

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

“Holding Forth The Word of Life”

Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXXII

St. Louis, MO • October 8, 2019

Issue No. 10



He Did It!! 100 Miles for Change- maker Missionaries

Friday, September 20th, Missions Executive Director John David Smith rode his bike 100 miles to highlight ChangeMaker Missionaries that are the heart and soul of 70 years of BMA mission work.

God has blessed our association of churches whose middle name – **Baptist MISSIONARY Association** – is “missionary.”

ChangeMaker missionaries are the result of generational efforts going back to 1950, but you probably will never see them here in the States. They need support through the Global Missions Fund, so please donate to ChangeMaker 100 and take advantage of the matching gift!

Yes, a generous donor has agreed to match whatever funds are raised! Your \$100 becomes \$200 . . . and missionaries all over the world are blessed!

Churches, Sunday school classes, families, individuals . . . Donate to ChangeMaker 100 and take advantage of the matching gift. Donations will be accepted until mid-October. Take the challenge!

Click here to give: <https://bmamissions.org/changemakers/> OR send your check to Missions at PO Box 878, Conway, AR 72033.

“Imago Dei” Made in the Image of God

“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.” Genesis 1:26

The first thing we see is we humans are made in the image of God. He says “our image” referring to the trinity the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

This is only said about humans which gives us inherent worth because we are made in his image. This is significant because it places value in all human life above all other things. Ethnicity, color, economical status or any other factors are not what we are to judge people by because they are made in the image of God. This fact should lead us to value people in God; ending the ability to judge someone’s worth on anything else. How does this encourage us? First, we need to value all peo-

LifeWord • A Major Ministry of Reaching Others

LifeWord Sunday • October 20, 2019 • An Opportunity to Participate

LifeWord Cloud • More Languages • More People

There is no question that mankind’s greatest need is a relationship with Jesus Christ. From one radio broadcast called *Harvest Gleaner Gospel Hour* to thousands of programs in multiple languages on the *LifeWord Cloud*, expanding our worldwide gospel footprint has always been the goal.

Because reaching the unreached is what we do, the emphasis has been the same since 1965: more languages, the heart languages of people all over the world.

There are somewhere between 6,500 and 7,000 languages and dialects of the world. Our ultimate goal is to have gospel programming in 200 of them. We now have content in 60 languages thanks to cloud technology.

One year ago, the LifeWord Cloud went live after many months of work building the cloud platform and transforming lifeworld.org into an evangelistic tool with unlimited possibilities.

If you go to lifeworld.org, and click on the drop-down box in the upper right-hand corner, you’ll see the current languages for which we have content. Four different regions of the world are now being targeted with the message of Jesus:

#1- East Africa: The following are twenty new languages and people groups intended for expansion on this continent:

People groups like the Masai, Pare, Haya, Nyakyusa, Luo, Kurya, Ha (Wa ha), Fipa, Chagga, Wasambaa, Rangi, and Dakama will soon hear the gospel in their own languages.

Plans are in place to send the gospel messages to countries like Ethiopia in the following languages: Amharic, Somalia (Djibouti and Somalia), Afar (Djibouti), and Sudanese (South and North Sudan).

#2 - Asia-Pacific: Pete Etabag has been training media missionaries and leading efforts to record and upload the Filipino languages of Cebuano, Illongo, and Tagalog on the LifeWord Cloud.

#3 - Central and South America: Aymara, Quechua, and Guarani will be part of the next languages to be loaded into the

ple. Second, we should love all people. Third, we should share the love of Christ with all through the gospel. He continues in the verse to speak of dominion which means sovereignty or control. We do this by being good stewards of the land and water and all living things. We use the resources we have wisely and do all that we can to educate ourselves through studying how best to take care of the things of which we are in control. At home, at work, and anywhere we go we should treasure and use this gift of dominion to the glory of the Lord.

“Imago Dei” should drive our hearts for the spread of the gospel to all people for they are made in his image and we do that through the dominion of what we have been given as stewards. Do you live your life in this manner? Do you have hate in your heart towards others made in the image of God? If so, the Scriptures tell us we need to repent and turn from our sin. Saints I hope this encourages you in your walk with God

Sola Deo Gloria • Brian Kingston

LifeWord Cloud this year.

#4 – Europe: The Romanian team is exploring the process of reaching out to Hungarian and Czech speakers.

Since all video, audio and print content is now being loaded to the cloud at lifeworld.org, we can know exactly the number of languages and broadcasts: That’s 23 languages representing 23 people groups LifeWord will expand their gospel footprint into.

Through the LifeWord Network (our global partners and team members) and the LifeWord Cloud (lifeworld.org) the gospel is now being shared in 60 languages, in 123 countries and to an audience of more than two billion people.

LifeWord Sunday 2019 on October 20 is an opportunity to partner with your media ministry by helping your church learn about, pray for and give to the unique ministry of LifeWord.

For more information about how to do that, call Lauren at 501-205-1127 or e-mail her at lauren@lifeworld.org.

Ways to Help Your Church

- Congregate**
Hebrews 10:25
- Cooperate**
Psalm 133:1
- Compensate**
Malachi 3:8-10
- Concentrate**
2 Corinthians 10:5
- Consecrate**
Galatians 6:17
- Congratulate**
Acts 5:42



