## The

# Missouri Missionary Baptist

"Holding Forth The Word of Life"

Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXXII

St. Louis, MO • September 10, 2019

Issue No. 9

## ChangeMakers 100: Missions Executive Director Does It Again!

It started innocently enough . . . Missions Executive Director John David Smith wanted to reach a personal fitness goal on his fiftieth birthday in 2018. An avid cyclist for seven years, he was averaging 70 miles per week when that goal became a fund-raiser called **ChangeMakers 100** during a break at the office.

"In January of 2018," Smith says, "I told my boys (Josiah and Seth) that my goal for my 50th birthday was to ride 100 miles. So I began to increase my distance each week. Then, months later, in a casual conversation with the Production team guys, I mentioned I'd like to raise awareness somehow through the bike ride.

"It was only three weeks or so until my birthday on August 12, but the Production team just ran with it and got excited about it. So it was all them. They literally rode with me, well, in the van at least, and that was a huge encouragement. They kept me going."

So the first **ChangeMakers 100** was born. The "century ride," a 100-mile bike ride completed in less than twelve hours, would be dedicated to the "ChangeMakers" of BMA Missions. Historically referred to as nationals, they lead our national church planting efforts in 80 nations.

These missionaries, he says "are the thrust of what we do in BMA Global Missions. In this event, we want to spotlight them and let people know who they are." Numbering in the hundreds, these national missionaries in their native countries are the result of decades of American missionaries' disciple-making efforts.

Last year's end result was \$190,000 for the Global Missions Fund. The 2019 ChangeMakers 100 ride will be on September 20 and it will be broadcast live on Facebook.

Please give to this second annual fundraiser at <a href="https://bmamissions.org/changemak-er100/changemakers-100/">https://bmamissions.org/changemakers-100/</a>.

#### Walk for the World

The Cane Creek Association's Youth in the Harvest meeting for October will be the LifeWord Walk for the World and will take place at Pinewoods Lake in Ellsinore, Missouri October 19th at 9:00 a.m. All are invited to join in the Walk and Fellowship and a Potluck lunch. See Briar Baptist Church's report on page 4 for more details.

Note this is a CORRECTION of what was printed last month:

#### Revival

Stony Point Baptist Church , Mineral Point, MO September 23, 24, 25, 2019 • 7:00 p.m. *Dustin Wisely*, Evangelist

# Ninety-Second Annual Meeting of the BMA of Missouri October 12, 2019 • 9:00 a.m. Bethel Baptist Church, Sikeston, MO

Please remember that we voted to change the date of our annual association meeting to the 2nd Saturday of October instead of the 4th Saturday (2018 Minutes, Page 31, Morning Session #5). Therefore this year's meeting is on October 12th at Bethel Baptist Church in Sikeston.

Please read: the messages "from our Host Pastor and From our Moderator," included in this article along with the "reminder about your church's membership in the BMAMO," in the dotted box at the end of this article; the message "from our Missions Director," on page 3; the "recommendations of the Special Missions Committee", also on page 3; and the "recommended overhaul of By-Law Article VI," on page 5, so you can be prepared to attend this meeting informed, in the right spirit, and ready to contribute to the progression of the work God has for us in the Baptist Missionary Association of Missouri.

#### From Our Host Pastor....

Bethel Baptist Church of Sikeston is honored to host the 2019 annual meeting of the BMA of MO. Sikeston has many hotels and restaurants to choose from, our church is located at 128 5th street in Sikeston. We will serve pastries, coffee, juice between 7:30-8:30 a.m. and lunch. We have meeting rooms if needed. Looking forward to seeing you and having a Spirit-filled meeting. You can contact me at 573-521-8028 or e-mail billydavis1990@yahoo.com.

Bro. Billy Davis

#### From Our Moderator....

Dear Churches of the BMA of the State of Missouri:

What an amazing year of ministry it has been for our churches and camp organizations. I heard great things from Bro. Brad Banderman of how God moved and showed up at Camp Garwood through spiritual decisions made and salvations experienced and the great fun that was had by kids and adults alike.

The State Meeting is always an excellent time to hear our many department's reports and to catch the excitement of our directors and leaders.

We had an amazing mid-year meeting at Springfield with Bro. Gary Longstaff and Grandview Baptist Church, And I know we will with Bro. Davis and Bethel Baptist Church in Sikeston.

Please, oh, PLEASE make plans to attend. And please pray for a peaceful and harmonious meeting and for God's Spirit to be felt by all.

Bro. Ben Kingston

#### Reminder About Your Church's Membership in the BMAMO

As part of the organizational structure of our State Association (see By-Laws on page 10 of 2018 Minutes Article III - Membership #3) we need to hear from our cooperating churches each year. This is accomplished by receiving a letter of representation from each church and by seating their messenger(s) if present in our annual meeting. This not only helps our cooperative work statistically but also assures each church who cooperates of strength and protection through being united with others of like faith and order. According to this by-law a church who does not send a letter and/or messengers for three consecutive years will be considered as having terminated her membership in the Association. Our clerk indicates that at the present time we have three churches who have not represented for two years and need to represent this year to avoid terminating their membership in the BMA of MO. Please help us by representing at the annual meeting this year.

#### Homecoming Services

<u>Landmark, DeSoto</u> • October 6, 2019 • Morning Message - *Wayne Gibson* Lunch will be served

Please bring a song or something to share with us in the afternoon service!

<u>Bates Creek, Potosi</u> • October 13, 2019 • Morning Message - Bryan Buckley Noon Meal followed by Afternoon Singing We hope YOU can join us!

