The Missouri Missionary Baptist **Philippians 2:16**

"Holding Forth The Word of Life"

Volume LXXVIII

St. Louis, MO • December 8, 2015

Issue No. 12

2014 WalkfortheWorld Update

The 2014 WalkfortheWorld/LifeWord Sunday season (July 1st through June 30 of the next year) ended June 30, 2015. We'd like to thank the top-giving churches for their efforts. Here are the top five donating churches, in order, for 2014: Spring Creek in Springdale, Arkansas; Hall Summit in Hall Summit, Louisiana; Kewanee in Kewanee, Missouri; Antioch in Conway, Arkansas; Rosewood in Gilmer, Texas.



Kewanee had a 50's-themed fundraiser

A few churches hold their Walk events as early as August, so we have been receiving 2015 Walk offerings since early September, and the mail brings more every day. If you need to send

in your church's LifeWord Sunday or Walk donation amount, the address is PO Box 6, Conway, AR 72033 and should be made out to LifeWord.

We appreciate all the churches who held 2015 Walks/Walk events or had special offerings on Life-Word Sunday. Mark your calendars now for 2016 Lifeword Sunday on October 23rd. (To receive Lifeword's electronic newsletter, email

Reaching Out to the Sioux in South Dakkota by Rick Russell and Holly Meriweather

Rick Russell and Life-

word speakers Merritt Youngdeer and Eddie Swimmer had always wanted to visit Indian reservation radio stations to encourage more of them to air Spiritword. Beginning on October 25, Rick and Merritt and Lulie Youngdeer (Merritt's wife) were fnally • See SIOUX Page 3 •

Update on John May

Many of our readers participate in Master's Builders and others follow their activity through this publication.

Most are aware of the severe injury John May suffered a few weeks ago. We have received this update on his progress.

John was successfully moved to his skilled nursing transition facility 12-1-2015. Several of the Master's Builders visited John and Barbara today and found them both to be in good spirits and determined to work hard on recovery.

One of John's nieces was also in John's room decorating

Alive Student Conference 2015

December 29-31, 2015

Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, Chesterfield, MO

For schedule, program, hotel reservation forms, and other forms and more information go to: http://alivestudentconference.org/

it for Christmas! He would love to see or hear from each of you who have been so faithful with your prayers.

Send cards to: Park Manor of Humble, 19424 McKay, Humble, Texas 77338, Room 306.

All the Christmas **PRESENTS** in the world are worth nothing without the PRESENCE of **Christ**

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shown round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds." Luke 2:8-18

> As we enter the Season of world's celebrating the Birth of the Savior may we, who Trust in Him, make sure we, like the shepherds, tell those around us what we have experienced. The world is searching for peace and joy and this is only found in Jesus Christ! What a blessing it will be to see our friends and loved ones receive the greatest gift - THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE this Christmas Season!

> > Your Editor and His Wife wish each of you a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

holly@lifeword.org.)

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"Greetings "and a "Merry Christmas" from Ozark Heights Baptist Church in Potosi, MO. Well, another Thanksgiving has come and gone. It is a day to give thanks to the Lord for all that He has done for us and has given us, but why just do it on that day. We should have that attitude every day of the year. We can be thankful in every situation in life, whether it is good or bad. Sometimes we just have to search a little harder in the bad, but it is there. We are so thankful for our church family who shows their love for us in so many ways and thru out the year. Our ladies are getting ready for our yearly Christmas dinner and gift exchange. We enjoy a wonderful night of fellowship and trivia. And it is nice to eat and not be responsible for the cleanup. We will also be doing a Christmas Eve service and praising the Lord in song and scripture reading. Remembering that Christ is the reason for the season seems to be getting lost in our society these days. My prayer is that this Christmas we don't focus on the gifts or the big meal, but that because of Christ we have a heavenly home to look forward to and sharing His love with those that we love. Our youth are getting ready for Youth Alive. This is a great ministry to reach our youth who can easily fall prey to the world. If you have the chance, you should go or encourage your youth to go. I want to thank those on the Youth Alive committee for putting this together each year. God Bless you.

Brian Meade, Pastor • Dawn Meade, Reporter

Greetings from Bethany Baptist Church, St. Louis, and God's richest blessings on you and yours at this blessed time of the year. We get so caught up in the hustle and bustle of shopping, visiting and all that we loose the true meaning of the season. I ask that everyone take a few minutes to reflect on the reason for the season. We are receiving God's blessings as we continue to serve Him in our community. We are so glad that the Dunn's are willing to work with us and ask for your prayers as we are still searching for a pastor. We extend our sympathy to Sis. Ella Beeler in the recent homegoing of her sister, Marty. This is always a very difficult time for those who have lost loved ones but we have the hope that one day we will all be together again. Many of our membership have had tests, bugs, and just all kinds of things going on. We are having some nighttime visitors using our parking lot as a skateboard arena and we ask that you pray that we can handle this in a Christian manner. We have talked with the police about the matter and they will step up their patrols and gave us some good advice as to what we can do. Our young folks are gearing up for Youth Alive. Pray that we will have sponsors to go with them this year. Bro. Dunn has started a series of messages regarding the book of Revelation and, although we have had this study before there is always something new to discover. We are planning our Christmas fellowship after services on the morning of the 13th. If you're in our area stop by for a visit and we will make you feel as welcome as we can. May God bless and keep you till we chat again. Nick Dunn, Interim Pastor • Kathy Chapman, Reporter.

