

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

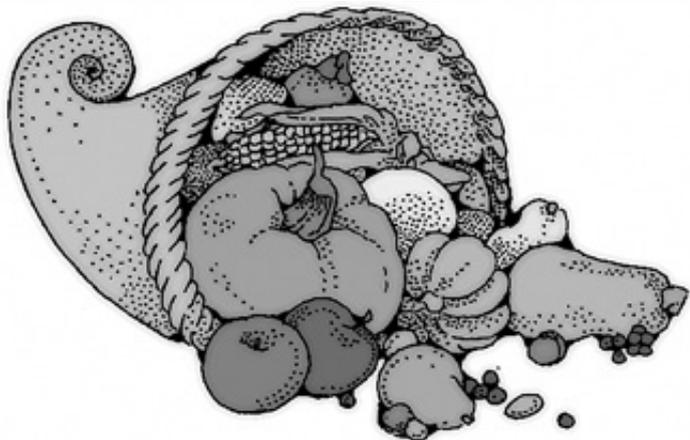
“Holding Forth The Word of Life”

Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXXII

St. Louis, MO • November 12, 2019

Issue No. 11



Giving Thanks.....

Cornucopia comes from the Latin cornu copiae, which translates literally as “horn of plenty.”

Even though its origin is questionable, it first appeared in English in the early 16th century and a century later it developed the figurative sense of an overflowing supply.

In I Thessalonians 5:18 we are admonished “*In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*”

As we enter the Thanksgiving Season each year we are reminded that we have every reason to give thanks to God all year around and can show that thankfulness through our words, actions, attitude, service, love for others, and many, many other ways.

God is our “Horn of PLENTY” and we should Thank Him every day!

May each of you have a Reviving Thanksgiving that will last until Jesus comes!

Winter Curriculum Available!



You can NOW begin ordering Bible Study Material for the winter quarter. The packing slip that comes with your order is

now your bill. We no longer send bills separately. It comes with your order saving money and makes things more simple. For the first time in 10 years, there has been an increase in the number of churches who are ordering BMA Bible Study materials! This fall, 80 new churches ordered the Baptist Expositor curriculum! We have reached a place

2019 Annual State Meeting

by Don Burke, Association Clerk

October 12th forty-four messengers from fifteen churches of the BMA of MO gathered in Sikeston for our Annual Association. This meeting was earlier in October than our previous meetings due to Bylaw changes made last year.

Bethel Baptist Church and Pastor Billy Davis were gracious hosts for the Association’s 92nd annual meeting. After a morning devotional from John 14:6 by Bro. Troy Sisk, Moderator Ben Kingston called the business meeting to order.

Two churches re-petitioned into membership with the Association – New Testament at Sullivan, and Friendship at Caseyville. We welcome these congregations back into our fellowship.

Messengers approved the recommendations from the Special Missions Committee to amend the Association bylaws related to Associational officers (see September Missouri Missionary Baptist), and to purchase liability insurance for the Association. This policy combines the present insurance for Camp with additional coverage for other areas of the Association. Payment for the new consolidated policy will be divided as follows: 60% paid by Camp, 20% by Missions, and 20% by the Loan Association.

Other missions-related business included sending \$3,000 to the BMAA Seminary (Jacksonville, TX), and continued support for Bro. Matt Barker in Nixa, MO. (Note: Since the meeting Bro. Matt Barker has resigned the work in Nixa.) See article on page 3.

The messengers also approved the Loan Association transferring the interest they receive this year to pay on the Camp Garwood loan. This will amount to approximately \$900.

New committeemen elected to the various committees included:

- **Alive Committee** – Bro. Brian Buckley (term ending 2023)
- **Publications Committee** – Bro. Jim Ainley (2022)
- **Encampment Committee** – Bro. Joe McElroy (2024)
- **Special Missions Committee** – Bro. Ben Kingston (2026)

Additionally the following were appointed by the moderator:

• **Resolutions Committee** – Bros. David Griggs, Billy Davis, Gary Longstaff

• **Enrollment Committee** – Bros. Russell Chitwood, Dan Wisely, Matt Bolen

where we can say that finances are stable and praise the Lord for this growth!