## ተተተ ተተተ NEWS BRIEFS ተተተ ተተተ

Ohlman, Bunker reports that it seems like July and August went by in a blur. Our Wednesday night attendance has been down but we are praying now that school is back in session and vacations are over, the attendance will pick back up. Wednesday, before church camp, Bro. Joel and Sis. Dottie Steelman took the teens to Camp Garwood to work in whatever needed to be done. We had approximately 40 from Ohlman or with Ohlman attend all of camp or portions of camp this year. Wednesday evening of camp, our hearts were broken when we learned the news that Sis. Gay Sharpe had lost her battle with cancer. While we were saddened in our loss, we know that she gained the victory and was in her brand new Heavenly Home. A very sweet 7 year old boy comforted his new friend from Ohlman by telling him that "she will always be in your heart." May all of the young people whose lives she impacted keep that in their memory of her in their hearts. August 18th the church called Bro. Troy Sisk as full time pastor. He and Sis. Patti Sisk then presented themselves for church membership on promise of a letter from Bethel Baptist church, Sikeston, MO. We look forward to working with them as they move onto the field over the next few weeks. September 1st we started our new church year with a few changes in workers and are excited to see how the Lord blesses each one. Troy Sisk, Pastor • Janet Widger, Reporter

We've had a good month at Landmark, DeSoto. I feel God's blessing upon me and hopefully others also realize how God is blessing them every day. We had our annual business meeting with the election of officers for the 2019-2020 year. I can't believe that next year will be 2020. I never thought that I would live to see it, and, of course, I may not. But now that it is upon us, I don't feel nearly as old as I thought I would. Bro. Crites had a health problem pop up on him and he was unable to come on the 25th. We called Bro. Brendan Sanders to fill the pulpit and he did a marvelous job presenting God's Word. We still are not having the attendance that we would like, but we are praying, hoping and working toward that end. Don't forget that our 87th homecoming is on October 6. We are hoping to have a good crowd for that. We still have some members, and family of our church members on the seriously ill list and stand in the need of prayer. Until next month or the Lord's

David Crites, Interim Pastor • Sharon Page, Reporter

Greetings once again from Lindsay Lane, Florissant. We have been busy doing our Father's business. We have started a new awana year with Bro. Mike Jenkins as commander. We are thankful for him and all of the volunteers. Soccer has also started and these two ministries combined are truly blessings for us. The 13th was our monthly saints alive luncheon. This is always a fun time of food and fellowship. The 19th several met to pack shoe boxes. Praise God we were able to pack 92 boxes. Bro. and Sis. Crawford took the boxes to the missions office and were able to visit family and friends. The men meet the first Friday night of the month for their Forge Meeting. This is a sweet time of food and fellowship for them. Our ladies are excited about the Ladies Retreat and a painting party the 20th. We were told to expect a fun time whether you are artistic or not! We will see! We ask your prayers as we continue to be a light in the Florissant area.

Brian Meade, Pastor • Kathy Chapman, Reporter.

Happy Fall to all from **Bethel, Sikeston!** August started off with a real blessing as young Lucas Reynolds came forward to make a profession of faith (he was saved at church camp) and requested to be baptized and join the church, Of course

he was accepted and was baptized that same morning. Afterward he was given many hugs and hand shakes welcoming him into our fellowship! Praise God for these young people that are coming forward to accept Christ! We are so thankful for our camp and all the work that everyone does to make it a good place for our youth and adults to go each year! We got our shoe boxes filled and ready to send out this month. Bro. Troy Sisk will be leaving us as he has accepted the pastorate of Ohlman Baptist Church in Bunker, MO. We will be sad to see him and his family go but we also know that he is a man of God and wants to follow the Lord's leading. Bro. Troy preached for us Wednesday night the 21st for a farewell message. Afterward we had a short fellowship in honor of their leaving and to celebrate Bro. Billy's birthday. The Faith Bible Institute class for fall started back up on the 26th, We are thankful that we still have quite a few people attending. Some had to drop out for reasons beyond their control. We have started going back to Wendell Apartments after not being able to go for a few months due to remodeling. We have witnessed many accepting Christ as Savior since we first started going and some have joined our services at Bethel. Please be in prayer for Sis. Ruth Newman's family as they mourn her passing, She will be sadly missed by all as she was a wonderful Christian example. We had a celebration of her life on the 31st here at Bethel and the ladies served the family a dinner in our fellowship hall. We will be participating in the Life Chain again this October, If your church can participate we would greatly appreciate everyone that can come and stand for one hour at the intersection of Main and Malone and hold a sign and silently pray for the unborn, October is pastor appreciation month and we want to

say how much we appreciate our pastor for all that he does and how much he cares for all of us...

Billy Davis, Pastor • Joan Wood, Reporter

Hello from Bethany Baptist Church, St. Louis. It sure does not seem like Labor Day is already here. Where did the summer go? We have been blessed in many ways. Our prayers have been answered in that our church family has been doing well physically. Sis. Ella Beeler is doing much better after her surgery and Sis Tiny Blanchard seems to be doing well. Bro. Heiji is going to Japan for a couple of weeks to see his seriously ill brother. We pray for a safe trip and our prayers are with him that his brother will do what God wants and sees best. Bro. Wayne Gibson and Bro. James Hoffmann filled the pulpit for Bro. Tim and Sis, Boatright as they had some time away, We our thankful for the ones who come help us when we are in need for their service. Bro. and Sis. James Hoffmann reunited with our church Sunday, September 1. We are glad to have them back and know they will be a blessing to our church, even though he will be filling pulpits on many Sundays. Pray for all the lost and help them find how much they need God in their lives. They need to know the power of God and all He does for each and everyone of us every day.

Tim Boatright, Interim Pastor • Betty Johnston, Reporter

Greeting from Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church! August was a busy month for us. Our crew came back from camp refreshed by the preaching of the Word and we had 2 saved at camp. Carly Kimball and Addelyn Faulkner came forth for baptism and were baptized and joined the church. We had a Teachers' Back to School Encouragement Breakfast Sunday, August 11th before Sunday School. There are many teachers in our congregation that we help with school supplies for their classroom. This year we chose one teacher from each school in the New Madrid District and invited them to this breakfast. It was a great success. We have been doing a book study on "Autopsy of a Deceased Church" each Sunday night. Bro. Dan is leading this study. The ladies have been working all year to get things together for the Shoebox Ministry and we were able to fill 125 boxes this year. Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam delivered those for us. We love to fill these boxes and can only imagine the faces of the children when they receive them. We are back to work with our FBI classes on each Tuesday evening. Our church's homecoming is September 22 and we will have lunch following the morning service. The Davidson Family will be bringing our afternoon singing and we invite everyone

• Continued on Page 4 •

### The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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BMA of Missouri Website: www.bmamissouri.org