Bates Creek, Potosi, is finishing up a very busy Fall. The Women's Missionary Auxiliary (WMA) had chosen the local Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) for their service project in 2015. The WMA sponsored a Chili Cook Off and auction to raise money to give a cash donation for the final month. The Chili Cook Off was a success. Bro. Bryan and Bro. Jaxen Buckley were the winners of the winning chili recipe THIS year. There is talk of it becoming an annual event. The WMA met to make the donation to the PRC together. It was wonderful to tour the facility and realize the great impact it is having on our community. We were blessed to have the Harp-

ers join us for a singing one afternoon. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and we appreciate the Harpers coming out. Our WMA enjoyed a "ladies day out" to Kimmswick. There were even two visitors that went with us. A good time was had by all that could attend. The youth group has been busy too. They are gearing up for their Christmas drama. It will be a shadow drama to be held on Sunday evening, Dec. 20. We hope you can join us!! Finally, be in prayer for Bro. David Evans. He hasn't been able to get around very good for a while. We miss him when he isn't with us! May you all have a blessed Christmas season and may we all continue to lead others so they may receive the best gift of all, Jesus!!

J.C. Huddleston, pastor Sara Buckley, reporter

Christmas Blessings from Stony Point, Mineral Point. We had a group from church go to the Judgment House on November 1st and Heather Hackwork was gloriously saved and Keri Petty rededicated his life. Seven of our vouth walked on the church grounds October 18th for the Walk for the World. Our aspiring Stony Point Pickers have included a saxophone, mandolin, and electric guitar to their mix and performed a special for us November 22nd. God is still showering us with His Blessings. Claude Evans, Pastor Debrah Coleman, Reporter

Greetings to our Sister Churches from Zion, St. Louis. We hope everyone enjoyed Thanksgiving. There is so much to be thankful for throughout the year. Thanksgiving helps remind people to appreciate what the Lord has done for them. With Christmas upon us, let us be thankful to God for sending the very best gift of all, His only begotten Son. "Thank you Lord for saving my soul" is a line from a song I love and often sing over and over in

my head. Hope you all know this wonderful gift of a personal Savior. Zion is looking forward to this Christmas season. The ladies are planning to sing Christmas Carols at the Festus Manor in Festus and several friends have been invited to join us. The ladies are also planning on baking Christmas cookies again this year to exchange at church on the third Sunday. Sis. Ladonna plays each month for the residents at The Villas in DeSoto. This month she has invited friends to join her there on the second Tuesday to sing Christmas Carols. Recently Bro. Baker started a study on Sunday afternoons from a book titled "I Am A Church Member" written by Thom S. Rainer. The first Wednesday of each month continues to be our 'prayer' meeting where we pray for the needs of our members, friends and relatives with health (miscellaneous) needs, those needing salvation, our church needs and the associational work. It is always a blessing when something can be removed from our list. We send our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Elva Asberry in the death of his daughter, Darlene Moungo. Pray for Bro. Elva and Darlene's husband and children as they mourn her passing. Darlene is in the presence of her Heavenly Father as she is a child of the King! Zion wishes ALL a wonderful Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. As we pray for you, please pray for us. Come visit when possible. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Dennis Baker, Pastor • Norma Womble, Reporter

HELLO to ALL from Oak Hill, Alton. We are praising our Lord and Savior for saving another sinner! Chad Casey was saved November 22nd and baptized and joined Oak Hill November 29th. November 1st Chance Moyer was baptized and became a member of Oak Hill. When we had our Business meeting in November we decided to have our Walk-of-Faith Fish Fry December 5th. Everybody is welcome. We are planning on eating at 5:00 p.m. We are having fish, chicken strips, Hush Puppies, French fries, and a lot of desserts. Another thing we will be enjoying is eating in our larger Fellowship Hall. We also decided to set a goal to reach for spreading the gospel of our Lord and Savior at \$1,000. We also decided not to have our fifth Sunday dinner due to just celebrating Thanksgiving and having our Walk-of-Faith Fish Fry the following weekend. December 12th our men are going to have Men's Breakfast. October 31st we had our Hot Dog Roast and Hay Ride. We had a good time roasting Hot dogs and Marshmallows. We even had to make two separate Hay ride trips to make sure everyone who wanted to ride got a chance of riding. There

• Continued on Page 4 •

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FINANCIAL REPORT BMA	OF N	MISSOURI MISS	IONS • No	vember 2015	٦
General Fund:					
Balance October 31, 2015			\$	140,531.86	
November Receipts:	\$	<u>1,370.22</u>	\$	1,370.22	
Total Available			\$	141,902.08	
Disbursements:					
Assistant Director's Salary	\$	450.00			
Missouri Missionary Baptist	\$	5,000.00			
Camp Garwood, Tabernacle	\$	12,000.00			
Designated for Northlake	\$	30.00			
Total Disbursements Balance November 30, 2015:	\$	17,480.00	\$ \$	<u>17,480.00</u> 124,422.08	

From Our Assistant Director.....

Thank you for your prayers ;and concern shown for me in these last two months. My health is improving and I am resuming a more "normal" life physically.