If you or your church did not order curriculum from Baptist Publishing House this fall, won’t you think about starting right now? It’s time to begin ordering for the study of Luke for Winter 2019-20.

This curriculum is not just for the Sunday School hour! It can also be utilized in other formats, such as small groups, family worship, personal devotionals and shut-in ministry!

*The
Baptist Publishing House Team*

Minute Fund offerings (including those received to date after the annual meeting) have totaled \$2,380. Note: this is approximately \$500 short of the estimated \$2,900 needed for the coming year. While this shortfall can be covered by funds already in the Minute Fund, churches should consider increasing their future offerings in order for this fund to remain in the black.

Bro. James Hoffmann announced his upcoming resignation as Missions Director and Editor of the Missouri Missionary Baptist, effective at the end of this Associational year. Both Missions and Publications Committees will be working to secure replacements, with the goal of presenting candidates at the 2020 Semi-Annual Meeting in the spring.

The annual sermon was given by Bro. Tom McCanless, highlighting the Illumination, the Inspiration and the Revelation of the Word. The sermon was followed by a wonderful meal prepared by the host church.

2020 Meetings

Missions Symposium and Mid-year Association - New Testament, Sullivan.

Annual Association - Zion, St. Louis.

Applications Being Accepted For Two State Association Positions

The BMA of MO will be seeking to fill two Departmental Director positions in the coming year – the Director of Missions and the Editor of the Missouri Missionary Baptist Paper.

Both positions are part-time. Interested applicants can send a resume to the Association Clerk along with a cover letter including the position(s) applied for and any other pertinent information. Resumes will be accepted through January 1, 2020.

**Don Burke, Association Clerk
PotosiPastor@gmail.com
704 Valley Road • Potosi, MO 63664**



NEWS BRIEFS



Happy Thanksgiving from **Bethel, Sikeston!** We are thankful for this beautiful fall weather. Turnout was good for “life chain” despite the windy and rainy weather! We had on rain gear and held our umbrellas while holding our signs, which was a little tricky but we managed very well. Some of our signs were turned back in with ragged and torn edges, but we had plenty more to replace them. Standing in the rain was worth it all if just 1 person changed their mind about aborting the precious little life they are carrying. We had a good turnout for the association meeting here and our ladies served a wonderful meal! Bro. Billy and Sis. Donna took a much needed vacation. Bro. Les Cantrell filled the pulpit Sunday morning and Bro. Tom McCanness filled it Sunday evening October 13th. What a blessing they both are and both brought very inspiring messages. Wednesday evening, Matthew Stafford came forward, gave a profession of faith, requested baptism and expressed his desire to join the church. He was gladly accepted and baptized that evening. Everyone rejoiced as they gave him the hand and hugs of fellowship and welcomed him into our fellowship! The 27th we had a luncheon after the morning service to express our appreciation for our pastor and his wife during pastor appreciation month! We are so thankful for our pastor that stands for the truth of God’s Word, not adding to or taking away from it. He is a very compassionate man that cares for his flock! Our special singers, “Rivers Edge Ministry” will be here November 5th at 6:00 p.m. We look forward to a good time of fellowship and great singing!
Billy Davis, Pastor • Joan Wood, Reporter

At **Ohlman Baptist Church, Bunker**, October came and went! Pastor Troy Sisk, Juanita May, Angel May and Janet Widger attended the BMA of MO meeting at Bethel in Sikeston, the 12th. Our Wednesday night youth program is continuing. It seems that quite a few of the older teens are having to miss due to school activities but the younger kids are still coming and having a great time. Pray for Bro. Gary and Sis. Glenda Morgeson in the recent passing of his mother. November 3rd we had lunch in honor of Bro. and Sis. Sisk in recognition of “Pastor Appreciation.” That evening we had a



Pastor & Wife Appreciation at Ohlman

guest speaker, Bill Sutton. He was saved as a teenager at Ohlman, is now retired from the US Navy. He works as a lay person telling others about Christ through Recovery Unanimous in the Philippines. He and his wife are here on “vacation” as he speaks to groups about this program.
Troy Sisk, Pastor • Janet Widger, Reporter

