

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

“Holding Forth The Word of Life”

Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXVIII

St. Louis, MO • November 10, 2015

Issue No. 10

Annual Meeting of the BMA of Missouri

Charity Baptist Church, Bismarck, MO

Article and pictures by Don Burke, Clerk

October 24th the eighty-eighth annual meeting of the BMA of MO met at Charity Baptist Church in Bismarck. Eighteen of our churches were represented by the forty-two messengers present. The Association welcomed petitioning Twin Oaks Baptist Church of Kennett into our fellowship.

Much of the business of the day was typical reports and normal “housekeeping” items. Among these routine items the Association filled the following new or open positions:

- Alive Committee: Dan Wisely (term ending 2019)
- Loan Association Committee: Don Adams and Brian Whitlock
- Camp Garwood Assistant Director - Matt Bolen
- Camp Committee: Joe McElroy (2018) and Jason Taylor (2020)
- Publication Committee: Bro. Denver Page (2018)
- Missions: Bro. James Hoffmann will continue to head

department as Assistant Missions Director

- Special Missions Committee: Dale Fish (2016) and



Bro. Wayne Gibson, Chairman of Missionary Committee

Jerry Adams (2022)

- 2016 Enrollment Committee: Jason Redden, Brian Whitlock, Rodney Dunlap
 - 2016 Resolutions Committee: Tom McCanless, Claude Evans, Dan Wisely
 - Brian Meade and Jerry Adams were reelected as President and Vice President (respectively) of the Association.
- In addition to these regular items of business, the Association

Mark Your Calendars

The semiannual meeting of the BMA of Missouri will be **May 21, 2016 at Stony Point Baptist Church, at Mineral Point** starting at 9:00 a.m.

The annual meeting will be **October 22, 2016 at Bethel Baptist Church in Sikeston** starting at 9:00 a.m.



Bro. David Griggs Preaching God's Word

approved the follow recommendations from the Missionary Committee:

- That the Missions Fund cover the outstanding balance for work to be done on the repair and/or installation of the roof, insulation and ceiling of the tabernacle at Camp Garwood.

- That \$5,000 from the Missions Fund be given to the Missouri Missionary Baptist in order to help with the paper's current financial needs.

The Association also voted to amend Article III Section D of our Doctrinal Statement as follows:

God created marriage, and intends it as an inseparable union to be held in high esteem (Gen. 1:27-28; 2:23-24; Matt. 19:4-6; Heb. 13:4). Marriage is exclusively between a male and a female (i.e. a natural

• See **BMAMO Page 3** •

Update on Camp Garwood

by Chris Polk, Camp Director

We had a good BMA of Missouri meeting. I am sorry I had to leave early. I am looking forward to working with our new camp committee: Brian Whitlock (Krissey Morgan Whitlock), Lucus Polk, Dan Wisely (Pam Fears Wisely), Joe McElroy, Jason and Christina Taylor; and our new assistant director, Matt Bolen.

We are Thankful for the Association's decision to fund the roof and ceiling on the tabernacle. Hopefully we can send some pictures for next months paper. We are also Thankful for the Washington County District Association's decision to send a large sum to camp this fall.

The Paintball retreat was hindered by Weather, Youth hunt weekend and I'm sure somewhat by the secular holiday celebrated on that date. We are grateful for the ones that did come. There was a group of boys from Bunker that played on Friday night but went home to hunt on Saturday. And a group of girls plus one boy that came from Loyalty, Sparta, IL. There were also a few from Kewanee and Matthews. I think a total of 17 playing when everyone was there. We all had a lot of fun and the threat of rain turned out to be just that, a threat. It only sprinkled a little bit Friday night.

I expect some hunters to base out of camp later this month. After that we will winterize and as time allows begin working on the new trail around camp.

If all goes as planned it's going to be a busy winter at camp. You can try to keep up with us on our Facebook group, Camp Garwood.

Thank you all for your support in the DEW funds. And for your prayers.

Thanksgiving

Of all that we have to be for which to be THANKFUL the PEACE in our hearts that comes through FAITH in the LORD JESUS CHRIST is the greatest! This peace comes from knowing our sin is forgiven, we belong to God, we have a future in Heaven, and that God is with us all the time.

As you celebrate Thanksgiving this year take time to reflect on these truths and rededicate yourself to loving and serving God each day of the year ahead. What more could we ask from a merciful God!!



+++ NEWS BRIEFS +++

God's Blessings are still showering on **Stony Point, Mineral Point**. We thank Bro. Leonard Compton for filling the pulpit while Bro. Claude & Sis. Bea went on a very overdue vacation to visit family. David Barlow and Abby Wilkins joined by baptism and Doris Barlow by statement. We welcome you to our membership. Many smiling faces attended our Harvest Fun Day and hayride. Our Pastor and Wife were given Pastor Appreciation at this event. We are thankful for their faithful services.

Claude Evans, Pastor • Debrah Coleman, Reporter

Greetings from **Ozark Heights, Potosi**. I want to thank all Pastors for their work and dedication to the ministry. As a pastors wife I know all to well everything that Pastors do and are expected to do. Most people only sees what the Pastor does on Sundays and Wednesdays, but there is so many other tasks that they do. From being on the phone all hours of the day, to emails, to counseling, to visiting in the hospitals and those who aren't able to get to church anymore, to work in the association and working on several different committees, work around the church, studying for Sundays and Wednesdays and discipling new converts. With last month being Pastor's Appreciation month, I wanted to tell all Pastors, especially my husband, thank you for all you do and how much you all are loved. Our church family showed us this past month how much they really loved us by sending us to the Pastors Oasis in Branson and giving us cards and gifts. You are such a loving church and we love you all. This was our 4th year to have Trunk or Treat at the church. We dress in either Biblical theme or Harvest theme. This is a great outreach and a way to expose Christ to kids and adults alike from the community. Our Harvest Dinner was November 8th and we had the Heritage Boys come and sing for us. It is always a blessing to listen to this group. Until next month, God bless you all.

Brian Meade, Pastor • Dawn Meade, Reporter

Abundant Life in Christ, Charleston, was blessed when on October 26th we sold our Naomi Street property. We were blessed again when a few days later we received a letter from our realtor saying she wished God's blessings on us in our new church home, and included with that a check donating the commission she had made off our property back to us. The sale of this property gives us needed funds to continue working on our new building. While we continue to work on our new building, we are renting space from Shining Light Outreach Center at 721 W. Marshall here in town. They use their facilities on Sunday afternoons and at various times during the day through the week, leaving it available to us on Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings and Wednesday nights. We honored our pastor for Pastor Appreciation Month, and were surprised when First Southern Baptist here in town chose to also honor him during the month for the work he does in the community.