I am ready to resume visiting churches at your invitation to represent Missions and the Missouri Missionary Baptist Paper. I am available for pulpit supply as needed. My contact information is on page 8 under "Available Preachers."

We need to be praying for God to lead us in planting some new work in the State of Missouri. Please pray with me to this end and if you know of someone interested in planting a new church please have them contact me. I will be glad to send them an application and answer any questions they might have.

We also need to be praying for and helping some of our

• SIOUX From Page 1 •

able to make a week-long tour of some of the stations that serve the various Sioux Reservations.

Armed with a map, Spiritword CDs, and a list of radio stations and managers in South Dakota, they began the ambitious journey to get more broadcasts on the air. Their first stop was the Yankton Sioux Reservation station at Lake Andes. The station manager there was not easily convinced and, after listening to the CD and appreciating the humor and quality of Spiritword programs, commented that the name "Jesus" was offensive to her and to her listeners. However, since most of the programs refer to "God" instead of Jesus, at least they had an open door. (Merritt will be raising money for those spots, and money sent to Lifeword can be designated to Spiritword.)

Their next stop "was truly a God appointment, which was what Merritt and Lulie and I prayed for before we started," said Rick Russell. Although they had encountered some hostility from the Lake Andes station manager, the first of many divine appointments began with her suggestion that they should visit a Christian radio station in Wagner, just down the road. A great conversation with the station engineer suggested the possibility that his employer would likely be interested in using Spiritword across its network of stations that can be heard by many Native Americans in South Dakota. At his suggestion, the Lifeword team contacted John Two Bulls, an effective evangelist among the gangs on the Pine Ridge Sioux Reservation. Pastor Two Bulls' passion to use radio to glorify God matches Lifeword's and he is very excited to have Spiritword as a tool to use in spreading the gospel there. existing churches who are struggling and about to give up. If there is any way I can be of help to any of these churches please let me know. God is still on the Throne and is able and willing to help us as we look to Him in these difficult times.

Remember to pray for your pastor and his family as they work with our churches. Encourage them often and cooperate with them as they shepherd the Lord's flock.



by Scott Attebery, Executive Director of DiscipleGuide

"Is Kingdom Investment going to be just another 'special offering?" That was my concern as we considered asking BMAA churches to take an offering for DiscipleGuide. I remember, as a pastor, becoming cynical about every plea for an offering that passed my desk.

So, as our DiscipleGuide team discussed the idea of a special offering, I wanted to ensure that if we asked for churches to give, we could also ensure that it would benefit their local church and other BMA churches around the United States. In other words, I wanted to be able to guarantee churches that their offering would make a real difference in the God's Kingdom.

After deliberating over the idea for several months, I was finally satisfied. DiscipleGuide's first-ever special offering is more than just a plea for money. It is an opportunity for churches to invest in the Kingdom and make a difference. Here are two reasons why I can recommend this offering to your church with full confidence:

First, the money raised will go to fund DiscipleGuide's "Activate" church revitalization program. Our "Activate" is less than a year old and is already beginning to see fruit in • See NOT Page 8 •

During a visit to the tribal station at the Rosebud Sioux Reservation, Merritt and Rick were pressed into service as guest announcers and Mary Fast Horse interviewed the "celebrities." (Rosebud is a longtime Spiritword affiliate, so Merritt and Eddie are well known to the audience.) The next divine appointment was with the missionary/pastor of Eagle Butte's First Baptist Church. Over lunch at the local Dairy Queen, God knit their hearts together and the Lifeword team found yet another group of believers that wants to use Spiritword to share the gospel by radio.

The tour ended with a visit with Jerome Renville, pastor of Eagle's Wing Baptist Church on the Sioux Sisseton Wapeton

Reservation. Jerome's church sponsored Spiritword's very first radio station and now he wants to lead the church to begin a new Community Radio station.

As for the next phase, Rick says, "Now that those relationships are established, we will be able to push them forward.

An added bonus to our trip was that since Merritt heard me talk about Community Radio several times during our five days in South Dakota, he will be able to share the idea of Community Radio to other reservation churches across the country. It is critical to tie the broadcasts to local churches so they can provide follow-up to Spiritword broadcasts.

There are so many positive things going on in Native American churches right now and the BMA's involvement is helping to change lives."



Merrit Youngdeer, John Two Bulls, and Rick Russell listen to Spiritword CDs on the Pine Ridge Sioux reservation.



Merritt Youngdeer and Rick Russell are guest announcers at a station of the Rosebud reservation.

• NEWS From Page 2 •

were a couple of ghosts that came out to scare everyone on the Hay ride. Until next month I hope I will have some more good news to report, but, we will be praising and honoring our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. GOD BLESS!!