We, at **Ozark Heights Baptist Church, Potosi**, hope all is well and you are having a blessed week as we roll into the Thanksgiving time of year! Things are well here. We are in

the middle of the Book of Acts on Sunday mornings and Sunday evenings we are studying the New Hampshire Confession of Faith. In our midweek services the adults are studying the Book of Ruth while our young kids and youth ministries continue to meet! We would love for you to come join us if you are looking for a church home or just passing through and want to give encouragement to the Church of the Lord!
Brian Kingston, Pastor

Hello again from **Bethany Baptist Church, St. Louis**. What a difference a day makes in the weather! We had a few snow flakes this morning. I guess this is God’s way of showing us He is still in charge. We have been blessed in many ways and we should not forget them. Sis. Tiny Blanchard needs our prayers as she is still trying to overcome her health problems. She is sure a blessing to our church. We are still praying that our congregation grows and with God’s help I feel sure it will. Sis. Ella Beeler seems to be much better. Our prayers are that with Gods help she will still continue to progress. Bro. and Sis Hoffmann are a blessing since they are back, although, they are not present every Sunday, due to other duties. Bro. and Sis, Boatright are sure a blessing to our church. We still have a few visitors and hope they will continue to come. As God leads us, may we all be very thankful that we are still able to do what He calls us to do. May God be with each of you and remember all of us need His care.
Tim Boatright, Interim Pastor
Betty Johnston, Reporter

Bates Creek Baptist Church, Potosi, enjoyed wonderful Homecoming services. There was also a special time of enjoying fellowship together this month by attending a Newsboys concert and going out to eat. There will be a revival at our

church starting Wednesday, November 13-15 at 7 p.m. each night. Bro. Bryan has invited 3 different men from Bethel to preach. Bro. Ben, Bro. Brad, and Bro. Tom will each preach one night. Be in prayer for each of them and come join us if you can. We enjoyed hosting our largest turnout for Trunk or Treat yet. We had several families participate in the photo booth and several families that were returning visitors. We are estimating around 80-100 people came through during the evening. Pray for the impact that Bates Creek can continue to make in our local community and pray for the revival services. We will be praying for the work in your churches as well.
Bryan Buckley, Pastor • Sara Buckley, Reporter

Greetings from **Lower Doe Run Baptist Church, Ellington**. It’s been a great month. We have had visitors attend that have been on our prayer list for months. Praise God! The day for Walk for the World couldn’t have been better. Of course it was good for us as we kept our 3 year old great granddaughter for the weekend. She walked all the way around the lake in the jungle, with her stick that kept all the snakes away! At the pavilion she met and played with new friends. Later in the day at the church, it started misting rain about the time we started the wiener roast before the hayride. It stopped about as fast as it started. We appreciate our neighbors with their huge tractor and trailer full of bales of hay. After a very pleasant hayride we enjoyed hot chocolate with miniature marshmallows and gave bags of treats to each person present. The morning after the hayride as we were opening the church doors, a lady drove up! She had driven from Piedmont, hoping to find a friendly scriptural church. Since that day she has been present every service and even joined our ladies’ Bible study in Ellington every Wednesday afternoon. What a blessing! One dear sister had an emergency gall bladder surgery on Saturday and was back in services one week later with her daughter-caregiver. Another dear sister has moved back home from West Virginia, via Wentzville and we love having her in church. Continue to pray for our members. One deacon’s wife has serious eye problems and another slipped breaking four ribs. We will express our thanks to our Community Helpers and First Responders with Thanksgiving Dinner December 14.
Melvin Meade, Pastor • Carolyn Meade, Reporter

Stony Point Baptist Church, Mineral Point, says, “Hi! to everyone!” October 12th Bro. Claude and Sis. Bea attended the State Associational meeting in Sikeston. On Sunday October 13th. Bro. Jim and Sis. Lynn Roberds joined the church

• Continued on Page 4 •

The Missouri
Missionary Baptist
Established by the Baptist Missionary Association
of Missouri November 1937