Rodney Dunlap, Pastor

Greetings from **Bethlehem of Doniphan!** October has been another wonderful month for us here at Bethlehem! With each fill in preacher that we have had the pleasure of hearing it is like being in revival. For the month of October we have heard several good messages of God's word. Between the joy from God, encouragement from God, and encouraging yourself in God's word it is hard not to stay uplifted. What a blessing God is giving to us. We can't help but be excited about what God has in store for us during November. October 10th we had a beautiful day for the Walk for the World in support of the LifeWord Ministries. I do believe we had a larger than

normal church representation at the walk. And it was wonderful to see everyone and to fellowship together. Plus the food that we shared together was pretty awesome too. We really did appreciate the members of Briar MBC supplying the fish for the lunch. But on a serious note, the walk is meant to be a time of reflecting on all places in the world that still need to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is a time to be praying for this ministry, and to be financially funding this ministry also. The third Sunday singing was held at Zalma MBC and even though the turnout was small we still had a blessed time together singing praises to our Lord. Between the specials that were offered up to our Savior, we all gathered together and just sang hymns. It was different than usual but still blessings were received. If you have been missing the singings for one reason or another, it is time to get back in the habit of attending. You will be blessed! Our hearts are heavy with the news of Sis. Joanna Chitwood being called home to Heaven. We are rejoicing for her, but heavy laden for Bro. Russell and their daughter, Amy Nelson and her family. Please keep the family in your prayers as they face new roads in their lives here on Earth without her. Bro. Russell and Sis. Joanna were a part of the Walk for the World and we had no idea that it would be our last time to talk with her on this side of Heaven but God knew. The Chitwood's were a part of us for over six years and we are going to miss Sis. Joanna. But we do have God's assurance of seeing her one day in Heaven. Until next month, may God bless and keep us all and be sure and tell your friends and family what they mean to you!

Yvonne Hill, Asst. Reporter

Greetings once again from **Bethany, St. Louis**. We are enjoying the fall colors and God's blessings. We are so

thankful for all He has done. We have enjoyed the preaching of Bro. Dunn and are glad to announce that he and his family have joined us. We are looking forward to being able to get to know them better and them getting to know the area better. Please continue to pray for them and Bethany as we seek God's will. Doors are being opened and we pray we will be there for folks needing the Lord. We thank God for His healing in the families of Bethany. Recently Sis. Ella Beeler recovered from double pneumonia. Evelyn Cooper continues to improve following her recent back surgery. Also Sis. Tiny Blanchard was operated on for kidney surgery and was able to come home and then her and her family said goodbye to her sweet mother and this of course was a very difficult time for this dear family. We recently enjoyed the preaching of Bro. Randy Zinn and his wife also in our services. Please pray for this family as they are seeking God's will in their lives. We are glad to report at this time that Bro. Hoffmann is recovering at home from his recent heart procedure. Please keep him and Sis. Mary in your prayers. Our young folks are already asking about our plans for a Christmas program this year and also about going to Youth Alive this year. This is always a great time for them and for those who sponsor them. They learn that some of us do have a sense of humor after all! Our ladies recently met in my home and we had a good time of fellowship and enjoyed a good meal of taco soup. And lots of laughter. God's children can laugh and have a good time after all. We pray God's blessings on each and everyone as we get ready to thank God for all of His goodness and love. May God bless.

Nick Dunn, Interim Pastor • Kathy Chapman, Reporter,

Landmark, DeSoto, sends the following report. Since I got the report in too late last month for publication, I will try to update this month. September 12th, Landmark enjoyed a church picnic and did our Walk for the World at the Meramec Retreat Center. It was a little on the cool side, but we had fun anyway. Some of the boys and a few men that were acting like boys, played a little softball. We lost a very good friend to cancer in September. There is bad news and great news concerning Gus Tegeler. His wife is a former member of Landmark. Of course, the bad news is that he passed away. The great news is that he trusted the Lord as his Savior before he died. He will be missed. Pray especially for his wife, Donna and the children and grandchildren. The pastor and his wife and the Pages attended the Annual Missouri meeting at Charity, Bismarck. It was a good meeting and well attended in spite of some sick-

• Continued on Page 4 •

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FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS • October 2015

General Fund:

Balance September 30, 2015		\$	138,415.29
October Receipts:	\$	<u>2,596.57</u>	\$ <u>2,596.57</u>
Total Available		\$	141,011.86
Disbursements:			
Assistant Director's Salary	\$	450.00	
Designated for Northlake	\$	<u>30.00</u>	
Total Disbursements	\$	480.00	\$ <u>480.00</u>
Balance October 31, 2015:		\$	140,531.86

From Our Assistant Missions Director & Editor

I apologize for not being present at the annual meeting as I had an unexpected twelve day stay in the hospital and am still not up to par. The doctor said it will take at least 8 weeks for a full recovery. I do appreciate your prayers and calls.

It was great to hear the good reports from the meeting. I thank Bro. Don Burke for writing a summary of the meeting and sending pictures so I could get the report of the meeting in this edition of the paper.

Thank you for your confidence in me in selecting me to continue editing the paper and in selecting me to continue as assistant Missions Director.

Thank you also for the generous offering from the state to help us continue printing the paper each month.

I pray this will be a great year in all the churches of our association as we work together reaching lost souls before the Lord returns.

Let's follow the Lord's leading in all we do.

• BMA MO from Page 1 •

man and a natural woman), with each having unique roles and responsibilities (Rom. 1:25-27; 1Cor. 6:9; Eph. 5:22-33; 1Tim. 1:10; Heb. 13:4). Marriage testifies of the union between Christ and the church (Eph. 5:31-32).

For your information the Article III Section D was as follows before the change: *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*



Bro. Melvin Meade bringing a devotional

union between Christ and the church (Eph. 5:31-32; Rom. 1:25-27).

This slight change in wording reflects no material change in content, but attempts to give greater support in the event our stand against same-gender marriage is ever challenged. (See Bro. Burke's explanation of why this change was presented starting on the right of this page).

The Recording Secretary noted that approximately seven of our churches have not reported in the past two years, and due to the Association's rules on reporting these will be dropped if they also fail to report this year. Churches that have not sent in their annual church letter should send them in to the Recording Secretary right away. (Please note that there has been some confusion about reporting. Reporting to the National Association does not get forwarded to the State clerk. BMA of Missouri Annual church letters must be sent in by

each church to the clerk of our State Association.)