NEWS BRIEFS



Ohlman Baptist Church, Bunker. We failed to mention last month that Sis. Juanita May had to have a total knee replacement on her right (driving) leg in August. While she was unable to drive for several weeks, she is now happily back out doing all of the things that she loves to do. Our Wednesday night youth program continues to be a blessing to all who attend. It takes several workers, including bus drivers, kitchen workers, worship leaders and teachers to make each week go smoothly. But it is worth the effort! I was reminded of this one day when I had stopped at the Bunker Dollar General and the clerk's little boy was there. As I was checking out he said "Hey I know you, from church." I responded back, "Yes, Wednesday nights." He just smiled. I have to admit that I do not even know his name since I primarily work in the kitchen serving food and do not get to interact with the kids much. The lesson learned though, is that they are watching us no matter where we are, plus it made me feel blessed to know that even with the small part that I do, this little boy recognized me. Some of our older teens have not been coming. Our prayers are that they will start to come back. Bro. and Sis. Sisk are gradually moving in to the parsonage. The church voted to allow him to upgrade and update the parsonage as his time allows. However, after the first couple of weeks he was down with severe pain in his back and leg, missing one Sunday service and missed driving one of the busses on Wednesday night. He contacted Bro. Les Cantrell from Sikeston to come fill the pulpit that Sunday morning. With assistance from the members in obtaining various medical and physical supplies (like a walker, back brace, etc) he has led in services since. As of this report he seems to be on the mend, hopefully for good. Our brotherhood has resumed meeting on the first Sunday evenings and our WMA meets monthly with ladies from the community coming for our Bible Study portion. Our ladies also meet for lunch at some of the local restaurants one day during the last week of the month, inviting others to join us. It was good to have a surprise visit from Bro. Terry Sharpe one Sunday this past month while he was here visiting his son. He has found a new church home in Conway, AR and we wish him continued blessings from God as he adjusts to not having Sis. Gay with him. We hosted the Logan Creek Association 5th Sunday singing, which is always a good time to fellowship with sister churches and enjoy worshiping through music. Troy Sisk, Pastor • Janet Widger, Reporter

Great news of the Gospel from **Stony Point, Mineral Point!** August 18th the church baptized and gave the hand (and hugs) of church fellowship to our newest sisters in Christ; D.J., Brenda, Emmalou and Morgan. We love them all and vow to stay close to them as they begin their walk with the Lord. Also, the same day Stony Point held her annual homecoming with Bro. Wayne Gibson bringing the message. Needless to say, it was a great day in the Lord! September 6th & 7th we had 8 ladies attend the Ladies Retreat in Arnold. September 22nd the church participated in the Walk for the World. Sis. Jo Gillam constructed a scavenger hunt with items and clues from Bible stories. The 23rd, 24th and 25th Stony Point was in revival with Bro. Dustin Wisely as evangelist. It was great to worship and fellowship with so many folks from our sister churches. As a heads up, Heaven's Echoes will be in concert at Stony Point on October 13th beginning at 6:00 p.m. Come join us in praise and worship of our risen Saviour, for He is worthy!

Claude Evans, Pastor • David Hughes, Reporter

Greetings from **Ozark Heights Missionary Baptist Church, Potosi.** We hope this letter finds you doing well and in the com-

forts of Gods grace! We have had a busy couple of months coming into Fall, but are looking forward to our Fall activities! We will be gathering with White Oak Grove October 5th for the Walk Of Faith at 5 p.m. We also have our monthly WMA Bible Study October 16th at 7 p.m. and our monthly Brotherhood Bible Study the 17th at 7 p.m. If you would like to join us for any of these. We have been continuing our Sunday morning study through the Book of Acts and would love for you to come join us anytime! We are blessed to report two baptisms over the past two months. Praise the Lord for his faithfulness! I hope you all have a blessed month!

Sola Deo Gloria
Brian Kingston, Pastor

Greetings to all from **Bethel, Sikeston,** God continues to bless our services with new visitors each week. Bro. Nolan McElroy left for college on the 11th. We will surely miss this young man as he did an awesome job running our sound system for quite some time. We are thankful that he taught his sister, Samantha, to fill that position while he is away. She is also doing a great job! We are so thankful for our youth as they step up to take on a service that is needed. We are also proud of Sis. Mattie Bolen as she does an awesome job filling in for Sis. Connie Bolen when her and Bro. Mike are ministering in the prisons. We are praying for many churches to take part in our Life Chain October 6th at the intersection of Main and Malone Streets in Sikeston from 2:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. The 29th we observed the Lord's Supper during the evening service. It was such an humbling service. Bro. Billy has been doing a Bible study on Wednesday nights on 1st John, which has been a real blessing. Bro. Gary Lindsey came forward on the 15th and made a profession of faith. He had been doubting his salvation and needed

peace about it, so everyone prayed with him. He requested to be baptized and was baptized the following week. It takes a lot for a person to come forward like he did after professing salvation the 12th of October. The 5th will be a work day for us to do a more thorough cleaning here at Bethel. Sis. Keely Bolen does an excellent job of cleaning every week but every once in a while we have to dig a little deeper to get rid of clutter that builds up. The 5th of November we are having a singing here at 6 p.m. The group featured is "Rivers Edge Ministry" and everyone is invited to attend. We would love to see you here! Bro. Joe McElroy has put an invite event on his Facebook page so you can go there for information if you are interested. Please pray for Sis. Marcia Nimmo and family as she has been struggling with cancer for quite some time. We are praying for all of our sister churches. God bless you all!

Billy Davis, Pastor • Joan Wood, Reporter

Greetings from **Lower Doe Run, Ellington,** to all our Sister churches. It was an encouragement to have visitors again this month. We praise God for each and every one. It was also encouraging to attend and participate in the 5th Sunday Singing at Ohlman and to welcome their new pastor and his wife into the Logan Creek Association. We are so happy for them and for the Ohlman Church. It is also joy to fellowship with the Thurmans and Mt. Olive Church from Salem. We are looking forward to the State Association meeting at Bethel Church in Sikeston. We also anticipate a great fellowship with the Cane Creek Association in the Walk of Faith or Walk for the World! We plan to hold a youth event, with roasting hot dogs and marshmallows and a hayride this month. We want to express our thanks to our community helpers and first responders with a Thanksgiving Dinner on December the 14th at our church. God Bless.