FINANCIAL REPORT BMA		MISSOURI MISS	SIONS • A	August 2019
Checking Account:				
Balance July 31, 2019			\$	29,443.95
August Receipts:				
Missions:	\$	<u>4,345.22</u>		
Total Income:	\$	4,345.22	\$	4,345.22
Total Available			\$	33,789.17
Disbursements:				
Director, Salary	\$	650.00		
Supplies	\$	151.38		
BMAA (Matt Barker)	\$	200.00		
Total Disbursements	\$	1,001.38	\$	(1,001.38)
Balance August 31, 2019:			\$	32,787.79
Bank of America Savings Acco	ount:			
Balance July 31, 2019			\$	1,101.00
Interest:	\$	.02	\$	.02
Balance August 31 2019:			\$	1,101.02
<b>Investment in BMA of Mississi</b>	ippi R	evolving Loan Fu	nd:	
Balance July 31, 2019:	• •	J	\$	104,560.00
Interest: August 31, 2019				0.00
Balance August 31, 2019:			\$ <b>\$</b>	104,560.00
Total of all Funds August 31, 2019:			\$	138,448.81

## A Letter to the Churches of Missouri

Over the last year and a half I have been in talks with both the Meramec and State associations in Missouri about the possibility of planting a church in the state of Missouri. I had felt for a while that my time as a student pastor was coming to an end and I was approached about the possibility of partnering with the Missouri churches to further the gospel in the Columbia, Missouri area. My family and I pursued this perceived open door with the hopes of planting a church where a church is truly needed. First Baptist Church in Magnolia was in full partnership of the plant even to point of voting unanimously to send me to the mission field and be my supporting church. When I came to the associational meetings and shared my vision I referenced the church in Antioch in Acts 13 who sent out Saul (Paul) and Barnabas to spread the gospel. The reason for the church sending out those men was that she had a sufficient number of pastors for the church at Antioch. First Baptist Magnolia found herself in the same circumstance. A full pastoral staff and time to fill the student ministry position before I made the move in January of 2020. We were excited at the possibility of working with the churches in Missouri and furthering the ministry of FBC Magnolia (our sending church).

On June 23rd a curve ball was thrown into the process of planting a church. Our pastor at FBC at the time, Bro. Brent Summerhill, resigned as the primary preaching and teaching pastor because he felt that his time at First Magnolia had come to a close. This left our church in a little different position than when we first began the process to plant a church. My immediate plans were to stay on the initial time frame for planting the church and just step up to lead at FBC however I could un-

til we moved to Missouri in January. However, as I sat and talked with the leadership at our church we began to pray about whether God was calling me and my family to stay at FBC and lead the church into missions efforts and in the preaching of the word as the Senior Pastor. For an entire year my heart and mind had been shifting to go and plant a church in Columbia, Missouri and in an instant it felt like my heart was now torn in two. I had a desire to go and make much of God's name in Columbia, Missouri and I now had a heart to stay and pastor the people that I had been with for the last 12 years. I entered a season of prayer and fasting and sought the best counsel I could find which included pastors from Missouri, godly men from my church and even third party counsel that could be completely unbiased. As I prayed and led at FBC God began to grow a desire in my heart to stay and pastor FBC

Magnolia. On Sunday September 8, 2019 our church voted to call me as pastor and I accepted that call. This was not something I did in secret. I had conversations with the committee chairs of the State and Meramec Associations along with Bro. Jim Hoffman, the Missions Director. These men along with so many others were vessels of grace during this decision. I want you all to know that I did not make this decision lightly. I still understand the need for the gospel in Columbia, Missouri and other areas of the state. That desire to see the gospel go to Missouri has not gone away simply because God has called me to serve in another place where the gospel is needed. I pray that in some capacity we will be able to help in Missouri's efforts to plant churches in the future.

I would encourage you to continue with the plan to plant and revitalize churches together as two associations with the same goal of making disciples in Missouri. God has a man set aside for the purpose of going to the areas of Missouri where the gospel is not and making God known to those people. If anyone has any questions that they would like to ask me please feel free to reach out to me.

Lastly, I want to say thank you for the confidence that you as an association showed in me. I want to say thank you to the pastors whom I consider dear friends after the last year of conversations. I want to say thank you to Bro. Ben Kingston, Bro. Jamie Haguewood, and Bro. Jim Hoffman along with the rest of the State and Meramec Missions Committee members.

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26 Dustin Wisely

#### From Our Director...

As I write my report this month it is with mixed emotions that I share with you the letter from Bro. Dustin. I am *disappointed* to know that things are not going as we were planning and I am *thankful* that Bro. Dustin is at peace about his decision, for God's will is what we all want to follow. I am also *encouraged* to see how our people in Missouri have been working together to advance the cause of Missions in our great state.

As long as we are seeking and following God's will in these matters we should all be *excited* about the future and *challenged* to do our best for God! Let's look ahead with *joy*.

This issue of the paper has MUCH in it to help us prepare for our annual Associational meeting in October and I hope our pastors, messengers and all church members will read the recommendations and explanations and come to the meeting ready to make important decisions about the work God has for us to do.

You will see that I have notified the Special Missions Committee that if I am reelected as Director of Missions I will be resigning in October 2020 and we will need to have a new Director in place by the mid-year meeting next May in order to make a smooth transition. Please make this a matter of prayer.

I look forward to our meeting in Sikeston with Bethel Baptist Church and Pastor Davis as we seek God's direction. I hope to see you there!

#### From Our Moderator...

**Dear state churches:** Yes, the news about Dustin is less than encouraging from a Missouri missions standpoint.

But we are grateful that a strong missions minded BMA church got the Pastor they desired. Now we must believe that with everything in place to hire a missionary that God will provide us with His man.

Let's pray for great commission success for First Baptist Magnolia and for God to give us His missionary in His timing. LETS KEEP MOVING!

Bro. Ben

#### • NEWS From Page 2 •

that is able, to come and join us. We had a Youth Night August 24th with 23 youth in attendance. The youth will have a lockin on Friday, September 27th after the home football game. Please be in prayer for our fall revival November 4-8 with Bro. Dustin Wisely.