The Secretary also noted that thirteen more years of state minutes should soon be added to our online archives (bmamissouri.org/about/annual-minutes-for-the-bma-of-mo). With these additional issues everyone can have immediate online access to 75 years of state minutes in searchable PDF format. This archive could be of particular interest to students, historians, or people with family or ministry connections with the state. The archive still needs minutes for 1946, 1944, 1937, 1936, 1935, 1932 and earlier. Anyone willing to donate or loan any of these back issues please contact Don Burke at PotosiPastor@gmail.com.

Of course our Association meeting had time set aside for more than just business. Bro. Melvin Meade gave the morning devotional taken from Acts 11. Bro. David Griggs later gave the annual message on Listening to God (Hebrews 3:15-19).

We would like to thank Charity Landmark Baptist

Bro. Burke's Explanation for the Recommended Change

Given at the annual meeting 2015

Discussion Points

I submit for your consideration today a suggested rewording of Article III Section D of our State Doctrinal Statement. The best way I can explain why I see a need for this change is to play-out a hypothetical story. We have been told that this article is designed to help pastors and churches defend their positions in the event that we're taken to court for our stand against same-gender marriages. Here is what I believe could happen if we are forced to court for our stand, with the current version of Section D under the microscopic scrutiny of one intent upon undermining its validity as a support for our doctrinal beliefs:

Lawyer: So, Bro. Burke, do you mean to tell this court that you and your church defy the equality ruling of the Supreme Court and will not perform same-gender marriages?

Me: Yes, that is true.

Lawyer: And is it also true that your church (along with others like it) have adopted Article III Section D into your Doctrinal Statement as substantiation for what you believe on this matter, and why you won't grant equal rights and equal use of your facilities for those seeking a same-gender wedding?

Me: Yes.

Lawyer: So, am I correct that this Doctrinal Statement which outlines your beliefs is laid out by stating specific individual beliefs then providing supporting scriptures?

Me: Yes, that is correct.

Lawyer: I am particularly interested in the second sentence in this Section D – the one that highlights what Jesus declared were the intentions of marriage. I notice that the supporting scripture is taken from Matthew, Mark, and Romans. So, Bro. Burke, do you believe that Jesus spoke the very words here referred to in Matthew?

Me: Yes, I do.

Lawyer: And as the Doctrinal Statement points out, are the words in the Mark reference also what He spoke during His life here on earth?

Me: Yes, they are.

Lawyer: And the words referred to in Romans – yes or no

– did those words come out of Jesus' own mouth while He was alive on this earth?

Me: No.

Church, along with Pastor Lee Miller, for being gracious hosts for our meeting. Our semi-annual meeting will be held at Stony Point, and the annual meeting will be at Bethel, Sikeston. We hope to see you there.

Lawyer: No? If that is so, it seems we have a couple of problems here. For one, it looks like the Romans passage is not what the Section claims it to be, as we are therefore compelled to disregard it. Second – and even more disturbing – is the fact that you first say Section D is a statement of what you believe, but then you indicate that in reality you don't actually believe it. This as a big problem, Bro. Burke. But let me pursue another issue. I notice the second sentence also says that Jesus' words teach that marriage is exclusive. That is what the Section



Bro. Lee Miller - Host Pastor

• See **CHANGE Page 5** •

• **NEWS From Page 2** •

ness and such going on. We certainly want to express our sympathy to Bro. Russell Chitwood and his family on the passing of his wife. Until next month or the Lord's Return, Wayne Gibson, pastor • Sharon Page, reporter

Greetings from **Lighthouse, Malden**. Well praise God!! The devil is mad and I am glad. He lost another soul that he thought he had!! I was blessed to preach revival services at Briar MBC west of Doniphan October 9-11 and God met with us in a wonderful way. Thanks, Briar, for the opportunity, the delicious noon meal at the church Sunday and great time of fellowship. May God revive all of our churches is my prayer. It was my privilege, also, to preach for the dear folks at Bethany Baptist in St. Louis on Sunday, October 25. Our nephew, Joey McVay, and his girlfriend, Angie McClain, came to hear me preach and Angie got gloriously saved. Praise God! Amen! Thanks, Bethany, for the privilege of being there with you, the wonderful meal, time of fellowship and for your sweet spirit. My thanks, also, to Bro. Richard Blagg and Bro. Don Davis for filling in for me for these services at Lighthouse. I hope all our churches remembered to do something special for your pastor and his family for Pastor Appreciation in October. Two of our dear people, personally, gave me a precious card, presented a special poem during the service and gave me a Volkswagen "Bug" (a miniature one). Thanks, Bro. Johnny and Sis. Jeanie, for your love and thoughtfulness to your pastor. God bless you both. My wife gave me a card and took me out to eat my favorite food--Chinese!! The three of them made me feel pretty special and glad to be their pastor. God is good all the time! Until next time--because He lives,
Randy Zinn, Pastor

Greetings from **Mt. Zion, Poplar Bluff**. We are grateful to announce the start of the children's AWANA October 21st. It is our prayer and hope to bring up great kids who know the Word and who can easily defend the faith. Several of our members have been ill this month. Doyle Beckwith had a moderate-mild stroke and is working out daily in rehabilitation. Sis. Linda Goldschmidt was in the hospital for several days as well as Sis. Juanita Cooley. We pray all will return to good health soon. Please pray for these. Our special news is that Sis. Tamara Johnson, wife of Pastor Matt Johnson, gave birth to a healthy baby boy the last week of September. The Johnson family now has two girls and a boy. We were very blessed Wednesday, October 28th to receive a personal visit from one of the missionaries Mt. Zion sponsors, Chris Hudson and his family. Pray for one another as we await our Homecoming.
Matt Johnson Pastor • Linda Magruder, Reporter

Ohlman, Bunker, would like to wish you a happy Fall Ya'll! It has been quite a while since the last time that we have reported any news but we have lots to catch up on. Our mission trip to Montezuma Creek in Utah was great. There were many children that came to know the Lord that week and one of our own members surrendered to the ministry. Bro. Dalton Harper was called to Preach God's Word. Our missionaries return brought a great celebration and Bro. Dalton preached his first message and his sister Hannah Harper was baptized that following Sunday night. Praise the Lord!! We finished up our summer with a "water" themed VBS. It was a blessing to the teachers and helpers as much as it was for the kids that attended. The young ones in the church took a trip to Critter Lane petting zoo and pumpkin patch this October. All the kids had a great time and we thank Sis. Jennifer Siegrist and Sis. Juanita May for making memories with them. October also brought a great visit with Bro. Joey and Sis. Jenni Duckworth and their 3 boys, that came to visit while Bro. Terry and Sis. Gay spent some memorable time with their kids and grand kids on a short vacation.

