail at 16422 Cloverbrook, Hemlock, MI 48626; by email at JeanAPD@aol.com; or by phone at 989-239-2197. -9-

Jerry Cain, a member of Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church in Park Hills, MO, is available for pulpit supply as the Lord leads. You may contact him at 573-760-6813. -9-

Denver Page, former pastor of Lower Doe Run Baptist Church near Ellington, MO and now a member of Landmark Baptist Church in DeSoto, MO is available for pulpit supply or however the Lord leads. Contact him at 636-942-3503. -7-

Charles Michnel, a member of Bethel Baptist Church in Sikeston, is available for pulpit supply. Contact him at 573-931-3194 or by email texwrestler@hotmail.com. -8-

Pastor Search

Faith Missionary Baptist Church in St. Charles, MO is looking for a full-time pastor. There is a very nice 3 bedroom parsonage on our property, commensurate salary, and other benefits for the right man. Our church is on solid financial footing, and consists of a loving congregation. Please send resume to Faith Missionary Baptist Church • 2310 Muegge Rd. • St. Charles, MO 63303 • attn: Dan Dillaha. Email: dan@itisystems.com, or phone 314-406-1425.

It bothers me when Christians spend time looking for loopholes that allow them freedom to indulge in that which is questionable, all under the guise of Christian liberty. They ought to see how far from sin they can get, not cuddle up next to it. It tells me they are more focused on themselves than God.

Brother Ritechus N. Dignation

www.josephharrismagic.com/rnd



Greg Hawkins)

The Lord God has said, "...my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge... (Hosea 4.6). I think Hybels may be on to something — perhaps it is in my church's best interest to hear Hybels. I know it is in my church's best interest to really hear the Lord God.