Edward Casey, Pastor • Jennifer Williams, Reporter

First Baptist, Potosi, sends greetings to our brothers and sisters in Christ. There is no greater feeling than a spirit-filled worship service. God is so good in all that He does. We began the month with a baby dedication service which is always very special. Our youth white elephant auction was a fantastic success. Many of us did some of our Christmas shopping and everyone had a lot of fun supporting our youth. Kevin & Kayla Smith and Shane & Christy Pashia presented information to the church on the Celebrate Recovery ministry that is planned to begin in March. This is a new outreach program that is for anyone with any type of addiction from workaholic to alcoholic and any other addiction. We've been blessed with new additions to our church family; Doug Robinson, Tonya Gerullis, Logan Compton, and Chloe Compton joined our church family by baptism. What a great blessing. Our men are still meeting on the first and third Thursdays of each month for Bible Study. Also, some of the men are attending 33 The Series (Authentic Manhood) that is held on Sundays at 5:00. The Community Ladies Bible study continues on Tuesday mornings. GMA still meets on Mondays after school and COW grades 7-12 meet on Wednesday evenings. AWANA is still going but ends this month so the UPWARD ministry may begin in January. Kevin and Kayla Smith are doing a wonderful job with the Junior Worship on Sunday mornings. Students are signing up for the ALIVE CONFERENCE which will be December 29-31. We always have something going for our youth. I pray everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving; our church Thanksgiving dinner was held on Sunday, November 22, after the morning service. It was such a blessing to look over the large crowd and see so many dedicated young couples who are raising their families in the word of God. Brenda Wilson's Sunday School class assembled the shoe box items and Bro. Leonard Compton and family delivered the shoeboxes to the Navajo children in Utah. Sisters Mary Blair and Verniece Snyder celebrated their 90th birthday. Bless them for their service to the Lord. A Taste of Christmas is finally here and we are excited to hear the lesson that will be given by Sis. Jaclyn Rowe (along with the great food and special desserts). Calvin and Denise Malloy were blessed with a new granddaughter, Olivia Brielle Malloy, born to Bryce and Adriene Malloy. Olivia's other proud grandparents are Alice and Rusty Simpelo. Our church family has been blessed greatly with the birth of many babies. Volunteers are always needed for our many ministries, so if you are looking for something to do, I'm sure we have something for you. May God bless and pray for us as we pray for you. Jim Ainley, Pastor • Deborah Rauhut, Reporter

Merry Christmas from **Kewanee Missionary Baptist**, **Kewanee**. October 18 we had a special time of fellowship and a time to honor our pastor and his wife. We are very fortunate to have Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam leading us here at Kewanee. We also had Trunk or Treat on Halloween and although it was rainy that did not deter the little ones from coming out to get their treats. October was also a time for hayrides, roasting hotdogs and marshmallows. We also enjoyed a great week of revival with Bro. Jim Tollison in October. Bro. Jim brought wonderful messages from the Lord. He is very talented and shared some of his music in song that he had written. Bro. Daryl Hale had a kidney transplant on November 3rd and has had some ups and downs but seems to be getting his strength back. He is still at Barnes Hospital and I know he would appreciate prayers. We have been working on the Adult Christmas

Cantata while the children have been working on their program. The children's program will be December 13th at 6 p.m. while the adults will have theirs December 20th during morning worship. We will be hosting a wedding shower for David Beardsley and Heather Vaughn December 6th. We are so excited for this young couple and so glad they chose Kewanee as their home church. They will be married January 30th. We had an addition to our church family with Sis. Karen Cook as she joined our fellowship November 29th. Our Youth Pastor and his wife, Caleb & Sarah Houston, along with big sister, Rilea, welcomed their new addition, Ariel, on December 1st. Dan Wisely, Pastor Terri Adams, Reporter

Landmark, DeSoto, hosted the Washington County WMA & Brotherhood on the 13th. Unfortunately, we had a very small crowd. Maybe because of deer season, we don't know. This we do know. There was plenty of food and fellowship. We also had a good meeting. We celebrated Thanksgiving on the 22nd. Again, there was plenty of food. We have a new kitchen coordinator and we appreciate her and her hard work. That evening we watched a Gaither video. The theme of it was Thanksgiving. It was also very good. We observed the Lord's Supper on the 29th. We had a couple of men to visit that evening, and they understand that we believe in closed communion. They stayed and after the services one of them gave a short organ concert for us. That was enjoyed by all that chose to stay. Sis. Jackie Couch had surgery the last part of November and spent a few days in the hospital. Hopefully she is at home by now. I know that she would appreciate your prayers. It's hard to believe that we have entered the last month of 2015. We at Landmark wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Wayne Gibson, pastor Sharon Page, reporter

Water For Christ Shares The Love of Christ

By Ben Temple, via Baptist Trumpet

Reflecting upon Water for Christ's (W4C) November 2015 trip to Ghana, West Africa, one thing was clear — the hand of God was upon the team from the moment we left Arkansas until we landed. On the previous trip we drilled thee water wells in two weeks and encountered many problems, but on this trip we drilled three water wells in less than a week without any problems.

This trip was a challenging logistical journey, but as usual, Missionaries Dale and Celia Broom had everything under control from pickup to takeoff. When we arrived in Walewale, we were welcomed around the table for a wonderful homecooked meal by Mrs. Celia to rejuvenate us.

Every morning the Tim Tyler whistling alarm went off at 4:30 a.m.; in fact, if we weren't at the table by 5 a.m., we missed breakfast. For those of you who are unfamiliar with Water for Christ's Director Tim, his work ethic is like none other we have ever seen. The team gathered for breakfast and devotions every morning, and by the African sunrise the team began drilling the first of three water wells.