Shortly after they returned we made some memorable moments for them at church. We celebrated Pastor Appreciation in a very special way. We had special music that Sunday Morning with Bro. Dalton Harper, Sis. Alli May and Sis. Jaelyn May. It was amazing as well as the music for the evening service provided by The Harper Family. Bro. Dalton preached the morning service and Bro. Sam Wisdom gave a great devotional Sunday night. The Youth also made a special video presentation and did a hand drama in honor to both Bro. and Sis. Sharpe. Then comes the part that you all were expecting and probably aren't surprised by since this is a Baptist paper, we ATE! Our church ladies prepared not one meal but two. Lunch and Supper was a great time to sit and just enjoy fellowship with one another. As October was coming to an end we sure didn't let it go out without a bang. Bro. Dalton took our boys youth class to the paintball retreat at Camp Garwood and had a fantastic time as our GMA girls got to go out to eat and back to church with paint to remodel our classroom. We've got BIG news! We are getting ready to have a wedding, as Bro. Dalton Harper and Sis. Alli May got engaged to be married. It is so great to see God work in the lives of young couples and we are looking forward to watching them wed and become a family. We are also looking forward to and getting ready for our upcoming fall revival with Bro. Andy Lahmann November 8th thru the 11th, and we could not be more pumped up for the Holy Spirit to work. God is Good all the time and all the time God is good! Enjoy the beautiful colors of God's handwork this fall and I hope to report again this winter. God Bless you all!

Terry Sharpe, Pastor
Dottie May, Reporter

Greetings from **Zion, St. Louis**. The year has flown by fast, here it is autumn and not far from the end of this year. A new year is upon us.

What will it hold for us? God has been good to Zion. We are blessed with a very dedicated pastor and wife. We surprised our pastor with cake, ice cream, coffee and a few gifts in honor of Pastor Appreciation month. During the summer months our pastor traveled back and forth to Arkansas because of health issues with his parents. While he was away, we enjoyed preaching from Bro. Darran Griggs, Bro. Roy Callahan, Bro. Russell Chitwood and Bro. Jim Gosnell. Bro. and Sis. Gosnell were here to attend the 30 year celebration of Bro. David Griggs with Emmanuel Baptist Church. They visited Zion and with Bro. Baker being in Arkansas, Bro. Gosnell brought the message. It was good to visit with them. Zion sends sympathy to Bro. Russell Chitwood and family in the passing of his wife Joanna. Currently Bro. Baker is bringing messages from Colossians. We appreciate the study Bro. Baker puts in to bring messages that encourage us to study more, pray more and be prepared to share our faith with others. We are thankful for the faithfulness of our members and ask your prayers as we continue to serve the Lord. Please come visit if you are in our neighborhood. Zion prays God's blessings on our Sister Churches.

Dennis Baker, Pastor • Norma Womble, Reporter

Emmanuel, Sikeston, sends Fall Greetings to each and every one of you. We have had a really blessed couple of months. The Lord is never ceasing to amaze us with his work. We recently were able to replace all of the stain glass on the church with tinted glass. It has added a much needed improvement to the beauty of the Lords house. We also had our biannual church wide yard and bake sale. We had a great turn out which allowed us to witness to many members of the community. We made a great profit that will also be going back into the upkeep and remodeling of the church. We are praying that our next project will be to remodel the foyer. The youth of the church have been working very hard on their next black lite performance. It will be held Saturday, November 7th at 6:30 p.m.. The program that they will be performing pays tribute to fallen police officers, firefighters, and EMS personnel, while also telling the story of Jesus' ultimate sacrifice for all of us. A love offering will be taken and the proceeds going to The Backstoppers, which is a nonprofit organization that helps the families of local public safety personnel who have lost their lives in the line of duty. Jesus have his life for our sins, and our law enforcement, firefighters, and emergency medical service responders put their lives on the line every day to protect us and our communities. Some of them have paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives. We pray that each of you have been blessed as much as we have, and that the Lord's will be done in everything you do. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!!

Jason Redden, Pastor • Heather Hays, Reporter

Greetings from **Charity Baptist Church, Columbia, MO**. We are happy to report that Bro. Joe F. Ginter was ordained on Saturday, October 3rd into the Gospel Ministry. We want to thank Pastor David Griggs from Emmanuel, St. Louis; Pastor Mike Hearst from Westview, Jefferson City; and Deacon Steve Bates also from Westview who was part of the ordination council. Pastor Griggs did an excellent job questioning Bro. and Sis. Ginter. Pastor Hearst preached a most appropriate sermon from Acts 16:6-9 titled "Come Over And Help Us." Thank you also to Bro. Bates for acting as the clerk for the ordination council. Unfortunately Bro. Jim Ford, our retired pastor, was not able to attend the ordination as he was in surgery at the same time as the ordination. He had some serious health issues and was in the hospital for a week before the surgery. He is doing much better now and was able to attend Pastor Grigg's 30 year celebration at Emmanuel, St. Louis just a few weeks later. Please keep Brother Ford in your prayers.

• See **NEWS Page 8** •

says, isn't it Bro. Burke?

Me: Yes.

Lawyer: So, would you go on record that you personally believe that these verses proves that it was a sin for the man Jacob to have two (or was it four?) wives, and as such there never should have been the twelve tribes of Israel that came from these four unions?

Me: No, I wouldn't exactly say that.

Lawyer: Additionally, in the Ezekiel 23 God (figuratively) describes Himself as having two wives (i.e., Israel and Judah). Yes or no, would you call that "exclusive" in the sense that Section D attempts to use that term, Bro. Burke?

Me: No I would not.

Lawyer: Would you say that God would picture Himself as doing something that is morally wrong?

Me: No.

Lawyer: So, do Jesus' words really condemn all non-exclusive marriages, such as the one that you agreed that God figuratively described Himself as a part of?

Me: No.

Lawyer: So, then..., it would seem that once again you really don't believe exactly what Section D says. Let me pursue another line of thought: Bro. Burke, according to the Bible how many wives did King David have at the same time?

Me: I don't recall the specific number, but there were several.

Lawyer: And how about Solomon – how many wives did he have at the same time?

Me: At least seven hundred.

Lawyer: Wow – seven hundred? And would you say that all of these – the 700, and the several – all of these the Bible labels as "wives," meaning that these unions were actual marriages and wives were not free to marry someone else?

Me: Yes.