Dan Wisely, Pastor • Terri Adams, Reporter

Lower Doe Run Baptist Church, Ellington is looking forward to the Walk for the World with brothers and sisters in Christ at the Pinewood Recreation Area, Ellsinore. We enjoyed the Logan Creek Association last month and voted to continue Camp Garwood as our mission project. Our program was led with singing, a devotional by our pastor then a message by Bro. Claude Evans. After lunch we held a flag retirement ceremony led by Bro. Claude, Ray Skaggs, Albert Meade and Jim Rayfield, our veterans, and Marshall Neeley helped. The ceremony was very patriotic and moving. We held special prayer for Bro. and Sis. Thurman who were not able to be present. The church is enjoying a study through the Book of John and the Ladies meet Thursdays for Bible Study in the Discipleship Prayer discipline. We enjoyed several visitors from out of town this month. We are thankful for them. Melvin Meade, Pastor • Carolyn Meade, Reporter

HELLO to All from Oak Hill, Alton! We hope everyone had a safe and blessed Summer. It seems like Summer just started and you blink and it's over with, time sure did just fly by. Now we are approaching Fall so we better not blink because it will fly by just like our Summer. All of the farmers are trying to get their Hay bailed before the Weather changes again. The Lord has really blessed us with the rain because usually our grass in our yard is brown and not looking very good but not this year, our grass gets mowed once a week. Thank the Lord this month we have five Sundays, so we will have our fifth Sunday dinner on the 29th and everyone is welcome to come and eat with us. As of right now we do not have anything planned for the month of September but October we will probably have our Fish Fry and our Hay Ride and Weiner Roast. Until next month I hope I will have some good news to tell you but until then we will be praising and honoring our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. God Bless!!

Edward Casey, Pastor • Jennifer Williams, Reporter

Greetings from Briar, Doniphan! "All the time, God is good, and God is good, all the time!" Lexa Larmore has accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as her own personal Savior. Sis. Lexa is one of our young ladies who attended Camp Garwood this year. She said that since camp she has been under conviction

Banderman, "Are you a cameo Christian?" has been ringing in her mind? This goes to show how important it is to bring our youth to camp. Sis. Lexa is the grand-daughter of Sis. Rebecca Larmore. The effects of camp are like a ripple on the water; it just keeps going and going. Just because camp ended August 2nd, 2019 doesn't mean that what had happened at camp ended. What has happened at Briar may be still happening around the state or states. Only God knows just how far it is going! August 28th, our church celebrated our 53rd anniversary of being an organized church. Our pastor was saved at this church at the age of 18. We are blessed to have such a Godly man leading us. We know without a shadow of doubt that he prays for us and that he truly cares for us. We are so very blessed and we do know it. October 19th Youth in Harvest will be meeting at Pinewoods Lake in Ellsinore, MO at 9:00 a.m. for our LifeWord Walk for the World. Potluck lunch will be served during the walk. I would say the lunch would be served after the walk but some folks like to go back and walk after they have eaten. We have invited both the band, Central Collective, and the speaker, Bro. Brad Banderman, that was at Camp Garwood to join us and at this time we are prayerfully waiting for answers. Everyone is invited to come and join in on the walk. If you can't join us

and the words of Bro. Brad

## BMMI in the Jungles of Peru by Angela Rice

#### The Mighty Jungle.

There are no words to describe the beauty of it. As we traveled the Tambo River, I took a multitude of pictures, none of which truly captured the beauty of this place.

But the greater beauty came when we docked the boat and moved into the trees where the most beautiful people are found. You can't see the villages from the river, but nestled behind the stunning trees, there is life.

The most recent Baptist Medical Missions International (BMMI) trip was to Peru in August. For the third year in a row, BMMI was invited there to set up four medical clinics in two new villages. In addition to making many new friends, we saw almost 500 patients with 111 professing Christ as their Savior.

But it's not easy to get to the Ashaninkas. It takes three days to get there by plane, vans, and a long boat ride. But the travel is worth it because God is doing amazing things in this area, mostly due to the relationships Pastor Paul Tinoco has built with the village chiefs.

On our first visit three years ago, we were not sure how we would be received, but we were welcomed and invited back. Since that visit, the tribes have been meeting about planting the first church in this area, which is what Pastor Paul prays

It has been such a blessing for BMMI to be able to work alongside our national missionaries and help open doors for them. That is what BMMI medical clinics do: Open doors so that more people can hear the saving message of Jesus.

To God be the glory for what He is doing in the jungle of Peru. Please pray with us for the Ashaninkan Indian tribes!

in person please join us in prayer. May God continue to bless us all! Continue to pray for our country, our leaders, our Pastor's and the churches without Pastor's.

David Grubb, Pastor • Yvonne Hill, Reporter

Greetings from First Baptist Church, Potosi, to our brothers and sisters in Christ. August began with the end of our Kid's Pizza Camp. The children (and adults) had a great time. The Celebrate Recovery Praise Band began the month's first Sunday worship service. Celebrate Recovery is growing and classes are large again with the beginning of school and schedules getting back to normal. We had a Make A Difference Day which was designed to make members aware of the many types of ministries we have working in our church. The hope was to get more people signed up to help in the different areas. Sis. Raven Porter made sure there was a table deco-

> rated for each ministry of which there were 21. We have 21 active ministries within our church; some are outreach and some are within the church. We are looking forward to the ministries that begin in September: GMA; #FBCKids Club on the Fruit of the Spirit starts for ages 4 through 6th grade; teens begin a new Bible Study; Fall Community Groups begin with the topic DISTINCT: Living Above the Norm by Michael Kelly; Bro. Donnie Parrish, LifeWord Media Ministries, will be our guest September 22; Tuesday morning community women's Bible Study begins. Other activities will be happening in addition to these mentioned. September is a catch up month for the Christmas Shoeboxes. We were to add a children's Bible in August. God is doing great things in our church; may we ever be mindful of what we need to do to keep God' blessing. Prayers go out for the people affected by Hurricane Dorian. Pray for us as we pray for you.

Jim Ainley, Pastor • Deborah Rauhut, reporter.



Preparing for the Annual Meeting.....

## Recommendations of the Special Missions Committee

As part of their responsibilities, the Special Missions Committee met in Perryville, Missouri September 5th to discuss the needs and make plans for our work for the coming associational year. Committeemen present were: Chairman, Ben Kingston and Clerk, Dan Wisely along with other committeemen, Don Burke, Russell Chitwood, Claude Evans and Missions Director, James Hoffmann. Committeemen Dale Fish and Brian Meade were not present.