The Missouri Missionary Baptist (USPS 355-500)
is published monthly by the
BMA of Missouri Publications Committee.
Subscription price is \$10.00 per year
176 Bear Creek Dr. Wentzville, MO 63385-3355
Periodical Postage Paid at St. Louis, MO 63155

POSTMASTER: Send address change to:
Missouri Missionary Baptist
176 Bear Creek Dr.
Wentzville, MO 63385-3355
James E. Hoffmann, Editor
Ph: 314-277-8644 • E-Mail mmbpaper@charter.net

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

STATE MISSIONS

SEND MISSIONS OFFERINGS TO:

James Hoffmann
BMA of Missouri Missions
176 Bear Creek Dr.
Wentzville, MO 63385
314)277-8644 Cell
E-mail: mmbpaper@charter.net

SEND MMB LOAN ASSOC. OFFERINGS TO:

David Griggs, Treasurer
405 Hoffmeister Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63125
Phone 314-631-2213
E-mail: david92951@aol.com

BMA of Missouri Website: www.bmamissouri.org

FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS • October 2019

General Fund:

Checking Account:

Balance September 30, 2019		\$	32,732.89
August Receipts:			
Missions:	\$	3,095.26	
Total Income:	\$	3,095.26	\$ 3,095.26
Total Available		\$	35,828.15
Disbursements:			
Director, Salary	\$	650.00	
Meeting Expenses	\$	332.86	
BMAA Seminary	\$	3,000.00	
Office Expenses	\$	99.99	
BMAA (Matt Barker)	\$	200.00	
Total Disbursements	\$	4,282.85	\$ (4,282.85)
Balance October 31, 2019:		\$	31,545.30

Bank of America Savings Account:

Balance September 30, 2019		\$	1,101.04
Interest:	\$.02	\$.02
Balance October 31 2019:		\$	1,101.06

Investment in BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund:

Balance September 30, 2019:		\$	105,152.98
Interest:		\$	0.00
Balance September, 2019:		\$	105,152.98
Total of all Funds October 31, 2019:		\$	137,799.34

From Our Missions Director & Editor....

To save space I am combining reports for the two positions I hold to help you understand a little more about what you read in the report on the Annual Association on page 1.

I had served as Assistant Missions Director for a few years when Bro. Danny Kirk was the Director. Following his resignation and move out of state I became the Missions Director in June of 2015. I became Editor of the *Missouri Missionary Baptist Paper* in the spring of 1988 following Bro. Jerome Cooper when he moved to a position with the BMAA Publications Department.

During this past year I have been praying about the need for me to resign these positions and in conferring with the committees of these departments I reached the decision that God wants me to serve through this associational year. Therefore I tendered my resignation of both positions effective September 30, 2020. This plan was accepted by the messengers at the annual meeting last month.

Some may ask, "Why resign so far ahead of the actual date the retirement will take place?" The answer is simply that I might be able to work with those who will be taking the positions (especially that of Editor) so they will be ready to assume their position well prepared October 1, 2020.

The committees are asking those who are interested in applying for either or both positions to turn in a resume to our association Clerk (Page 1) by January 1, 2020 and they hope to have interviews completed and recommendations ready to offer at our mid-year meeting in May 2020. Those elected in May will then learn what they need to know by spending some time with me before my resignation is effective.

If things go as planned, this is going to require some added

expense as we will need to pay some stipend to those who are elected and learning between May and October to help with their expenses in coming to my office to get prepared.

The funds are available for the Missions Director in our Missions Funds, but the MMB is operating on very limited funds and is going to need some help financially.

We will try to address that later.

Pray for God to lead these committees as they search for those who will serve the churches in these departments next year.

Pray for me as I try to wrap things up and serve as a tutor for those who are elected.

These are two very important ministries of our associated work and they both need our cooperation and support. I realize both ministries can use some upgrading with

Mission Support Worker Resigns

Hello from the Barkers, your BMA church planters in Nixa, MO.

My family and I want to start out by saying thank you! We have so much to say thank you for. Thank you for supporting my family financially, so we could help plant Refuge Church. Thank you for praying for my family for more than five years now! Thank you for your letters, calls, texts, surprise visits, and encouragement. Thank you for helping support our calling in planting Refuge Church in Nixa, Missouri.