Lawyer: So, you're saying that the Bible itself indicates that even if the intention of marriage is "exclusive," a veering from that ideal (as David and Solomon did) didn't automatically keep a union from being a marriage?

Me: Yes, I suppose so.

Lawyer: Let me get back to that in a moment. Now for a fourth line of thought: Bro. Burke, is there any conceivable situation in you would perform a wedding in your church for someone who was previously married, was later divorced from that spouse, and then decided to marry someone else? Yes or no, is there any possibility at all of you and/or your church finding that acceptable?

Me: Yes.

Lawyer: I note that Section D indicates that Jesus said that the intention of marriage is that it is inseparable – am I right that the Section says that?

Me: Yes, it does.

Lawyer: Yet, in spite of marriage being intended as inseparable, you could be willing to accept as a valid marriage something that goes against that intention – isn't that what you've indicated, Bro. Burke?

Me: Yes.

Lawyer: And you and your church could be willing to perform that ceremony within your church?

Me: Yes.

Lawyer: Bro. Burke, do you believe that a same-gender marriage also goes against the intentions of God's design – that it is not what He intended marriage to be?

Me: Yes, I certainly do.

Lawyer: Well, let me see where we stand.... We've established a part of Section D is faulty – it is not what the Section claims it to be (i.e., Romans was not spoken by Jesus) and therefore it can hardly be used to validate your stance against same-gender weddings. Additionally, even though you ask us to believe that Section D outlines your basis for refusing to recognize or participate in a same-gender wedding, you really don't believe all that this Section says. Furthermore, you agree that a variation from the intended pattern of marriage doesn't necessarily

mean that a union is not a legitimate marriage, and that you could even officiate in such a variation from the intention. Yet in spite of this you refuse to acknowledge same-gender marriages because they are at variance to what you consider the intentions of marriage. But Bro. Burke, there is nothing left in Section D to substantiate that kind of stance. As such, I am left with but one course of action.

Lawyer: Your honor, the state rests its case and recommends that Bro. Burke be prosecuted for his blatant, premeditated and indefensible disregard for the equal rights laws of our land.

In an effort to better shore up Section D against such a possible attack, my suggested rewording divides the original second sentence into two separate thoughts. The first (which is merged with the original first sentence) deals with some elements that are intended in a marriage, but if deviated from do not change the validity of a given marriage. The second centers on an absolute proclamation that marriage is a male-female arrangement, and without such a union can not be a Biblical marriage. It is my belief that this distinction better states what we believe, and will be less easily dismantled by opposition if the time comes when they choose to fight us on this.



Bessie Lee Ray-Gaines

Lifetime Servant Called Home

Bessie Lee Ray-Gaines, 75, of Poplar Bluff, Mo., passed away Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at the Poplar Bluff Regional Medical Center.

Mrs. Gaines was born April 23, 1940 in Corning, Ark. to the late Ennis James Brooks

Faithful Pastor's Wife Called Home Unexpectedly

Joanna Lee Chitwood, 57, of Fairdealing, Mo., passed away Sat. Oct. 24, 2015 at her home.

Mrs. Chitwood was born March 17, 1958 in Savannah, IL. She served on the board at the Shelter Workshop in Doniphan and volunteered time at the Springhill Missionary Baptist School of Hope in Fairdealing. She worked as a homemaker and enjoyed cooking, gardening, taking care of her home, and working outdoors.

On March 18, 1978 Joanna married Bro. Russell Chitwood in Silvis, Ill. He survives.

Also surviving is one daughter, Amy Nelson and husband Raymond Lee of Williamsville, Mo.; 3 sisters, Freda Matney of Austin, TX., Wanda Dowell of Eagleville, Missouri, Dianna Wackler of Piqua, OH.; 1 brother, Floyd Matney of Prophets Town, IL.; and 1 granddaughter, Isabella.

She was preceded in death by her father, Arnold Matney and mother Madaline Nelms Matney.

Visitation was Thursday, Oct. 29, 2015 at the Fowler-Sullivan Memorial Chapel in Neelyville. Funeral took place on Friday, Oct. 30, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. in the chapel with Bro. Larry Edwards Sr. and Bro. Kevin Crider officiating. Burial was at the Fairdealing Cemetery.



Ten Things God Wants Us to Remember

I will give you Rest • I will strengthen you
I will answer you • I believe in you
I will bless you • I am for you
I will not fail you • I will provide for you
I will be with you • I LOVE YOU!

Whenever life gets rough and you do not know where to turn, TURN TO GOD! He is all we need! *Psalm 23*

and Grace (Phelps) Brooks.

She was a member of Black Creek Missionary Baptist Church where she was a Sunday school teacher and church secretary.

Bessie spent a lifetime serving the Lord Jesus Christ and helping others. She loved to teach children, whether it be at church, as a kindergarten teacher or a teacher's aide. She enjoyed spreading the gospel and singing at nursing homes with amazing grace. She spent many years as a restaurateur at Ray's Drive In, in Corning and Newberry's store in Poplar Bluff. She also enjoyed painting, sewing, gardening and spending time with her family.

December 22, 1959 she married Hubert Lloyd Ray. He preceded her in death July 17, 2008. Later she married William Lee Gains on May 21, 2011. He passed away April 6, 2015.

Survivors include her children, Toni Howe and husband, Karl, Terry Ray and Roger Ray and wife, Angie; two sisters, Rhoda JoeAnn Taylor and Linda McCaig; one brother, E.J. Brooks and half-brother, Raymond Brooks; seven grandchildren, Jennifer Oakley (Stephen), Christopher Howe (Shina), Nicholas Howe, Alicia Marie Ray, Brittany Slayton (Cody), Baylee Ray and Brooks Ray; five great-grandchildren, Kaelyn Everett, Taylor Brown, Quinton Brown Landri Slayton and Averie Slayton.

Also preceding her in death are a sister, Mary Lou Farinella and half-sisters, Viola Richardson and Evelyn Brown, and half-brother, Eugene Brooks.

Visitation was held at 10 a.m. Saturday, October 24, 2015 at Fowler-Sullivan Funeral Home in Poplar Bluff, followed by the funeral service at 11 a.m. in the chapel. Bro. Cory McCaig and Troy Sisk officiated. Burial was in the Black Creek Cemetery.

WMA & GMA NEWS

Articles for this column

should be sent to **EDITOR**

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Passing on a Legacy to Your Family

Six young men dressed in their uniforms carried the flag draped coffin to its final resting place. The family followed behind in a processional. The preacher spoke about all that a soldier is called to do. He must bear strength and courage to protect us, and the nation. The minister also said how wonderful it is for the Christian soldier who also has on the spiritual armor of God. He has a high calling from His Lord, Jesus Christ.