Following discussion of several items the committee voted to submit the following recommendations to the Missionary Committee at the annual association in October in Sikeston for their approval. The Missionary Committee will have the opportunity to change, accept or reject these recommendation before they are presented to the messengers for a vote. Please prayerfully consider these and ask any questions you would like during the annual meeting.

- **1. We recommend** the Overhaul of By-Law Article VI (as presented beside this article.)
- **2, We recommend** Bro. James Hoffmann stand as a nominee for Missions Director through the annual meeting in 2020 with the same salary structure as 2018-2019 Associational year (Salary \$650/mo, 1/2 of Salary designated as Housing Allowance, Director receive a Christmas bonus equal to one month's salary).
- **3.** We recommend Bro. Don Burke stand as a nominee for Assistant Missions Director.
- **4. We recommend** that we continue to support Associate Missionary Matt Baker in Nixa, MO in the sum of \$200 for this Associational year.

Note: Bro. Hoffmann notified the Special Missions Committee that, if re-elected, he planned to resign as Director effective at the 2020 Annual meeting.

5. Therefore, **We recommend** that the Special Missions Committee be responsible for processing applications for a new Missions Director that will be elected at the 2020 Midyear Meeting. The new director will be Mentored by Bro. Hoffmann until the annual meeting in 2020.

### Matching Funds

by Doug Lee, Stan Scroggins and Jimmy Walker

This last week, the new Darlene Carey Christian Academy received news of a \$10,000 matching donation. That means that any financial gift we receive up to \$10,000 dollars will be matched dollar-for-dollar.

Last month, we began raising funds for 12 additional class-rooms with each room costing around \$10,000.

We have until the end of December to meet this \$10,000 matching challenge. If we do, this will give us funds for 3 of the 12 classrooms needed.

You can help!

We can't think of a better way to honor the legacy of Sis. Darlene for her faithfulness to the Lord than through establishing this academy. Send your financial gift to:

BMAA Missions Office P.O. Box 878, Conway, Ark. 72033

Please designate your gift to the Darlene Carey Christian Academy.

Thank you for your interest and support of our work in the Philippines. You are a blessing to all your workers and we are encouraged by your partnering with us.

#### Recommended Overhaul of By-Law Article VI

Proposed Recommendations from Special Missions Committee Re:Liability Exposure Report Presented at BMA of MO Annual Meeting 2018

<u>September 5, 2019</u>

#### Current Article VI

The current Article VI (Officers) of the BMA of MO Bylaws can be found in the 2018 Minutes (pgs 11-12), with the additional following amendment to Section 3 (underscored) approved at the 2019 Semi-Annual Meeting):

The duties of the officers shall be such as usually devolve on such officers of a deliberative body. <u>Officers are, however,</u> not authorized to speak or act as an authority at any time on behalf of the Association for any matter to which the Association has not directly spoken.

#### **Proposed Overhauled Article VI**

Below is the initial wording of a proposed overhaul of Article VI. Underscored segments are of material difference from the current Article. Other content is from the current Article (although wording and possibly arrangement may be altered).

Article VI — Officers

- 1. This Association shall have two types of officers: Operational Officers and Corporation Officers.
- 2. Operational Officers are the primary officers of the Association and shall function as the default for normal operations and points of contact for this Association. Their duties shall be such as usually devolve on such officers of a deliberative body.
- 3. Operational Officers shall be <u>Moderator</u>, <u>Assistant Moderator</u>, <u>Recording Clerk</u>, and <u>Assistant Recording Clerk</u>. The Moderator and Assistant Moderator shall be elected at each annual session by nomination and acclamation, to assume office at the close of the current annual meeting. These shall not hold the same office more than two consecutive years.
- 4. The Clerk and the Assistant Clerk shall be elected at the <u>annual session</u> by nomination and acclamation, to assume office at the beginning of the semi-annual session. The Clerk shall hold all money which is designated for minute fund and secretary hire and shall disburse it as the Association directs.
- 5. Corporation Officers shall serve only to facilitate situations requiring the involvement of the Association in its corporation capacity, including but not limited to financial, real estate, and contractual matters.
- 6. <u>Corporation Officers shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.</u> These offices shall be filled by those holding the following positions within the Association:
  - President Director of Missions
  - Vice-President Director of Encampment
  - <u>Secretary Association Recording Clerk</u>
  - Treasurer President of Loan Association
- 7. All officers shall be authorized, within their area of responsibility, to sign contracts and other documents, and handle other matters in the normal course of Association-approved endeavors. However, no officer is authorized at any time to speak or act as an authority on behalf of the Association for any matter to which the Association has not directly spoken.

#### Recommendations

- 1. That the BMA of MO Bylaws, Article VI, be thus amended.
- 2. That all other portions of the Bylaws be updated by the Association Clerk as needed to reflect this change in terminology for Association officers.

#### **Points of Explanation**

• The reason for creating two categories of officers (#1) is to reduce the frequency and expense of filing updates for the Association's Corporation, and hopefully to make some transactions for some of the departments easier (although the latter is largely governed by the individual institutions with whom we do business).

- Operational officers are the same officers the Association has always had. Their roles are unchanged, and they shall remain the primary officers in the Association (#2). The names for the individual offices have been changed (§3) simply to reduce confusion with the titles of corporation officers (over which we have no control).
- The new positions (corporate officers, #5) will only deal with business that requires the involvement of officials in the Association's corporate capacity. These positions will be divided among Associational positions already in place (#6), and thus will not require finding additional people to fill these roles year after year. Although little additional work is anticipated, those positions with the greater possibility for added demands are matched to those the Association is already paying for their services.
- Section 7 is added to assure that all officers are given the needed freedom to take care of their approved responsibilities; yet for liability purposes no officer is given authority to speak or act on the Association's behalf beyond those limits.
- The proposed change in §4 would mean that the Clerk and Assistant are elected at the Annual Meeting instead of the Semi-Annual, although the point of actually assuming those responsibilities is unchanged. This will allow all operational officers to be elected at the same meeting (meaning less confusion), allow an incoming Clerk to be better prepared to assume his duties, while still allowing an out-going Clerk the necessary time to complete the Minutes for the year.