Melvin Meade, Pastor • Carolyn Meade. Reporter

Greetings from **Briar, Doniphan!** Things at Briar M.B.C. seem to just be getting better and better! Our God is such an AWESOME God! Last month you may remember me telling you about the young lady (Sis. Lexa Larmore) being saved. Well this month it is with great joy that I am happy to report that both young ladies that went to camp were baptized and are now members at Briar. Sis. Lexa is the grand-daughter of Sis. Rebecca Larmore and has attended Briar most of her life. Sis. Kenzie Roberts, grand-daughter of Bro. CH and Sis. Janice Colburn of Bethlehem M.B.C. was our DIT at camp this year. Sis. Kenzie has been attending for over a year but

• Continued on Page 4 •

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FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS • September 2019

Checking Account:

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|----|----------|---------------------|
| Balance August 31, 2019 | | \$ | 32,787.79 |
| September Receipts: | | | |
| Missions: | \$ | 1,432.70 | |
| Total Income: | \$ | 1,432.70 | \$ 1,432.70 |
| Total Available | | | \$ 34,220.49 |
| Disbursements: | | | |
| Director, Salary | \$ | 650.00 | |
| Supplies | \$ | 13.17 | |
| BMAA (Matt Barker) | \$ | 200.00 | |
| Committee Expenses | \$ | 624.43 | |
| Total Disbursements | \$ | 1,487.60 | \$ (1,487.60) |
| Balance September 30, 2019: | | | \$ 32,732.89 |

Bank of America Savings Account:

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|----|-----|--------------------|
| Balance August 31, 2019 | | \$ | 1,101.02 |
| Interest: | \$ | .02 | \$.02 |
| Balance September 30, 2019: | | | \$ 1,101.04 |

Investment in BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----|-------------------|
| Balance August 31, 2019: | \$ | 104,560.00 |
| Interest: August 31, 2019 | \$ | 592.98 |
| Balance September 30, 2019: | \$ | 105,152.98 |

Total of all Funds September 30, 2019: \$ **138,986.91**

From Our Director...

I am looking forward to our annual meeting which will probably be over by the time most of you receive this issue of the paper. We are looking forward to another year God's blessings on the BMA Churches in Missouri.

Please join me in praying that this coming year will be a year of growth and advancement among our churches and pastors.

The recent disappointments we have experienced in our Missions efforts should challenge us to work harder, pray more expectantly, and look forward with great anticipation! Remember, God knows what is best and knows what we need, so let's trust HIM more each day.

Thank you for your love and support and prayers as we have labored together and as we look forward to doing more for the Master and see His work increase in and through us.

Meramec Association Report

Editor's Note: I appreciate Bro. Mike Hearst for sending these notes and helping us know what is going on in one of our associations. All local associations are encouraged to keep our readers informed by sending notes to the editor whenever you have things to report.

The Meramec Landmark Baptist Association held its annual meeting at White Oak Grove Baptist Church, Potosi, MO Friday, September 20, 2019. Len Young, until most recently the Pastor of Lakewood Baptist Church, Potosi, MO, preached the annual sermon.

There were 11 churches represented by messengers and total of 18 church represented by letter.

A petitionary letter was received from Bates Creek Baptist Church, Potosi, MO, which was represented at the meeting by their Pastor, Brian Buckley. This church was welcomed into the Meramec Association and the hand of fellowship was extended to their pastor.

Association officers for the association year ending in 2020 were elected as follows:

Moderator - Ben Kingston
Assistant Moderator - Brian Kingston
Clerk - Johnny Dover
Assistant Clerk - Mike Jarvis

John Parker of First Baptist Church, Bourbon, MO was elected to preach the annual Message in 2020 and Josh Wright of New Testament Baptist Church, Sullivan, MO was elected as the alternate.

Dr. Charley Holmes gave a report from the BMA Seminary in Jacksonville, TX.

A written report/letter was read from the Reaching and Teaching International Ministries.

The messengers voted to accept the invitation from New

Testament Baptist Church in Sullivan, MO to host next year's annual meeting.

The meeting was suspended in session to allow the Missionary Committee to meet and conduct its business. At the conclusion of the Missionary Committee meeting the Association reconvened and approved the action of this committee which involved the following:

Approval of 5 recommendations.

1. Re-elect Bro. Johnny Dover as Treasurer of the Meramec Missionary Committee/Revolving Loan Fund.

2. Elect Bro. Mike Jarvis as Assistant Treasurer.

3. Continue the Association's support of Bro. Jamie Haguwood's participation in the Reaching and Teaching International Ministry another year with the Meramec Association matching up to \$4,800 of offerings made by Meramec churches.

4. The Meramec Association institute a School of Prophets for pastoral and discipleship training for young, new, and current pastors. Bro. Jamie Haguwood is to be the coordinator and the Meramec Association will budget up to \$200 for each training event.

5. Ben Kingston be given authority to make arrangements for a Renewal Retreat.

Approval of Treasurer's Report.

There is \$ **182,777.96** in the missions fund and \$ **59,918.66** in the Revolving Loan Fund for a total of \$ **242,696.62**.

Election of Officers.

Missionary Committee Officers were elected:

Moderator - Brian Meade
Assistant Moderator - Brian Kingston
Clerk - Michael Hearst
Assistant Clerk - Mike Jarvis

Acceptance of Invitation.

The **Westview Baptist Church of Jefferson City** offered to host the mid-year missionary committee meeting scheduled for **February 22, 2020**.

Once the association reconvened more business was conducted.

The messengers approved an offering \$5,000 be given to the BMA Seminary to help with upkeep on their buildings and grounds.

Ben Kingston gave the Meramec Encampment Report noting that as of August 1, 2019 there was a total of \$18,704.14 in the Meramec Retreat Center fund.

Brian Kingston was elected to the camp committee for an unexpired term ending 2020, and Kevin Smith was elected to the camp committee for a term ending in 2021.

Ben Kingston gave the Youth Alive report. The Student Conference will be December 29-31, 2019 at the Doubletree in Chesterfield, MO. There is a balance of \$ 8,054.29 in this fund.