The bagpipes played the most beautiful rendition of Amazing Grace. As he finished, he turned and walked out of the cemetery still playing until he was out of sight and we could no longer hear the music. There was the 21 gun salute. The folding of the flag was heart warming as the two soldiers held it across their chest and up to their heart and each saluted it. And taps played signifying the day is done. This soldier who was a devout follower of Christ and defender of freedom would now be laid to rest. He fought the good fight. His race is over. He kept the faith. And suddenly I had the truth hit me. My beloved daddy had gone home.

As we drove back to his church, I started thinking of all the things he had done for me. My question to all of you is; what kind of legacy will you leave for your children, grandchildren, family and friends? We all eventually die because of sin. Christians live forever in heaven with Jesus. But physically we must pass on. When you have left this earth what will they remember about you? For the most part, your children and grandchildren will not remember material things. There may be a few special birthday or Christmas gifts they will remember along the way. They will remember with fondness an accumulative time of fishing or camping trips or something like that. These serve as special memories. But the lasting things you leave behind are what you have given them to live their life. It is not money, cars, clothes and toys. It is not trips to fun places. There is nothing wrong with these, but they are over just like my dad's life on earth is over. Gone except as a sweet memory. What is eternal last. What you did with your life that taught them how to live there life. That is the legacy you leave. In the end, that is all that really matters. Let me give you a few examples so you can understand better what I am trying to say.

My dad taught me and my brother how to be real men. Men of God and follower's of Christ. He also charged my son on his 13th birthday to be a man of honor and to love Christ first, then family and then duty to country and the place you live. I learned how to be a man of integrity. I learned what character was all about. He didn't tell us. He showed us! My dad was not perfect. No one is. But he knew how to be a Godly head of the house. As a little boy, I would watch him take care of my mom. To cherish her. To hold her up. Even to send flowers to her and be romantic. I didn't know that I would ever be a preacher. That thought never entered my mind. But God did. He put me in a home with a good Godly marriage. When I do marriage retreats today, I use scriptures and demonstrate how to implement this by what I saw growing up at home.

I was taught to be a gentleman by my dad. Everyone is so quick to put down manners in this dog eat dog society today. But it is a good thing. This would usually occur in relationship to giving up a chair for my grandparents, or holding the door open for my mom. I teach in churches about having family

meetings and home worship. Years before people all over the country started writing books about it; my parents had nightly devotions and family worship. We were strongly taught how to work. My dad would not take whining. He would say. "Fall in and hit it." He taught me service. He would go out all night sometimes in a blizzard to rescue people stranded in cars along the highway in northwest Texas. He would deliver hay to cattle farmers. He would give his last \$10 bill to a friend or family member that needed it. He taught us so much about hard work and serving the Lord with a smile. A memory that is burned into my mind is the night that this brave soldier stood up in our church and told the whole congregation what Jesus meant to him. He started crying. I had never seen him cry like this. While I knew Jesus at this time; I didn't "know" Jesus as Savior. I was saved later that summer at church camp. I wanted to know this Jesus that made my daddy cry. This is just a few of hundreds of examples how my dad taught me about life that guide my life today.

Three young men that I mentored told me that my father had made such a great impact on their life. It confused me at first because they had never met my dad. But they all told me that he influenced their life because he influenced my life and I was teaching them the things my daddy taught me. This showed me that a person's legacy will go for generations to people they never even know. My dad is now with Jesus and my mom. My son was so impacted by my dad in his life that he just cried out loud all through the service. What a legacy he left him and my daughter. When you are gone – what will be the legacy you have left your family?

It's never too late to start, but it must be about the things that really matter. My dad was my hero and I will always love and miss him. Someday I will be with him. Bye daddy.

Washington District WMA

The Washington County District WMA met Sept. 4, 2015 with Emmanuel Baptist Church in Lemay, MO. It was time for the election of new officer. They are:

President - Barbara Williams - Emmanuel

1st VP - Ruth Gibson - Landmark

2nd VP - Connie Reifsteck - Zion

Secretary/Treasurer - Tracy Goede - Zion

Asst. Secretary/Treasure - Ladonna Baker - Zion

Historian/Reporter - Norma Womble - Zion

Youth Promoter - Dana Dane - Bethesda

Asst. Youth Promoter - Mandy Barton - Bethesda

Advisory Counsel:

Bea Evans - Stony Point

Janet Widger - Zion

Sharon Page - Landmark

2015-2016 Project:

25% Missouri Missionary Baptist Paper

25% Camp Garwood

20% Youth

30% General Fund

Program given by Ladonna Baker, "My Life, An Open Book".

After business and program, a time of fellowship and food prepared by host church was enjoyed.

Next meeting goes to Landmark Missionary Baptist Church in DeSoto, MO. **November 13, 2015.**

Touching the Torah

by Diane Sprigs, Editor of The Baptist Trumpet

"The Torah is the most impressive of biblical manuscripts, and very few Gentiles have touched one," said Dr. Scott Carroll, a foremost authority on Bible manuscripts who was the lecturer at the Expositor's Lunch last Friday on the campus of Central Baptist College.

However, that statement will no longer be true of BMA Seminary students at the Jacksonville and Conway campuses because a 19th century Torah ca. 1850's has been donated to the school by Ken and Barbara Larson.

The Larsons have made it their ministry to place Torahs in select evangelical seminaries. BMA Seminary (BMATS) is the 15th school to receive a valuable Torah from them in only a year and a half. The presentation of the BMATS Torah took a process of two years to complete.

The BMATS Sefer Torah (which probably withstood incredible efforts to destroy it, especially during the holocaust) will travel between the two campuses, and will be a "hands on" tool to help students understand this important document, its significance to Christianity and the process of textual transmission. An important theme is "the indestructibility of God's Word."

The Torah that was presented to BMATS likely came from a synagogue in Eastern Europe, perhaps Germany. Several factors are considered when dating a Torah, including the stitching that is used to connect the animal hides on which it is written, the format and style of writing that was used and the coating of brushed plaster that for a time was used to prepare

• See **TORAH** Page 6 •

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

Knowing God's Will

Ephesians 5:18

by Dennis Baker, Brotherhood President

As one studies Paul's writings, making Christ preeminent in the Christian's life was something of great concern on Paul's mind. Paul not only wanted the believer to have knowledge of Jesus Christ as the Savior of sinners, he wanted them to understand the importance of following Jesus in their daily life. He wanted them to know the will of God for their life. What does it mean to be "filled with the Spirit?"