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#### WMA & GMA NEWS

Articles for this column may be sent to

WMA Secretary: Norma Womble 7421 Hillsboro House Spg. Rd. Cedar Hill, MO 63016 e-mail - nrwomble@juno.com

Send all WMA Offerings to: STATE WMA TREASURER: Connie Reifsteck P.O. Box 190493

St. Louis, MO 63119

Send all GMA Offerings to: STATE GMA TREASURER Shelia Polk P.O. Box 259 Matthews, MO 63867

#### 2019 Ladies' Retreat

Wow! Just doesn't describe the retreat this year. It was more than WOW!

The committee and others did an excellent job in planning the retreat and "working" behind the scenes.

Deiatre Gillam led us in music worship throughout the two days. Becky Cate deserves a big **THANK YOU** for bringing and operating the sound system.

Friday afternoon, Krissy Whitlock set the tone for the two days with an exceptional devotional.

Friday evening MO WMA President welcomed everyone and then blessed us with a very inspiring song.

Then Sabrina Clayton!

I already knew she would be great and I'm so glad that other ladies from Missouri got the opportunity to hear her. She taught us from scripture, she inspired us, she encouraged us, she made us laugh and she made us cry.

We are also glad she brought ten ladies from her church in Tupelo, MS with her. We hope that they enjoyed their visit to Missouri as much as we enjoyed having them here.

We were honored to have Bro. Jerry and Sis. Sue Kidd with us. Saturday morning he presented the National WMA Project "Missionary Care." I had the privilege to introduce him. He and Sis. Sue have "worked" with missions for over 50 years. They both have a heart and love for our missionaries.

His presentation tugged at our heart strings in a way that I don't think anyone else could. After his presentation we took an offering. It's a Baptist thing! The ladies generously gave \$900.00 for this project.

There were 99 in attendance! These represented 22 churches, 5 states and 1 foreign country. (Personal note: my sisters and I were blessed to have a cousin who is a "worker" in Bangladesh attend while she is on furlough.)

#### Now the BIG announcement!

Four Hundred Eighty items were donated to the silent auction. Someone commented, "You could set up housekeeping with all these items!" After counting the money and collecting a last minute offering, the auction made \$2,025.50 for Camp Garwood! This includes some items from Camp that were donated and brought in \$113.00. Also, some may be wondering about the quilts made with Camp Garwood T-shirts. Krissey Morgan Whitlock and Kari Hartlein took those quilts home.

#### "Single"

by Dr. John M. Adams, Executive Director, Moral Action

There is Biblical advice on staying single and living the life without a marriage partner. Sometimes our society makes the widowed person, the divorced person, or the individual who has never married feel out of place. It may surprise some of the marrieds to know that it can be God's will for some not to be married. It is time for all to realize there can be happiness in being single.

There are some benefits of remaining single. I have in mind those who have never married or those who have been married but are no longer.

#### I. Less of Present-Day Distress I Cor. 7:27

In remaining single, you are certain to have a less amount of stress and distress. In our day there are certain hostilities and distresses that you simply encounter because you are a Christian and married. Children and marriage add a beautiful, but great responsibility. When Paul said, "Are you released from a wife?" he is saying, don't seek to get married to solve your problems. A single person does not have to live a lifestyle of seeking a mate. They should seek the Lord and if they desire to marry, or remarry let the Lord seek their mate. So many go to parties, bars, colleges, single's clubs, etc. under the presumption, "we are supposed to pursue a marriage partner." Vs. 27, simply says, "Put the Lord Jesus Christ in control of your singleness. Seek Him – not some available mate."

#### II. Less Difficulty - Vs. 28

This verse adds a dimension single persons readily ignore in being alone. It is saying that people who remain single may have fewer difficulties in their personal lives. Success in life consists not so much in marrying the person who will make you happy, as escaping the person who will make you miserable. Don't marry just for companionship, sexual relations, or financial security.

#### III. More Time for Spiritual Matters – Vs. 29-31

Marriage is not sinful, but Paul is simply teaching that there is an alternate lifestyle different from marriage. In the single stage of life there are no reservations or resistance and the person is available to Christ's call. If you are living alone, ask yourself, "Is God allowing me to be single, so that He can greater use me?" He may wish to use you in some area of His work that you could not take on if you were married. We are

Our Missouri ladies are generous and love Camp Garwood!

The other BIG announcement!!

Mark your calendars for September 11 & 12, 2020! Same location: Drury Inn & Suites, Arnold, MO often short-sighted in that we think only of what we are not enjoying, rather, than what God may have for His glory, and for our spiritual enrichment. The ultimate in God's plan is that you, who are unmarried, seek the Lord and listen to what He is saying to you. Verse 32 says, "But I want you to be free from concern."

### IV. More Time for a Vertical Relationship – Vs. 32-35

Those of us, who are married, cannot apply verse 35, as those who are single. It is good to be married, if God is in the marriage. But the single person, undoubtedly, has more time for God.

#### (1) Be Happy

Since God has allowed you to be single, you are to capitalize on the scriptural benefits that are yours to enjoy. Whether single, divorced, or widowed, God is sovereignly in control.

#### (2) Look Up

Turn all of your energies to the vertical, instead of the horizontal panic and worry. God is good at finding you a mate or giving you great satisfaction in being single.

#### (3) Calm Down

Relax and give all control of your life over to the Savior. Watch Him direct your life toward others who could really use some things you have to offer through Christ.

₽ You can't
direct the wind,
but you can
adjust your
adjust!





Thanks to Janet Widger for the article on the Ladies' Retreat and to Kathy Dollins Atkins for the pictures on Face Book

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

#### God Nurtures Our Faith

Judges 6-7

by Dennis Baker, President • BMAMO Brotherhood

When we question God's leadership in our lives, how grateful we should be that God does not condemn us because we have doubts and fears! Instead our great High Priest sympathizes with our weaknesses and keeps giving us more grace. He remembers that we're only dust and flesh. Psalms 103:14, "For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust." Psalms 78:39, "For he remembered that they were but flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again."

Gideon's personal struggles with faith are an encouragement to people who have a hard time accepting and believing that God can use them in His service. Gideon struggled with questions that many of us deal with today. Questions such as: Does God really care about Me? Does God know what He's doing? Will God take care of me? and "Does God keep His promises?

Gideon's response to God's call indicated his lack of faith and spiritual perception. The almighty God was telling him that He was with him and that He would give him victory over the enemy. Many times, Gideon asked God for a sign to assure him that it was truly God speaking to him. Gideon was living by sight, not by faith. God spent time with Gideon turning his questions into explanations.