The first water well project was digging a well at the house the Brooms hope to use as a base for church planting in northern Ghana. Water for Christ will use this house to run operations out of northern Ghana. The bad quality of water, along with the cost of buying water was a true hardship, but W4C was able to drill a well about 100 feet deep at this compound to provide clean water. Lord willing, this well will also be used in the community as well. The W4C team did crusades in this area, reaching about 400 people and seeing around 50 professions of Christ in this area. The second well project was drilled at the police station in the center of downtown Walewale. What a honor it was for the team to be able to serve civil authorities in foreign lands. This mission effort was well received by the commander, and he and his team were very grateful for W4C's efforts. We believe this well will bless the community which we will be serving in the future. It is our hope that this well will also bless the missionary's relationship with the police department. The W4C team did crusades nearby in the Gbimsi area outside of Walewale, where we reached over 1,000 people. We ran out of Bibles, and saw several hundred people come to Christ.

The third and final well the team dug was in the community of Gbimsi, a village about five miles outside of Walewale. We drilled a well 154 ft. deep, near a 30-40 ft. deep well that the village used for drinking and bathing water. The well was in working condition, but the water was very contaminated. The well W4C dug for them will provide clean drinking water. The payment given to the team for these services was one goat, accompanied by cokes and cookies while we were working.

The last crusade the W4C team did was in a community far from Walewale that looked like no one had ever visited before. We were able to reach about 400 people in this community and saw about 30 professions of faith.

During the first week in Walewale, the W4C team visited several schools where they reached over 1,000 children and saw several hundred professions of faith. We were always amazed at the Ghanaian culture that even schools where Islam is preached allowed us to witness about Christ. In fact, at the first school we visited there was a mosque behind it, and many of the students were excited to receive a tract about salvation after hearing Rodney Castleberry bring a message of the Good News.

The greatest takeaway is simply the truth of Matthew 9:37: "*The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.*" In • See W4C Page 5 •

Images Are A BIG NO! **Exodus 20:4-6**

by Dr. John Adams, Executive Director Moral Action

"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.'

Two cowboys had spent the weekend in the little West Texas town, and did something on Sunday that they rarely ever did—they went to the community church for the morning worship. The pastor gave a rather stirring interpretation of the Ten Commandments that morning. The two cowboys left the worship with their heads bowed.

As they rode out of town, Peter turned to Tom and said, "Well, at least we haven't made any graven images!" That may reflect what we feel as we read the Ten Commandments. We feel relatively comfortable with this commandment because we do not have any idols in the house - at least none that we know of. It may be that we have not really understood the real force of this commandment.

It is worth remembering that some groups, including the Catholic people, see this as actually a part of the first Commandment. They recognize that both of these commandments have to do with worship. The first commandment has to do with who or what we worship. The Second has to do with how we worship. The use of images was common in the worship of the gods in that ancient world. Many who would have claimed to be worshippers of the One true and living God used graven representations of God in their worship. This commandment forbids the use of any man-made likeness of God in our worship of Him. The Hebrew word translated "idol" in other texts means a graven or carved image. It could be carved with a knife, or chiseled out of stone, or molded out of metal. It is something that the person would then use in the worship rendered unto their deity.

This prohibition sets the worship of the Creator - God who made the covenant with Israel apart from all of the other gods of the ancient and modern world. He will not tolerate the use of graven images in the worship that is performed in His name. Let's apply this to the worship that we attempt to render unto God.

I. THE MORAL MOTIVES OF THE IMAGE-MAKER.

It is not just the presence of an image that offends God, but rather the motive that is behind the act of making graven images. Morality is very important when you are approaching God in worship.

1. The Image-Maker is motivated by a desire to create an aid to worship.

Since the God of Israel and the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is a spiritual being, sinful man feels that he needs some help in worshipping God. He feels that it is difficult to worship a God that you cannot see, touch, or feel. He reasons that it would be easier to worship the true God if he only had something made in the likeness of God. So the image-maker sets out to carve or make of wood/metal something that he feels can be a representation of God when he comes to worship. He never considers what the consequences of making such an image might be. Some tell of using a picture of Jesus to help them focus on Jesus when they are in worship. It is an aid for him; it makes it easier for him to feel closer to Jesus. Another finds it easier to sense the presence of the unseen God if they are surrounded by quiet organ music and the beauty of stained glass windows. The motivation may be rather worthy - but the end result may be damaging.

When you come to worship God, what do you need? Do you need a beautiful church structure with stained glass windows around you? Do you need a certain type of music before you can worship? Careful! God forbids the use of man-made images in the worship of His name! It is so easy for the aids we have made to either stand between us and the true God, or to become in them a substitute for God.

A refusal to accept 2. what God has revealed of Himself as sufficient.

Can you not see the folly of the image-maker? God in His wisdom has not revealed Himself to any human being at least He has never allowed even the most holy of men to see His likeness. The nearest He has come to this is the revelation of Himself that He made in Jesus Christ. But it is interesting that He did not allow a physical description of Jesus to survive, nor any drawing that preserved anything about his likeness.

If God had wanted us to have a picture of him, or an image of him to be used in worship, would he not have given us one? The imagemaker ignores this fact. He attempts to go beyond what God has revealed of Himself. God prohibits this since whatever man comes up with can only be a perversion of what He really is. Whatever • See IMAGES Page 7





Bro. Ray and Sis. Dorothy Thurman celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary in October 2015 with Mt Olive Missionary Baptist Church in Salem, MO.