Jim Ainley was elected to the Youth Alive Committee.

Ben Kingston gave a report on the Renewal Retreat which is tentatively set for the last weekend in March 2020 at Camp Garwood.

A motion and second was approved to send an offering of \$1,500 to the Missouri BMA Baptist paper.

Following a report by Pastor Josh Wright, of New Testament Baptist Church in Sullivan, about a mission they sponsor in Leyti of the Philippines, a motion was passed to give an offering of \$ 4,800 to New Testament Baptist Church to help with a new roof for this mission and another motion was passed to authorize up to \$7,500 for at least 3 Meramec Association pastors to accompany Josh Wright on his next trip to the mission point in the Philippines.

Josh Wright was elected to the Advisory Committee to a term ending 2025.

The 2020 annual meeting of the Meramec Association will be September 25, 2020.

• **NEWS From Page 2** •

until recently didn't see the need for being baptized a second time and becoming a member of the church. Because of Bro. David Grubb recently having knee surgery the church authorized Bro. Russell Chitwood of Black Creek M.B.C. to baptize these sisters in Christ. Please keep these 2 young ladies in your prayers and for God's guidance on their lives. These 2 ladies were a part of a group of 9 who were able to attend the WMA Ladies Retreat at the beginning of September. Everyone who attended the retreat is already making plans to go back next year and bringing more of our ladies with us. We are also happy to announce that we have licensed Bro. Matthew Green as he accepted the call into the ministry. Bro. Matthew is ready and willing to do whatever the Lord has for him to do. October 19th our Youth in Harvest will be meeting at Pine-woods 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. Part of the band of Central Collective, will be joining us. Bro. Matthew Green will be bringing a short devotional before the walk begins. Everyone is invited to come and join in. If you can't join us in person, please join us in prayer. It was such a blessing to be able to attend the Cane Creek Annual Associational Meeting and to hear what has been happening in our sister churches this year and to hear the wonderful messages from Bro. Dale Fish on Friday evening and Bro. Ernie Cate on Saturday morning. May God continue to bless us all! Continue to pray for our country, our leaders, our Pastors and the churches without Pastors,

David Grubb, Pastor • Yvonne Hill, Reporter

Fall greetings from your friends at **Faith Baptist Church, St. Charles!** The month of September was our Missions Month, and while our focus this year was on home missions, we were also blessed to have two missionaries join us during the month. The first couple that came are familiar friends to most of our church family since they've visited with us before. Gary and Tammy Schwer are instrumental in the Hands Across The Border (www.handsacrossborder.com) ministry, bringing full Bibles and John & Romans to churches in Mexico. The last Sunday of September, Missionary to Brazil, Matthew Mooberry and his lovely family joined us for the whole day. We enjoyed his message from I Thessalonians 5:18 *"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."* He reminded us that trials and difficulties are going to come: they came for Jesus, and all the Godly men of

the Bible, so they will surely come in our lives, too. He broke down the verse for us and one of the points was that we are to give thanks IN everything, not AFTER everything when we can finally see God's hand in the situation! While we were very thankful to have missionaries visit our church family, we were also focused on our home mission field of Saint Charles. Every Wednesday evening during Bible Study hour, the youth went out to neighborhoods around the church and prayed for each house. They left door hangers on the doors just to let the people of the house know they had been prayed for and if they had any specific prayer requests, they could reach out to our church. September 18th, the adult Bible Study went out to do the same thing. The goal was to reach all the houses within a mile of the church building, and we came very close to reaching everyone! As a church family, we are looking forward to Autumn with our Community Picnic and annual Chili Contest (Oct. 12th). Faith's anniversary as a church is in the month of October, too. We hope and pray that all of our sister churches are doing well in the LORD!

Justin Arender, Pastor
Annaliese Wagner, Reporter

Greetings from **First Baptist Church, Potosi**, to our brothers and sisters in Christ. One

of the major events was getting to hear Bro. Donnie Parrish present information on LifeWord Media Ministries. It is beyond comprehension the vastness of this ministry. Our "Walk" will be around the church this year October 27, after the pastors' appreciation luncheon. Our GMA has begun working on steps again and preparing a missionary study. Also, they are preparing gift shoe boxes for the Indian Reservation children. Fall Community Groups are continuing their study of Matthew 5. We have added new members by baptism and by church letter. Our Celebrate Recovery ministry receives new people every week who have different kinds of hurts, habits, and hang-ups. It is a Bible-based twelve-step program that focuses on God as the answer to those hurts, habits, and hang-ups. The scripture base is Matthew 5 and the program helps a person depend on God for the answers and help needed. We share supper at 6:00, Worship and large group at 7:00, small group at 8:00, and dessert at 9:00. Bro. Kevin and the COW group hosted a community youth fellowship at the end of "See You at the Pole" day. Sometimes it is difficult to keep up with everything that is going on at the church. Some of us have lost loved ones this past month, and some have loved ones who have been ill. The flu season has already begun; it will really begin after the cool weather this coming weekend. Please pray for us as we pray for you. I love reading what is going on at our churches and I wish more would submit articles.

Jim Ainley, Pastor
Deborah Rauhut, Reporter

HELLO to all from **Oak Hill, Alton!** We hope and pray that everyone is healthy and well going into Fall. The month of September came and left at a fast rate of speed. It will be the New Year before you know it. *"Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year; and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor; that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."* James 4:13, 14. Time does not wait on anyone. The only event we have planned in October is our Walk-of-Faith Fish Fry and it is the twelfth at 5:00 p.m. We will have Catfish, French fries, hush puppies, chicken strips for people who do not like fish or for any other reason and we will have a lot of other dishes and desserts. Everyone is welcome to come and eat with us. We also set a goal of \$1,000 to help spread the gospel. 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

Why Denominations And Networks Matter

by Andrew Hébert

Reprinted from Baptist Press (www.baptistpress.com)

Many younger pastors often feel two interesting and competing impulses. First, there is a growing sense that denominations aren't that important. Second, there is a strong desire for relationships with others in ministry and a willingness to participate in affinity-based networks.