"Putting out the fleece" shows Gideon's lack of faith to trust God to do what He said He would do. For God to stoop to Gideon's weakness only proves that He is a gracious God who understands how we're made.

A faith that can't be tested can't be trusted. J.G. Stipe said "faith is like a toothbrush; Everybody needs one and use it regularly, but it isn't safe to use someone else's." We can sing loudly about the 'Faith of our Fathers', but we can't exercise the faith of our fathers. We can follow men and women of faith and share in their exploits, but we can't succeed in our own personal lives by depending on someone else's faith.

Today, some churches are fascinated by statistics and think

they are strong because they are big and wealthy. The sifting of Gideon's army from 32,000 to 10,000 and finally to 300, shows that numbers are no guarantee of God's blessings. God used Gideon and 300 men with strange weapons of torches, trumpets, and jars to defeat an army of 135,000 men and bring 40 years of peace to Israel.

We can learn and be encouraged by Gideon's life experiences. God does not need large numbers to accomplish His purpose, nor does He need especially gifted leaders. Gideon and his 300 men were available for God's use, and He enabled them to conquer the enemy and bring peace to the land. When churches depend on their big buildings, budgets, and crowds, then faith becomes misplaced. When leaders depend on their education, skill, and experience rather than faith in God, then God abandons them and looks for a Gideon. The important thing is for us to be available for God to use just as He sees fit. We may not fully understand God plans but we can fully trust His promises, and it is faith in Him that gives the victory!

#### Just One More Time...

by Melissia McVay Zinn

The crops were "laid by" in Southeast Missouri, and it was time for the annual first-week-in August revival at the Baptist Church in the little town of Kewanee. The evangelist, Cecil Burgess, had been called and he had readily accepted the invitation to preach the week-long meeting,

Revival time was the highlight of our family's summer. We lived on a small farm five miles from the backside of "somewhere" and there were no video games to play all day and half the night, no smart phones--not even Facebook. Besides, it was in an August revival a few years earlier that my mother, an older brother and I had come to Christ when I was eight; and 14 others accepted Christ that week--several of whom were my closest friends. To say that excitement ran high at the church each year during August was the ultimate understatement.

As a young teenage girl in those so impressionable years, I could hardly wait for the first service of the revival to begin. Having taken the opportunity to attend every function possible of our local association, I had heard Bro. Burgess preach numerous times. He was my favorite, hands down, of all the preachers I had heard except for my own pastor. He spoke with a power and passion I had never witnessed as tears streamed down his face. One could feel his intense love for Christ and burden for souls, and I was always on the edge of my pew when he took the pulpit. Oh, how my heart was stirred each time!

Finally the big day arrived, as did Bro. Burgess, his wife, Bobbye, and their two boys. In every service, the preacher poured out his heart as the tears, again, flowed freely. I hung on his every word. Souls were saved, lives were rededicated and Christians were revived.

As for me, those services fanned the fire already burning in my heart to pursue a full-time Christian career, and maybe even marry a Baptist preacher someday. It was a "pipe" dream--or was it? I just knew that, whatever it took, I longed to be around "preaching, praying, singing, shouting" 24/7, well may just 16/7. I'd have to sleep sometime--wouldn't I?

The middle child of a common sharecropper, I thought I'd be the last, after all my friends, to see such a dream come to pass. But my dad had an uncommon love for Gospel music, served as music director of our church and taught singing schools in churches across Missouri. This provided many opportunities for the Lord to speak to my heart and direct my paths by bringing a variety of people into my life.

The revival meeting came and went, and a couple of months later, I overheard my pastor telling some adults in our church that Bro. Burgess had resigned his church and was moving. Sadness enveloped my young heart. Doubtful that I would ever see Bro. Burgess again, I so wanted to hear him preach--just one more time.

A series of events took place over the next few years that landed me right in the middle of the first part of that "pipe" dream when God moved me to Batesville, AR, to serve as full-time secretary to Dr. Jim Brown, pastor of Landmark Baptist Church. Eight years later, I was married to Randy Zinn, a preacher I had met shortly after arriving in Batesville, and the second part of that dream became reality.

Life happened and ministry took us to Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri for over 30 years. As these years passed, my husband and I spoke a number of times of locating Bro. Burgess and visiting his church on our vacation so Randy could meet him and his family and I could hear him preach--just one more time.

On January 1, 2016, God moved us back to Arkansas to minister at Russell Baptist Church. While thumbing through

• See ONE MORE TIME Page 8 •

## 9th Annual BMA of Missouri Men's Fall Retreat

<u>Location: Camp Garwood</u> <u>Friday October 4 and Saturday October 5 • 2019</u>

Please make plans to attend and bring a friend.....

**Program** 

Friday Evening 7:30 p.m.

Supper

Devotion

Saturday 7:30 a.m.

Breakfast

**Archery Competition** 

Dismissal

#### Who Can Attend?

Men and young men. We encourage you to bring your friends who do not attend church.

What is the Cost?

#### There is no cost for those attending, but an offering will be taken to help with expenses.

What is the Purpose?

We want to provide an avenue for fellowship and encouragement for the men of all ages.

#### What to Bring?

Personal items, sheets, blankets, sleeping bag, and pillow. Also, please bring your archery equipment. Beds, food, and fun are provided.

#### **Questions: Contact the following for more information:**

Dennis Baker 636-461-1625 bbsafety4332@gmail.com James Hoffmann 314-277-8644 mmbpaper@charter.net Claude Evans 573-562-7036 evansc414@gmail.com

## National Senior Adult 2019 to Feature Dennis Swanberg!

Dr. Dennis Swanberg, "The Swan," who is considered by many as "America's Minister of Encouragement" will be one of the featured artist at the 2019 National Senior Adult Conference in Branson, MO. Dennis Swanberg uses laughter as a tool to break down the barriers people have in order to promote faith and family values in a lighthearted and humorous way. He has the reputation for revealing and instilling hope and motivating people in all walks of life. Dr. Swanberg graduated from Baylor University in 1976. He holds a masters and doctorate degree, both from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He was formerly the host of the nationally broadcast television shows "The Dennis Swanberg Show" and "Swan's Place." He is a much sought-after speaker for churches, civic groups, corporations, fund-raising campaigns, military encouragement, and many family related events. Dennis prays that the time you spend with him will not only bring you laughter and a time of reflections, but hopefully, you will leave feeling like you have just had a time of fellowship with someone over the back-yard fence. Dennis and his wife, Lauree, have two grown sons and a daughter in law, Chad, Dusty, and his wife Britney. "The Swan" resides in hotels and airports all across the United States and sometimes makes his way home to Monroe, Louisiana.