The first step toward being "filled with the Spirit" is growing in the will of God by knowing the Word of God. The general will of God is clearly revealed in the Bible. The deeper the believer gets into the Word of God the easier it is to understand the general will of God. The specific will of God must agree with what has already been revealed in His Word. The better we understand God's general will, the easier it will be to determine His specific guidance for our daily life.

Being "filled with the Spirit" means being controlled by the Spirit. As we pray and sincerely seek God's truth, He gives us through the Holy Spirit the wisdom and insight we need. John 14:26, "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

True spiritual knowledge is more than head knowledge; it must affect the believer's daily life. Two words summarize the practicality of the Christian life: walk and work. You cannot work for God unless you are walking with Him, but you cannot walk with Him if you are ignorant of His will. The believer who spends time daily in the Word and prayer will know God's will and be able to walk with Him and work for Him. God must make the worker before He can do the work. A new Christian can witness for Christ and even win others-but he must be taught to walk and learn God's wisdom before he is placed in an office of responsible ministry.

Knowledge, conduct, service, and character must always go together. We know God's will that we might obey it, and, in obeying it, we serve Him and grow in Christian character. While none of us is perfectly balanced in these four factors, we ought to strive for that balance.

It is God's energy that empowers us. The grace of our Christian life is the result of God's power at work in our lives. Spiritual power and maturity can come only as we yield to God's power and permit Him to work in us.

Understanding the general will of God is the beginning of knowing the will of God. The believer who spends time daily in the Word and prayer will know God's will and be able to walk with Him and work for Him. Spiritual power and maturity can come only as we yield to God's power and permit Him to work in us.

• TORAH From Page 6 •

the skins. (Some Torahs have this coating on only one side, others on two sides, most have none at all. The BMATS Torah is coated, but only on the outside.)

The exhibit at Friday's seminar also included four Hebrew Torah scrolls that dramatically survived the Holocaust, an exceptionally rare scroll of Isaiah (one of only three existing and similar to the one Jesus would have read from) and a scroll of the book of Esther that was likely part of a secret airlift out of Yemen in the late 1920's.

Interesting Facts About the Torah

During his lecture, Dr. Carroll, noted several important facts about the Torah:

- Every Torah contains the Pentateuch (the first five books of



William L. "Bill" Gibson, 73 of Jonesboro, AR, died Oct. 29. He was a graduate of Central Baptist College and was ordained as a minister in November 1963.

Bro. Gibson pastored churches in Arkansas and Kansas, and later became a missionary. Without knowing any Spanish, he and his family drove from Arkansas to Costa Rica to start his first mission. He was involved with missions in Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Honduras and Chile from 1971-2012.

Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Jeanette Gibson; a son, Bill Gibson Jr. (Melinda) of Kansas City; a daughter, Monica Stimach (Randy) of Valley View; his mother, Brownie Gibson and a brother, Dennis Gibson, both of Jonesboro; a sister, Janelle Seat of Jonesboro; four grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

Funeral services were held Oct. 31 at Emerson Funeral Home in Jonesboro, with Gary Gipson and Jim Thompson officiating. Interment was at Jonesboro Memorial Park Cemetery.

Memorials may be sent to BMA of America Department of Missions (Chile), P.O. Box 878, Conway, Ark. 72033 or visit www.bmamissions.org.

the Bible — Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy)

- All Torahs are handwritten, and are usually, but not always, done by one sopher (scribe), and may take up to a year and a half to complete. The BMATS Torah was copied by one person.

- Scribes must follow very strict rules when copying the Pentateuch, and it must be 100% accurate. Usually, hundreds of careful corrections

Kingdom Investment Sunday

by Scott Attebery, Executive Director DiscipleGuide

The local Church is the key to fulfilling the great commission. Just think of everything that happens predominately through the local church:

- People come to faith in Christ
- Believers are disciplined
- The wayward come home
- Revival breaks out
- Missionaries are sent out
- Future leaders are trained
- God's truth is proclaimed

Jesus gave the Great Commission exclusively to the local church. That's why BMA Baptists have always stood up for the local church.

Today, more than ever, local churches in our association are crying out for help, and DiscipleGuide is answering the call. We have expanded our services and added "hands on" consulting and coaching ministries for local churches and pastors. We know the challenges of ministry and we want to help churches maximize their impact. Simply put, the future of many local churches is on the line right now.

This Christmas, DiscipleGuide invites you to invest in your church as well as churches around the nation through our Kingdom Investment offering.

The idea is simple. On December 20, churches will take a special offering to be invested two different ways – at home and throughout North America.

Each church chooses their own local project to fund. It could be anything –funding a new outreach event, supporting a local shelter, scholarships for kids who can't afford summer camp – every church will have a different way to invest in the Kingdom at home.

As for the money sent to DiscipleGuide, we will reinvest your offering into local churches needing help. Your gift could help keep the doors open for a church struggling to find a new pastor. Or to make help available for a weary pastor who's ready to give up. You can be a part of seeing a dying church revived, a young man give his life to missions, or a teenage girl trust Christ as her savior. Now that's worth the investment!

Your church can make an eternal difference this Christmas through DiscipleGuide's Kingdom Investment offering.

For more information, go to discipleguide.org/kingdominvestment and/or watch Tuesday Talks on November 9 at 10 a.m. on bmalife.com/tv.

must be made until it meets that standards. The BMATS Torah illustrates this careful process.

- If corrections are caught quickly, they can be wiped off with water and a soft cloth. However, if the mistake has been there longer, it is either scraped off or an animal skin patch is used.

- There are no written vowels in Hebrew, and the Torah is read from right to left.

- In current times, every Jewish male is required to write or participate in the commissioning of a Torah. Some make their own, but they can also hire a specially trained scribe to do it for them at a cost up to \$60,000.

- The Torah can be of any size, but must be complete.

- The manuscript is printed on animal skins — primarily cow, sheep and sometimes deer skins. The animals must be killed by Kosher butchers, and it usually takes 50-60 animal skins to complete, depending on the size of the Torah.

- Skins are carefully sewn together and lines drawn on them to keep the printing straight. (The scribes write under those lines.)

- There are no "chapters and verses" in a Torah, but each column and panel is numbered to help find a particular passage, and there are several lines (usually four) between each of the "books."

The BMATS Torah has also been digitized and professors have been given an analysis of the document.