Traditional denominational membership and involvement has declined over the past few years, and yet at the same time new networks have emerged and grown quickly. I think this reveals both young leaders' eagerness to connect with other pastors and churches and also their desire for those networks to be meaningful and effective. In other words, young leaders are willing to participate in denominations and networks so long as they see the value in them.

As a Southern Baptist, I have seen the good, the bad and the ugly in our particular network of churches. We are in many ways like a large (sometimes dysfunctional) family. And yet

I continue to cooperate denominationally. I see value in partnership with other churches.

Here are five reasons why denominations, conventions, associations, cooperatives, collectives, networks and other affiliations matter:

1. Theological identity.

Denominations are inherently confessional. There is something powerful when a group of churches say together in unity, "This we believe." It says to those inside and outside the denomination what it is that brings these particular churches together.

My children and I love to eat sugar-filled cereal in the

mornings. My wife prefers healthy cereal that tastes like cardboard. I'm thankful for cereal boxes that clearly label what kind of cereal is in the box. Because of the label on the box, I know what product I am getting.

Denominations are a way of identifying the beliefs of a certain group of churches -- a way of identifying what's in the box, so to speak. Labels, however much our post-modern culture hates using them when it comes to theological boundaries, are a clear way of being identified as believing X, Y or Z.

This is helpful for those who are trying to decide which church to join. Theological commitments distinguish groups of churches from one another. Clear confessional statements are also helpful for churches and pastors because they make it easier to identify with other churches and pastors of like faith and practice. They help the church at large avoid divisive disagreements about theology because those who are in the denomination or network already know what each other believes about the fundamentals of the Christian faith and the particulars of denominational identity.

2. Missiological partnership. There's an African proverb

• See **WHY Page 7** •

From the Hales...

Open Doors in Round Rock

One of our 4 core values at *Starting Point* is loving people. We describe that by saying “we sacrifice to serve all people for their good and God’s glory.” It’s been amazing to see the doors God has opened for living that out, especially within our local Round Rock school district. We don’t have space to share about all of them but here are a few examples of what we are talking about.

Forest Creek Elementary told us that they really wanted to encourage their staff this year. We were able to find out their favorite Sonic drinks and celebrated the last day of August with them by getting drinks for all the employees at the school. We are planning on doing many more “we love you” activities there throughout the year.

Callison Elementary wanted to do something special to reward their students for exceptional behavior. We got together



Partnering with a donut shop to give 500 sweet rewards to kids

with the local donut shop and were able to provide the school with 500 certificates for free donuts to hand out to kids throughout the year.

Then, Caldwell Heights Elementary told us one of their biggest concerns is the

growing lunch debt some students have that forces them to only be able to get a cheese sandwich for lunch. We worked out a solution that hopefully will allow every child to have the same choices at lunch regardless of what their family might be going through at the time.

Our goal is to run through every door God opens for us to love people like He does. Those doors don’t open without prayer, so thanks for praying!

Jesse & Rebecca Hales • Round Rock, Texas

Master’s Builders Continue to Bless With Their Labors

The Master’s Builders arrived in Smithville, AR, on the weekend before Labor Day, to begin work at Stoneridge Baptist Camp. We were asked to help in building a house for the Director of the camp. Scott and Myrtie Small were needing a bigger, more substantial house for them and their family. This was our 4th time to help at Stoneridge, and we were all so excited to be a part of helping build this house.

The house is 28’ X 60’, on a pier and beam foundation, 3 bedroom and 2 bath, with siding on the exterior. There were 17 Master’s Builders who worked on the project, at different times, but there were also many others who came to lend a hand. Some of the volunteers were Mike Shelton, John Travis, James Harmon, Mike Booth, Sonny Lingenfilter, Paul White, and of course, Scott Small! He is a man of many talents and a real “go getter”! He and Myrtie prepared 2 meals a day for the workers!! If you’ve never met this sweet couple, you’ve missed a great blessing. They are SPECIAL!

This was job # 163 for The Master’s Builders. We plan to be in Cranall, TX, to begin work at First Baptist starting October 14. If you are in the area, we love to have you come by and visit with us.

If you have questions about our ministry of if you church has building needs, contact Office Coordinator, John Mangum at 318-202-5155 or (cell) 318-607-4100, or Field Coordinator, Eddie Sikes, at (903)725-6549 or (cell) (479)462-1675.

Nelda Malone, Reporter

“The Curse of Christianity Today Is . . .”

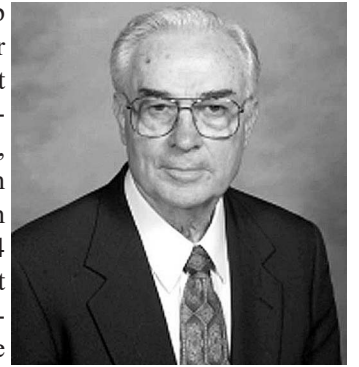
“The curse of Christianity today is that vast numbers of members of Christian churches have never been saved! Their hearts are in the world and they love the things of the world. This mixed multitude has always hurt the testimony of the church.” H. A. Ironside, Pastor of the famous Moody Church in Chicago, world renowned evangelist and author of over 50 books, made this comment in his Lectures on Acts, which was published in 1943. Do you think what he said was true? I do. And I think it’s even truer now.

I think that during the 76 years since Ironside wrote the above, evidence in massive proportion has accumulated and continues to accumulate supporting the conclusion that very many, and probably most, churches today (and I refer specifically to those considered Bible believing, evangelical, etc.) have become inundated by the “mixed multitude.” I think it is painfully and shamefully obvious that most members of Christian churches have their hearts in the world and love the things of the world more than ever. I think the “curse of Christianity” as Ironside called it is still “that vast numbers of members of Christian churches have never been saved.” And, I think that only churches suffering from Laodicean blindness brought about by their own worldliness can fail to see this (Revelation 3:17). As the old proverb says, “There are none so blind as those who will not see.”