The Great Escape Youth & Children's Leader Cruise

DiscipleGuide and Central Baptist College invite youth and children's leaders to come aboard the Carnival Freedom and be part of a unique opportunity to fellowship and build supportive relationships with others in leadership roles, whether paid staff or volunteer. This is a unique opportunity to refresh, learn new ministry skills, and enjoy free time. The cruise is open to anyone working with youth and children. Because of their vital role in ministry, spouses are encouraged to attend as well. (Due to the nature of the cruise, it is not recommended that children attend.)

The cruise will depart from Galveston, Texas, Saturday afternoon, January 16 at 4:00 and return to the same port on Thursday, January 21 at 8:30 a.m. Ports of call will be Yucatan, Progresso, and Cozumel, Mexico, along with two days at sea which will include entertainment and great food aboard ship.

Terry Kimbrow, President of Central Baptist College, will again be cruise host. Mark Dance, Lifeway's Pastor Advocate, will be the guest speaker and his topic will be how to build a healthy life in and away from ministry.

For more information, contact Thomas Mobly at 501-358-3530 or thomas@discipleguide.org. You can also visit discipleguide.org/thegreatescape



Young people in Ghana hear the Gospel

• W4C From Page 4 •

Ameica, I see a nation proudly running away from God. Perhaps it is not the majority, but the empowered have hardened their hearts. In Ghana, I see a poverty stricken nation that has open hearts and eyes for Jesus. The children are looking for something good in which to believe. One man told me he came to love and follow Christ after he saw Christians in action. We don't have to be a missionary, a preacher or an evangelist — we just have to show the love of Christ to the lost.

For more information, pictures, and how to contact W4C google Water For Christ on the internet. Volunteers are needed and everyone can help by giving, going, praying, even if you are not able to be a part of a team that travels to Ghana.

WMA & GMA NEWS

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Missing Details in Crime Dramas

by Scott Attebery, Executive Director of DiscipleGuide scott@discipleguide.org Facebook: Facebook.com/scott.attebery Twitter: @scottattebery

I love to watch crime dramas on television. However, there are a few details that always puzzle me. For instance, when cops interrogate a suspect, they will often say, "Give us the address where we can find John Doe and we'll pretend like this never happened."

I'm always amazed how criminals can recite the exact addresses of all their constituents off the top of their heads.

Similarly, I think it is interesting that after going through multiple burner phones, criminals are able to reach all of their contacts immediately. Do the new burners come pre-programmed with their contact's numbers? If so, how can they know the numbers for all the new burner phones their contacts are using as well?

Like I said, puzzling. I guess the criminal mind knows no bounds.

In a strange way, many television shows today provoke us to root for the criminal. We anxiously watch to see how they will ingeniously fool law enforcement and escape this week's dilemma.

This is not reality. In real life, dishonest gain, manipulation, and deceit lead to heartache, punishment, and ultimately death.

Proverbs 1:18-19 rightly warns: "these men lie in wait for their own blood; they set an ambush for their own lives. Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for unjust gain; it takes away the life of its possessors."

Here, Solomon explains that all dishonest activity serves to set an ambush for the life of the person who practices such a lifestyle. The harder this person works toward unjust gain, the greater the consequences that await. Ultimately, Solomon explains, it takes their life.

While this may call to mind vast criminal enterprises, villainous gangsters, and mafia figures; this passage is just as applicable for the businessman manipulating numbers to avoid greater taxes, the young college student buying copies of tests to cheat their way to a passing grade, the friend who manipulates to get their own way, or even the pastors who inflates the attendance numbers to impress colleagues.

No matter the sin, our dishonest actions fueled by selfishness and pride lead to death (Romans 3:23). Only -p------ transform the wicked heart to love truth, desire honest relationships, and seek the welfare of others above our own interests.

Christ calls us to cease from our own plans to reign victorious in life, and trust His life to find victory through His reign. Simply put, we must turn away from our sin and turn to Christ by faith, trusting Him alone for the forgiveness of sin. In that moment, even the vilest offender, will receive Christ's righteousness and favor with God.

The mystery of Christ's power to save is far greater than the plot of any crime drama. And, although that message may never make it to your television screen, it is vitally important that it makes it into your heart.

Family Ark Ministries Travis Plumlee, Director

P.O. Box 163 • Mountain View, Arkansas 72560 E-mail: kingofthemountain@mvtel.net WebSite: travisplumlee.com

Down In The Valley

I vaguely remember the charge nurse coming in and saying we have coded you. Your room is about to fill up with many people. I do not want you to be scared of this. She turned to my wife and said, "We are transferring him to ICU/ Critical Care and you need to prepare to go with us." This was a two week struggle with bacterial pneumonia. With a weakened immune system, other opportunistic infections came upon me. With a temperature of 105 degrees, the Mountain View hospital could not keep my fever down. They transported me to a large medical school hospital in Little Rock via ambulance. This was the beginning of a two week stay in Little Rock. I was out of the hospital for a week, and then went back in. I have been in a deep valley for the last 4 months. I have been in 5 hospitals since August. I just finished a nearly two week stay in the hospital just before Thanksgiving week. After a multitude of test and multiple blood transfusions; the doctors have simply said we don't know what is causing this.