National Senior Adult Conference is scheduled for November 18-20 at the Branson Convention Center in Branson, MO. Cost for the three-day conference is only \$125/person and includes two buffet breakfasts. The Hilton Branson Convention Center Hotel is headquarters hotel for this event.

You may register for the conference and make your hotel reservations at https://bmaamerica.org/senior or book your rooms by calling the Hilton at 866-442-0959 (use the GROUP CODE NSA19). All attendees are urged to stay at the Hilton so that the price of the conference can remain low for all.

#### • ONE MORE TIME From Page 7 •

the BMAA Directory toward the end of last year, I came across the names of "Pastor Cecil Burgess" and "Caney Valley Baptist Church". I rushed in to where my pastor/husband was studying with my astounding discovery. We were amazed that this great man of God was still pastoring and we began to make plans to get in touch.

It was Thursday afternoon, April 18, this year, when I stopped in the middle of packing for an out-of-state trip, thumbed through the directory again and keyed in his phone number. To my overwhelming delight, Bro. Burgess answered immediately. As my husband listened to my end of the conversation from the next room, I introduced myself. My heart throbbed as I prayed for the words to convey to this giant for God the magnitude of the impact he'd had on my life. It was a moment for which I had waited for decades.

He still vividly remembered those years of pastoring in Missouri, as well as the revival there at Kewanee. He even recalled the McVay family name, probably from my dad's music ministry. When I related a personal illustration from one of his revival messages that had stayed with me all these years, I found that it, too, was tucked neatly away in his memory.

Next I reminded him of a special Sis. Bobbye had sung that week as she accompanied herself on the piano--a song that stuck in my heart. Again, he remembered and then shared with me that she had passed away 13 years earlier after their 61 years of marriage and how that he had never remarried. And, wouldn't you know, he left me with another awe-inspiring, life illustration from those days surrounding her passing.

Bro. Burgess told me he was 93 and still pastoring and, again, I marveled. He spoke fondly of his Arkansas pastorates as he named each place where he had ministered.

When I confessed that his tears had made an indelible mark on my life for the Lord, he chuckled--no crying this time. I admitted that I felt his passion for the things of the Lord was a major contributing factor to my serving in the ministry today alongside my husband.

His voice was strong and clear, and a few "Praise the Lord" interjections were made as we talked. He expressed his gratitude for my call and, after voicing a mutual desire for our paths to cross again soon and a final "thank you" from me for his life and ministry, our conversation ended.

Needless to say, we were grieved to read in the Baptist Trumpet of the passing of Bro. Burgess. That July 31st issue reached our mailbox August 2nd, just one day after his home-going service. But, what rejoicing that he was finally "home" and that I had gotten to thank him before he left!

We don't know all the details of what God has planned for His preachers during the Heavenly ages, but I believe when we've "been there 10,000 years" or more, Randy will get to meet Bro. Burgess and I'll get to hear him praising Jesus--just one more time!

#### Baptist Publishing House Offers Videos

The Baptist Publishing House has published a series of videos online to help our churches know more about our new curriculum and how to use it to its full potential. The videos can be found on our website: <a href="www.baptistpublishinghouse.com">www.baptistpublishinghouse.com</a> or on youtube. com (Just search "Baptist Publishing House").

#### 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 until a request is received to remove it.

**Wayne Gibson,** a member of Stony Point Baptist Church in Mineral Point is available for pulpit supply. Contact him at 314-277-6940 or by email wayne.gibson@sbcglobal.net

**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.

**T Aaron Maxwell,** is available for pastoral work. You may contact him by phone or message at 870-834-0100.

**Brian Adams**, a member of First Missionary Baptist Church of Matthews is available to preach or as the Lord leads. Contact him by e-mail at <a href="mailto:bkadams27@yahoo.com">bkadams27@yahoo.com</a> or by phone 217-779-9264 **Denver Page**, a member at Landmark, DeSoto, MO is available for preaching as needed. (636) 942-3503

If you are a preacher and a member in good standing of a Baptist Missionary Association of America church and would like your name added to this column please contact the editor using the information on page 2.

#### Pastor Search

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Caldonia, MO is searching for a God fearing Man to lead the church as God directs. Anyone interested please contact Bro. Dean Johnston. Phone 573-766-3700.

## Only With Men Like This Can America Experience Spiritual Renewal And Rescue

by C.R. Curtman

Dr. A. J. Gordon (1836-1895), the founder of Gordon-Conwell theological seminary, was one of the most educated, polished and effective Baptist preachers of the century in which he lived and ministered. After his death, his son related how his father had often expressed his longing for a return of the farmer preachers he had known during his boyhood. The reason he gave for this he said was that "They knew their Bibles from cover to cover. With such men as that," the elder Gordon had said, "We could renew the religious life of New England."

My wife belongs to a family distinguished for having an unbroken chain of at least six generations of such Baptist preachers in it – preachers who knew their Bibles from cover to cover, believed them from cover to cover and preached them from cover to cover! It was to my great advantage that I grew up as a Christian around, and was under the influence of, a great many preachers like this.

We have a glaring scarcity today of such preachers as are referred to above. We have a great many preachers today who have never even personally read their Bibles from cover to cover, who certainly are making no effort to preach them from cover to cover, and who live as if they believe little of what is between their Bibles' covers. And, if the truth were known, this is why the state of Christianity is as abysmal as it is today, and why America is in the moral free fall that it is in.

I think Dr. Gordon understood something that we would do well to understand and admit today. What our churches, our country and our entire society needs today more than anything else is a renaissance of "farmer preachers;" good, humble, God-called preachers, who, regardless of where they live, know their Bibles from cover to cover and will preach them from cover to cover without fear or favor. God in His providence could allow this to happen, and in my studied opinion, only if this happens, will we see any renewal of spiritual life in America the likes of which will deliver the United States from being "turned into hell" along with "all the nations that forget God" (Psalm. 9:17).