The predominating spiritual and moral atmosphere in churches all across our country is like that in which the prophet Ezekiel lived when God said: “Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not; for they are a rebellious house” (Ezekiel 12:1, 2). The reason for the situation in

Donations Sought For Scholarship to Honor Bro. Grover Laird

An Endowed Scholarship in the name of Bro. Grover Laird has been established at the BMA of America Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas. This has been done with the approval and cooperation of Mrs. Ester Laird and their 4 daughters and the leadership at the BMA Seminary. Funds collected will be invested with the interest earned each year providing the scholarship funds.



The scholarship will be awarded annually to a BMA minister who reflects the example and values that Bro. Laird reflected during his over 70 years of ministry. The amount of the scholarship will be based on need and funds available each year.

We are asking individuals, pastors, ministers, and churches of the BMA and friends of the Lairds, to donate to this worthy cause. As of this writing we have received gifts from individuals, ministers, friends, and churches.

Seminary President Dr. Charlie Holmes said the following about Bro. Grover Laird:

“When I began traveling for the BMA Seminary over 25 years ago, I often was preaching in Mississippi, Arkansas, and Texas. One name that kept coming up over and over was that of Bro. Grover Laird. My observation was that he was the most beloved preacher of the Gospel in his home state of Mississippi. A preaching scholarship in his name at the BMA of America Theological Seminary would be a blessing and a challenge for young ministers to live up to the legacy that Bro. Laird established through his faithfulness to the Word of God.”

We are asking for a one time donation to fund this effort. Your help will honor Bro. Laird’s ministry and continue his legacy by helping other preachers prepare for ministry.

Donations should be sent to the address below and made payable to:

BMA Theological Seminary
Grover Laird Scholarship
- Mail To -
Don Brown
P.O. Box 8181, Laurel, MS 39441

All donations will be acknowledged and under the management of the BMA Theological Seminary

Don Brown, Editor Mississippi Baptist Paper • John 3:30

Ezekiel’s day is explained in chapter 22 as the fault of the priests and prophets. This explains much of why we are where we are spiritually today. The mixed multitude, the unsaved, and those church members “who have their hearts in the world and love the things of the world” are not only filling the pews, they are filling pulpits too. And until people are able and willing to open their eyes and see things as they really are, nothing will change — But it will get worse.

Jesus spoke to a gathering of people one day, and said of some of them: “For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.” But to others there that day He said, “But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear” (Matthew 13:15-17). **Into which of these two groups do you fit?**

C. R. Curtman via *That We May Know*

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

What the GMA Program Can Do For Your Church!!

To those who are concerned:

My name is Lydia Dunlap and I am writing on the behalf of the National GMA program hoping to provide you with information on what this program could mean for your church!

Girls Missionary Auxiliary, or GMA, is a discipleship program for girls in the 4th - 12th grade. This program provides a Christian environment where "counselors" (any godly lady in your church) can mentor girls and where any girl can come to be mentored. GMA has coursework where girls study, memorize scripture, participate in service projects, learn about missionaries, and interact with our current BMA missionaries.

Big or small, old school or modern, country or city, your girls need Jesus, and GMA is a great way to show them Scripture, love, and the plan of salvation.

As a girl who has gone through 8 years of the program so far, I have seen incredible growth in so many lives. Girls without godly role models can find their support community in their GMA counselors, and ladies can find God's call to pour into young girls. This program teaches how to follow the example of the Proverbs 31 woman, the women heroes of faith, so much more! This program has led many girls to Christ and on to places of service.

If this is sounding like a fit for your church and your congregation, you're in luck because starting a program for your church is really simple!

First, you must have willing ladies who are ready to arm girls with the Word of God. Second, you much have girls who are willing to give up an hour or so a week to learn more and dig deeper into Gods Word. Third, you can visit <https://nationalgma.org> to find more information and print lessons for the girls. It's really that easy! Maybe you have more questions; that's OK! You can contact our National GMA Promoter Lane Flynt at lane.flynt98@gmail.com.

As an organization, GMA has district and state chapters so you and your local group are not alone. You are part of a sisterhood of believers. The national chapter invites you to come be a part at our National Camp at Daniel Springs Baptist Camp in Gary, Texas, each June. You can plan to come and get more information at camp about growing your local GMA program. We hope to see all of you there, and if you have decided to start a program, or want more information, please reach out to Lane Flynt (lane.flynt98@gmail.com).

Over 32,000 Shepherd's Bags for 2019 on Three Continents!

by **Fonda Norris**, EIM Shepherd's Bag Ministry™ Coordinator

I know I use this statement all the time "Well, God did it again!" when referring to what He has accomplished and continues to accomplish with a small, one-gallon zip loc bag when it's used for His glory and the preaching of the Gospel. But I'm going to have to say, "Well, God did it again!" Literally. Officially this week EIM has completed the second Shepherd's Bag shipment for 2019. It's amazing!

I reported back in March of this year that we had over

Maybe YOU Can Help??

Your editor received the following inquiry recently and thought some of our readers might be able to help Sis. Sandra (Asberry) Burk get the information for which she is searching.

"I am working on family history from Ellington, Missouri. I attended my grandparent's (Claude and Pauline Rayfield) church, Skyline Missionary Baptist Church, on the outskirts of Ellington for many years with my parents, Elva and Wilma Asberry, when we visited on weekends. It no longer exists, but I was hoping there were some historical records in the BMA with information I could get. It was last pastored by Sterling Chitwood's father, who was a circuit riding preacher. If I could get information on who to contact for any historical records of that church, I would appreciate it."