How Was the Torah Obtained? As populations of Jews

• See TORAH Page 8 •

• **NEWS From Page 4** •

Charity also held the 2015 Walk For The World on Sunday, October 11th. As we have done in the past few years, we went to Stephen's Park in Columbia for a fellowship cookout before walking the 2-mile loop around the park. We also want to say congratulations to Shawn and Betsy Dey! At 4:50 a.m. October 12th God blessed them with their 7 lb. 10 oz. daughter; Kiera Rose Enochs Dey. Just a few hours earlier and we would have a much more exciting Walk For The World! We ask for your prayers for Charity Baptist Church as we try to minister to the Columbia community. For photos of our 2015 Walk For The World event and more on what is happening with Charity in Columbia you can check out our new website at www.comochurch.com. You can also find us on Facebook. Joe Ginter Pastor
Neil Bowers - Reporter

Lower Doe Run Missionary Baptist, Ellington, praises God for His blessings upon each of us. He has blessed through our Fall Festival, hayride and wiener roast. We are praying for a

young family that attended as we witness Jesus to them. God has blessed us and the residents at Brent Tinnin Nursing Home, Ellington as we held a service recently and we look forward to a similar service at the River Way Manor in Van Buren this week with our 93 year old member, Irene Thomason, a resident. We are blessed with three faithful members in their 90's, Bro. Roy Williams is 94, Irene is 93, and Bro. George Rayfield is 92. Albert Meade and Nick Norris prepared a delicious fish fry last Sunday. Albert is training a teen, Dakota Williams, to work the sound system for the worship time. Pastor Melvin appreciates the surprise for his Birthday and also a fishing rod and reel for pastor appreciation. Now if we could convince him to try it out! We were blessed to attend and participate in the annual BMA of MO held at Charity, Bismarck. We were so saddened at the sudden death of Sis. Joanna Chitwood. Our sympathy to Bro. Russell and their family. We look forward to the Fifth Sunday Singing in November at Ohlman, Bunker. Until we meet again.

Melvin Meade, Pastor • Carolyn Meade, Reporter

Greetings from **First Baptist, Potosi**, to our brothers and sisters in Christ. October was very busy and now November is busy with UPWARD basketball registration and evaluations in addition to our already active programs. We are excited about this program beginning in January. All ladies are invited to A TASTE OF CHRISTMAS, Monday, December 7. For more information you may call our church office at 573-438-2389. The speaker for the dinner will be Jacklyn Rowe. The "shoe-

One Key to Helping Your Church Avoid the Disease of Institutionalization

by **Scott Attebery**, Executive Director of DiscipleGuide Church Resources

When missionaries are commissioned to plant churches, they are expected to reach the communities to which they have been sent. For instance, a missionary sent to a suburb of Omaha, Nebraska, is expected to reach the people in that particular area through community engagement. Many times this takes shape as a service project such as handing out water bottles at a county fair to meet people or volunteering to feed the volunteer fire department in order to build relationships.

So when does it stop? When does a new church reach the point that it no longer needs to emphasize community involvement?

Of course, the answer is never.

Why, then, do many churches neglect community outreach? Perhaps it happens when a congregation loses focus on its mission and becomes institutionalized. Institutionalization occurs when the mission changes from an outward focus to an inward focus. Every church struggles with the temptation to institutionalize. Let's face it: reaching out means sacrificing time and resources that would otherwise be self-serving. Every decision within the church, therefore, must be made with intentional focus on the mission. Will the new budget reflect an emphasis on projects that enhance the church's comfort or projects that reach the community with the gospel? Will the next VBS be focused on ministering to "church kids" or will efforts be made to invite unchurched children? Is the next sermon series going to make us comfortable with our "holy huddle" or challenge us to share the gospel with our neighbors?

As long as there are unbelievers in the vicinity, the church must make efforts to engage the community. The Great Commission demands no less.

So how will your church get involved? Let me challenge you to find at least one way to reach outside the walls of your church for the sake of making a kingdom investment. What will be your community mission?

box" project will be finalized this month and will be delivered to the Navajo children in Utah. These children need prayers all year long that they will learn to know God and understand salvation. We are beginning a program, Celebrate Recovery, for those who are trying to overcome addiction. Many of us have seen loved ones destroy their lives and even lose their lives because of addictions that have overtaken them. Our dedicated volunteers have a passion to assist these persons in knowing the love of God and to overcome their addictions. We have had many very sick members and those preparing for surgeries who need our prayers and support. Please pray for us as we pray for you in our endeavors to serve our awesome God.

Jim Ainley, Pastor
Deborah Rauhut, Reporter

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.

James Hoffmann, is available for pulpit supply. Contact him at 314-277-8644 or by e-mail at jmhoff@charter.net. -9-

Brian Adams, a member of First Missionary Baptist Church of Matthews surrendered to preach recently and is available to preach. Contact him by e-mail at bkadams27@yahoo.com. -9-

Bryan Buckley, currently serving as the youth pastor at Bates Creek Baptist Church near Potosi is available to preach and serve as God leads. His phone numbers are: Home 573-438-9319 and Cell 573-854-2251. -9-

Tim Boatright, of St. Charles, is available for pulpit supply. Contact him at 314-605-3143. -10-

Joseph Duckworth, a member of Kewanee missionary baptist church is available for Preaching or however the Lord leads. Contact him at 573-521-8039. -10-

Rocky Houston, a member of Kewanee missionary Baptist church is available for pulpit supply or as the Lord leads. Contact him at 573-521-6385. -10-

Caleb Houston, youth minister of Kewanee is available for weekend revivals, youth events, and pulpit supply. Contact him at 573-521-7826 or calebhouston@yahoo.com. -10-

Brad Akers of Belgrade, is available for pulpit supply or as the Lord leads. Contact him 573-766-1405 or 573-701-1850 or by e-mail at bakers001@centurytel.net -10-

Pastor Search

"Eastside Missionary Baptist Church in Fayetteville, AR is seeking a pastor. Inquiries will be received by Pastoral Search Committee, Chairman, Roy Woods, Phone 479-756-9014. E-mails may be sent to: roy-woods@att.net."

• **TORAH From Page 7** •

dwindled in an area, primarily due to persecution, many Jews immigrated to Israel and took their Torah with them. Once there, the local synagogue usually had their own Torah, so the immigrants would sell theirs to help them get started in the new land. The Torahs were usually bought by other synagogues or by collectors. The BMATS Torah is not a black market item — it was legally purchased with a clearly documented chain of possession from Jerusalem. It is technically non-kosher but will be cared for with the greatest reverence.



Some of the "Walkers" at the Walk of Faith of Charity Baptist Church in Columbia. See more pictures by going to their website: comochurch.com