I am not walking through this valley alone. His rod and staff; they comfort me. I always want to learn and grow in my valleys. Hard times are growing times. They are grace events and a chance to learn more about His mercy and healing and comforting. I grow more dependent upon my Lord when I walk through the valley. Everything I have preached across the country has become a personal testimony in my life the past 4 months. I want to give God glory, and honor and all praise and thanks. "You are worthy oh Lord, and worthy is the Lamb."

I have many testimonies of trials that the Lord has delivered me through. This time I was determined by His great might to totally trust Him and have faith in Him. Take for example, the financial trials. When I don't preach; we have no income. I tried to do one revival this Fall, and that was followed by 20 days of uncontrolled fever. Then there is the enormous looming mountain of hospital bills, doctor bills and medications with no insurance. Yet, every time I had a thought of how we were going to have income; I would stop. I would tell myself that was a fleshly human thought. I must take captive every thought unto the Lord. If you repeat scripture in your head; you do actually renew your mind. It drives out the worry and fears or wrong thinking. I hope many of you will try this. I claimed two scriptures that I would just repeat over and over until I had no worry about finances, but had a peace that passed my understanding. I have told God that I trusted him to create a financial miracle. Not any other way. Only by Him. I have quoted so many times Philippians 4:19, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." And I also love Psalm 37:25, "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor His seed begging bread."

Physically I worry if this is the end of my days. I tell people in sermons to not be discouraged. We have victory in Jesus. We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. In this valley I have learned that all of this is true. However, I have also learned that you will get discouraged. It just happens. I am human after all and broken. The difference is that we Christians will get discouraged or worry, but we don't stay there. When I get down, I am lifted up by reading my Bible, praying a specific prayer of thanks to God, and singing to my Lord. For physical healing I read these scriptures: Psalm 37:24, "Though he falls, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand." Psalm 34:17-19, "the righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." Psalm 41:3 "The Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou will make all his bed in his sickness." Other helpful verses; Psalm 103:1-5; Isaiah 41:10; Deuteronomy 31:8; I Peter 1: 6-9.

My ministry and future are unknown. I search God with my whole heart to see what He wants for me. It is not all the people saying you must renew your strength so you can come and preach to us. It is truly what God desires for me; and I search for this daily from my beloved Father. Psalm 27:13,14. A pastor from Texas drove up to see me in the hospital. I told him that God was going to rebuild me according to His will for me because He has taken my health, and my income. My great stress reliever was working out in the gym. God allowed that to be taken also. I lost 56 pounds and all muscle mass. But I also lost my pride. Yeah! He has taken my ministry from me. Yet, I fully trust He will restore me and rebuild me as He wants, and it will be the best thing for me. He will give me mercy and loving kindness because I am his son. This pastor said, he has not taken your ministry from you. Your ministry will be in my pulpit Sunday. You led me to the Lord. I wanted to give up in seminary, but you called me every week and encouraged me to fight on. And then he named about 10 others that were pastors now and he said; because of your teaching us; your ministry is alive and well this Sunday in pulpits all over America. God is good to send encouragers into our life. I have no idea what is going to happen in my future. But I want to testify that I will trust only Him. I have faith in Him. He knows tomorrow. I am thankful I know Him. All thanks be to God for this growing and learning experience as I rest in His marvelous, wonderful, matchless grace.

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

Reviewing Our Own Reconciliation Experience Colossians 1:21-23 by Dennis Baker, Brotherhood President

As a believer in the Jesus Christ, it is encouraging to examine our own heart and review our experience of reconciliation. In our text, Paul suggests three things that we can focus on.

First, look at what you were before reconciliation. You were alienated and were an enemy of God. Ephesians 2:11-12, Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world. Your mind and attitude were "actively hostile to God. You were at war with God! You needed to repent, or have a change of mind, before you could be reconciled to God.

Second, Your present reconciliation is complete. You did not reconcile yourself to God; it was God who took the initiative in His love and grace. The Father sent the Son to die on a cross that sinners might be reconciled to God. Romans 5:6, For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. Romans 5:8-10, But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. In His human body, Jesus bore our sins on that body on the cross. 1 Peter 2:24, Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

The purpose of reconciliation is personal holiness. The word "holy" expresses the idea of "being set apart, being devoted to God." Unblameable means, "without blemish." It is amazing that God looks at His children and sees no blemish on them! Unreproveable mean, free from accusation." Once we have been reconciled to God, no charge can be brought against us, Romans 8:31-34. We have perfect standing in Christ, so why seek anything else?

The following add supports our mission work in Lebanon



Third, you have a firm foundation. Verse 23, If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister... This statement seems to cast a shadow on the assurance of the believer's future. However, the "if" clause does not suggest doubt or lay down conditions by which we "keep up our salvation." Paul uses an architectural image of a house firmly set on a foundation. The town of Colosse was located in a region know for earthquakes, and the word "moved away could mean "earthquake stricken." Paul was saying "If you are truly saved, and built on the solid foundation, Jesus Christ, then you will continue in the faith and nothing will move you. You have heard the gospel and trusted Jesus Christ, and He has saved you. In other words, continuing in the faith does not save us; but we continue in the faith and thus prove we are reconciled.