If you can help her in any way please contact her by e-mail: skburk@gmail.com.

15,000 Shepherd's Bags that Bro. Tim Tyler from Water For Christ picked up and we coordinated together for shipment to Ghana, West Africa. We continued to work throughout the summer and this week we finished up our last assembly work day and we now have 16,000 Shepherd's Bags completely finished, boxed and stored in the EIM shipment warehouse waiting to get paperwork started. These 16,000 Shepherd's Bags will be going to the Philippines to be used to open hearts and doors to Jesus. An added bonus was we had enough leftover supplies to assemble 1,000 Shepherd's Bags for a mission's construction crew to take to Mexico. For 2019 that makes over 32,000 Bags that are going to three different continents to bless children and add to God's Kingdom. Well...Wow and Amen! Many times we are only able to complete one shipment but it was like God seemed to smile and bless us abundantly this year beyond anything we would ask or think. Many of you know, 2019 has been a hard year full of sickness, heartache, and grief for the EIM family. But God proved Himself over and over and stayed faithful to the cause of the Gospel in spite of it all. The work was hard and it was long but it's worth it.

Pray with us as we prepare to start on the logistics of our upcoming overseas shipment to the Philippines. That God would continue to work on our behalf and clear the way for this Shepherd's Bag shipment to get into the hands of boys and girls and open their hearts to Jesus.

Rest? No way. Inventory has been done and we are currently working on plans for where our next campaign will go and even plans for the Year 2020. From the beginning of the Shepherd's Bag Ministry™ in 1999 until now, we have always worked 12 months out of the year as long as we have funds to put together shipments. Thank you to all who have been faithful to pray, encourage and financially support EIM and the Shepherd's Bag Ministry™. It seems inadequate but without you as our partners we couldn't purchase and assemble bags to fill these shipments. Your heart for children and your love is packed into each and every bag.

Statistically for every three bags given out, one person accepts Christ. Only God knows if that's true and for all I know it could be more. That's His business. He called EIM to be faithful to go and present Jesus and that's what we do. Besides, statistics are boring. Right? Give me stories! I love stories of what I see on the field or hear from others about how the Shepherd's Bags Ministry personally touches the lives of people. So I'll leave you with a story. I titled it: **"Maybe the Wrong School is the Right School on God's schedule. A Shepherd's Bag Ministry™ Story."**

This summer a Shepherd's Bag Ministry™ Mission Team traveled with EIM to the coastal town of Omoa, Honduras to preach and give Shepherd's Bags to the children. During the week the schools that our EIM Director had scheduled for us to visit were all along the coast but one day we took a turn up a dusty, narrow gravel road more fit for horses than vehicles and headed up into the mountains. This isn't unusual as many of our schools are in the mountains but for a coastal area it was quite different from what we had been experiencing in our travels. It took a very long time, but we finally arrived

at the school. Many children came pouring out. One of the children at this mountain school was a beautiful little special needs girl. She was very talkative and was very excited we were there. We always invest a little extra time if we can in special children in honor of Bro. Rocky's special daughter Mitzi. We made sure she had a front row seat and spent a lot of time with her while there. The team really loved on her. The Gospel was presented before we gave the children their bags and several villagers were gathered and heard the message as well. Several gave their lives to Christ. It wasn't until later that we learned that we actually went to the wrong school because it had the exact same name as the school we were supposed to go to along the coast. That explained the long trip up into the mountains. Now according to our schedule we made a mistake and went to the wrong school. But I have to ask myself, "Was this the right school on God's schedule?" I think I can answer "Yes." He never makes mistakes and sent the team on a divine appointment that only Heaven will reveal His purpose. We openly saw God work in the lives of people yet we believed we were in the wrong area. I love it when God intervenes in our schedules and sends us to those He deems important. They are known to Him. They are loved.

Thank You, Heavenly Father; that You love lost sinners enough that You'll send us up high into the mountains to tell them about You even if we thought we went to the wrong school!

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

Matters of Indifferences

Romans 14:1-23
by Dennis Baker, President BMAMO Brotherhood

In Scripture, Christian conduct can be divided in two categories. **The first category:** The Bible is very clear concerning how the Christian is to conduct himself. For example, obeying the laws of the land, paying taxes, paying debts, and being honest. The believer should avoid drunkenness, strife, committing adultery, murder, stealing and jealousy. **The second category** concerns areas where the Bible has no clear direction, there is no right or wrong. What may be right for one person may be wrong for another individual. Some recent issues dividing churches is the use of tobacco, women wearing pants in church, dressing casual in church, styles of worship, the type of music used in worship services, and KJV version Vs. other versions. In some churches some of these things may be right and in other churches they are wrong.

In "Matter of Indifferences" there are two extreme viewpoints. **One viewpoint** has no wall of separation from the world. They go where the world goes, their lives are carbon copies of the world, they spend their time and energy in activities that have no spiritual value. **The second extreme** reduces the Christian life to a series of negatives. They become self-centered, very critical, and very proud. The text provides three guidelines concerning conduct relative to "Matters of Indifferences."

First, the Christian must "be fully persuaded in his own mind, V5." In "Matters of Indifference" every believer should have the conviction that they are right and that what they are doing is for the Glory of God. Each individual has the responsibility to make sure that he makes Christ the Lord of his own life and let Christ worry about what the other fellow is doing. The Lord taught Peter this valuable life lesson when He

advised him to follow Him and not worry about how God was going to use the life of John for His purpose, John 21:15-22.

Second, every individual believer must determine for himself whether it is right or wrong to engage in "Matters of Indifferences." The text asks the question, who is right? Both the individual that eats meat offered to idols and the individual that does not eat meat for conscience reason, give thanks to Lord. In this case there is no right or wrong; it is not what is on the table, but what is in the heart of the individual. The greater principle is that Christian conduct is not gauged by the foods we eat, but by the fact that our lives are committed to Christ.

When it comes to "Matters of Indifference" cannot dedicated believers disagree without being disagreeable? God does bless people we disagree with. Let us learn the truth that our first responsibility is to let Jesus Christ be the Lord of our own lives and permit Christ to deal with His own servants as He wishes.

Third, Vs 13-23, shifts the emphasis from the master-servant relationship to relationships with other believers. When believers disagree concerning "Matters of Indifference" the way the issue is handled should build up each other in the faith. The actions of Christians concerning "Matters of Indifference" can cause others to stumble or even destroy others. The principle to be learned is that possessing knowledge that something is right must be balanced by love. The stronger Christian has knowledge, but if he does not practice love, his knowledge will harm the weaker Christian. The Stronger Christian can reassure and comfort the weaker brother that it is ok to let go of fears. The goal of knowledge is to help the weaker person to grow in the faith. Conscience is strengthened by knowledge. But knowledge must be balanced by love; otherwise it will tear down instead of building up.

Concerning "Matters of Indifference," a believer's decision should consider his own obligations, his Christian brother's good, and God's glory. Do I have a strong conviction that what I am doing is for the glory of God? Will my self-indulgence grieve God and hinder others? Am I willing to refrain from certain actions for the Glory of God?

• **WHY From Page 4** •
that says, "if you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together." Put another way: We can do more together than we can apart. This is a basic principle of denominationalism. Denominations afford churches the chance to work together in common endeavors such as theological education, missions, church planting and disaster relief.

As a Southern Baptist, it is a privilege to partner with over 47,000 other churches across the country. We pool our resources in a giving system known as the Cooperative Program. This allows us to plant new churches around the world, fully fund thousands of North American and international missionaries through our mission entities, and train thousands of future pastors and ministers through our seminaries. The Southern Baptist ecosystem also facilitates cooperative partnerships between churches at a local and a statewide level.

3. Ministerial training. Denominations often create various avenues for ministerial, theological and practical training, including institutions like colleges, universities and seminaries, as well other pathways. Whether through conferences, coaching or formal education, pastors and others often find that some of the best theological and ministerial training in the world is available through their denomination. In the Southern Baptist Convention, training is available through denominational colleges and seminaries, national entities and state conventions. Personally, I benefited from attending a college affiliated with my state convention and then a Southern Baptist seminary.

As important and as helpful as that training was, I have found training provided through my state convention and other national entities to be just as helpful. In fact, I found that training provided through the convention often had a practicality to it that was sometimes lacking in

• See **WHY** Page 8 •

October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

HONOR YOUR PASTOR
Honor your pastor this year by ordering an engraved brick with his name on it, and perhaps your church's name too.

Your engraved brick will become a part of "Heritage Walk" at BMA Seminary, and will line the walk in front of Dorman Memorial Chapel.

To find out more, email alumni@bmats.edu, go to bmats.edu/heritage, or call 903-721-0622

*When you place your order, let us know if you want a certificate for presentation on your "appreciation day"

• **WHY From Page 7** •

more formal institutional settings.

Conversely, training provided through our formal institutions provided expertise and depth that I greatly appreciated. Taken together, my denomination has been a tremendous source of training both for me as a pastor and for the laypeople in the congregations I have served.

4. Pastoral accountability. Denominations have the ability to provide a broad-based network of support and accountability for churches and pastors. This sometimes takes place through formal means, such as when a denomination disassociates from a church for a theological or functional reason. Sadly, this hasn't been done frequently enough. However, the framework exists within voluntary networks to be able to enforce membership standards.

More commonly, denominational accountability takes place informally. If a pastor is erring theologically or personally, the pastors around him can admonish, rebuke, challenge, encourage, pray for and approach him both with a level of concern and agreed-upon intentionality that would not be there without a mutual commitment to be bonded together in a relationship.

5. Ecclesiastical fellowship. Ministry is tough. It is often lonely. Denominations allow pastors and churches to have an avenue of fellowship that often doesn't exist otherwise. Pastors can draw strength and encouragement from one another. Churches can enjoy the broader unity we share in Christ as we fellowship together. Whether it's a group of local pastors meeting for lunch every month or larger groups of churches or pastors meeting together for annual gatherings and meetings, God often uses these opportunities for fellowship to renew, refresh and reinstate us.

Together, churches that come together demonstrate to a watching world the power of the Gospel to reconcile and unify people and churches. Denominations can be a source of frustration at times, but they also can be a tremendous blessing. They allow us to embody the spirit of Ecclesiastes 4:9-12: *"Two are better than one because they have a good reward for the efforts. For if either falls, his companion can lift him*

up; but pity the one who falls without another to lift him up. Also, if two lie down together, they can keep warm; but how can one person alone keep warm? And if someone overpowers one person, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not easily broken."

We are truly better together.

Searching for Pastors

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 Johnson. Phone 573-210-3700

Editor's note: The contact information for Pleasant Grove was incorrect as listed in the September issue of the paper. The information above is correct. My apologies for this mistake.

Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church in Plumerville, Arkansas is seeking a senior pastor. Resumes may be sent to mpmbcoffice@gmail.com or mailed to Mt. Pleasant, 896 Hwy 92, Plumerville AR 72127.

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.

Allan Wilkerson of Potosi is available for pulpit supply or as the Lord leads. Contact him at 573-210-2978 or allan.wilkerson@yahoo.com

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 bkadams27@yahoo.com or by phone 217-779-9264

Denver Page, a member at Landmark, DeSoto, MO is available for preaching as needed. (636) 942-3503

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

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.

Fight or Flee!

In I Corinthians 10:7-10 we are told to stay away (flee) from sins that are so popular today, these are: (1) Idolatry - worship of the "stars" or other "heroes." (2) Fornication - freedom of sex, pre-marital sex, adultery, homosexuality, etc. (3) Tempting God - making no attempt to take care of ourselves. (4) Murmurs - in this age we have so much, yet complain more.



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