Paul challenges every professing Christian to examine his own faith and heart to be sure he is a child of God. II Corinthians 13:5, *Examine* yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

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you use as a representation of God will surely be less than He is. How can anything man has made ever represent the eternal, infinite Creator-Redeemer?

II. THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE WORK OF THE IMAGE MAKER.

The consequences of image making are serious. Let me just list some of them for our consideration.

1. They dishonor God. This is what the image-maker does. In his spiritual blindness he attempts to make something that looks like God, but in the process he actually ends up bringing dishonor to the Lord he pretends to love. You can be sure that there is not even one instance in Scripture where God felt honored by something that had been made to represent him.

He opens his life to spiritual darkness. The Apostle 2 Paul helps us appreciate the seriousness of image making. He recounts the path that the Roman world had followed into the darkness of idolatry. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and God-head; so that they are without excuse. Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things." (Romans 1:18-23)

The insight of Paul is clear! When you refuse to accept God for who He is, and begin to try to do worship on your own terms, you open your life to all kinds of spiritual deception. Scripture consistently identified the image-makers with the demonic.

Neil Anderson, a gifted pastor from Minnesota and counselor, writes: "At its very root, idolatry is a demonic strategy to give an individual permission to indulge in his strongest natural desires without guilt." Is this not what Israel did at Sinai when they made the golden calf and worshipped it?

3. He brings a curse on his children. This is a part of the warning that God attached to the commandment. Not all of the commandments have such a warning attached, but this one has one.

"Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me". (Exodus 20:5)

What does it mean when God is called jealous? We almost put jealousy in a bad light, an unacceptable emotion or response. As the word is used in Exodus 20:5 it refers to intensity of God's love for His people. He is intolerant of their giving to another that love and worship that should come to Him alone. He feels so deeply about it that he will allow the outcome of their actions to affect the next four generations. This must not be seen as some harsh act on the part of God.

Whatever is important in your life will be even more important in the life of your children. So by your actions you are bringing your children under the judgment of the Lord that falls on the image-maker. Did you notice that the Lord accuses the image-maker with actually hating Him?

III. THE MORAL ALTERNATIVE TO THE IMAGE-MAKER.

"And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, • See IMAGES Page 8 •

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and keep my commandments." (Exodus 20:6) Love is the key! Love accepts God as He is and worships Him in the manner that pleases Him.

1. Approach God as the Person He is – an eternal, spiritual Person.

This is how you approach God. Since He is a Person without a body, without any need to manifest Himself physically or materially, you acknowledge Him to be such a God. You do not try to make Him something like something else. There is nothing else in the universe like God – He is Holy! While we are created in the image of God, this does not mean that He is like us. There is a great difference between God and man. This must be acknowledged in our worship of Him.

2. Refuse to allow any physical or material thing to come between you and God.

Nothing is to be more important to you than God. Nothing physical is to be essential in your worship of God. You are to be dependent only on the Holy Spirit who lives within you and is able to energize and guide you in your worship of God.

Paul laid this truth down to the Philippian Christians when he declared: "For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh." (Philippians 3:3) Worship of God is to be consistent with His spiritual nature. No place, building, tools, aids or anything else is necessary. All that is needed is the truth of god and the Holy Spirit who dwells in your heart.

3. Learn to listen to the spoken Word of God.

The image that we need to see, the reality that we need to encounter, in our worship of God can be found as we listen to the proclaimed Word of God. The Holy Spirit can do with the spoken Word what man will never be able to do with an image or likeness or painting of God. We must continue to give proper place to the spoken Word in the worship of the Lord. Moments of personal revelation and encounter take place as the Word is preached.

4. Cultivate an awareness of the unseen presence of God.

This is an essential. He is revealing His glory in the world all around you. Our Lord was able to see the heavenly Father in the lilies of the field, the birds of the air, in the falling of a hair from a head, in the way a friend responded to a friend. There is "more so much more" for us to know of Him. We still see through a glass darkly - but someday we will see Him face to face.



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• *NOT* From Page 3 • local churches as our trained coaches are working hands on with church leaders. We offer "Activate" absolutely free to churches. As you can imagine, the cost to do so is not cheap. Our Kingdom Investment offering will fund this vital ministry and allow us to continue offering it free of charge.

The second reason I am confident in asking churches to participate in Kingdom investment is that the offering is not just about Disciple-Guide. The unique aspect of Kingdom Investment is how churches are asked to invest half of their offering in a local ministry project. That's right, half of the money stays at home for local investment and the other half is used by DiscipleGuide for Kingdom Investment in local churches around the BMA needing help.

This is our first time to attempt a special offering. Admittedly, we are learning as we go. If you are interested in having your church participate but have not received information regarding the offering yet, we apologize. Please call Jonathan Wilson at 501-358-7054 or email him at jonathan@discipleguide.org for more information on how you, your pastor, and your church can participate on December 20. Information is also available at discipleguide.org/kingdominvestment. Thank you in advance for your consideration.



The pictures on this page should help you to understand better the work being done by Water For Christ and our missionaries in Africa. See story on pages 4 and 5 and note how to get more information on this ministry.

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 <u>bkadams27@yahoo.com</u>. -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-

Denver Page, a member of Landmark Baptist Church in DeSoto is available for pulpit supply as God leads. He can be contacted by home phone 636-942-3503 or cell phone 314-283-7243. -12-