In the last five years, we saw God move mightily in Nixa, Missouri. Refuge started meeting in the community center where we set up and tore down everything and loaded it back up on a trailer every Sunday. We outgrew the community center and started renting a storefront unit. Then, we outgrew our two storefront units and now have four units.

We spent countless hours of prayer walking. Refuge Church partnered with local charities to show the love of Christ and serve the community. We knocked on doors, handed out water bottles at community events and shared the gospel in the parks. We set up baby changing stations at various events to help families have a safe place to change their kid's diapers.

We saw many people accept Christ, rededicate their lives, baptisms, marriages healed, community relationships established, and so much more. All of that began with a single small group that met in a living room on Sunday afternoons. We currently have seven small groups meeting throughout the week at our church location and in homes.

My family grew so much in the last five years and God has continued to bless us immensely. Our second son, Chael, was born in Nixa and now attends preschool and he loves everything! Calix is 8 now and he loves school and soccer. Allison is now working part-time and is very involved in the community. I was elected to City Council and still serve as a Councilman for District II. God has opened doors with Nixa Public Schools and He continues to give me favor there. Currently, I am working for the schools as a 6th-grade teacher at John Thomas School of Discovery.

At this time, I believe God is instructing my family that our time is done at Refuge Church and that we need to step away. We do not know what is next for our family at this time, but I do ask that you continue to pray for my family. Pray that God would give us a clear direction of what is next. We are open to whatever God tells us to do, wherever God calls us to and we will be obedient again. Specifically, we are praying about planting another church or looking for a church that is in need of a pastor. I believe that this decision will happen in the next 6-8 months.

Thank you again! We could not have helped start this church without your help. We have absolutely no regrets as we step away after five years and look to where God will call us next! Our heart is to be obedient to Christ, make disciples and to spread the Good News!

In Christ,

Matt, Allison, Calix and Chael Barker

new ideas and methods and hopefully our new director and new editor will be able to lead us to greater things.

As an "association" we are to work together and can accomplish more in that way. As a member of that association we need to support its ministries through prayer and cooperation. We show our support by giving our time,

talents, and treasures to each ministry.

We have churches of all sizes and abilities in our association and we need to make sure the church we belong to is actively doing what she can to promote our ministries and participate in meetings that affect our work.

Thank you for letting me serve!

• **NEWS From Page 2** •

by letter and were given the hand of church fellowship. Also, on the 13th, Heaven's Echoes shared their God given talents in musical worship and praise to our Lord. We love them so much! October 19th saw Bro. Claude and Sis. Bea travel to Zion in St. Louis for the District Associational meeting. October 20th the church held a hayride and fall festival in conjunction with Pastor Appreciation. Everyone had a great time and the church had the opportunity to show our love to Bro. Claude and Sis. Bea. We know how blessed we are to have them! October 27th the church attended Judgement House in Potosi. Bro. Wayne Gibson continues to recover from heart surgery. Please keep him and Sis. Ruth in your prayers.
Claude Evans, Pastor • David Hughes, Reporter

Landmark Baptist Church, DeSoto, celebrated their 87th Homecoming on October 6th. We had a good day with lots of visitors for the morning service and the lunch. But not too many stayed for the afternoon singing. We were disappointed with that, but we sure enjoyed them and hugged a lot of necks while they were there. Bro. Wayne Gibson was scheduled to preach our morning message, but he had just returned from his stay in the hospital, so Bro. Crites brought us a good message. We've had three of our members grieving over the death of a close family member this month. Sis. Betty Harrison lost her sister, Mildred Horton to cancer. Sis. Debbie Gwaltney lost her husband, Gary, who had been very ill for at least the last year. Our young friend and member of Landmark, Wyatt Pinson lost his grandmother. We offer our sympathy as a church to each of those affected by these loses. The 20th, Bro. David Wright came and brought our morning message which was a challenge to us and that's what we needed. Continue to pray for us as we seek a pastor. There just aren't that many available at this time. We are getting God's blessings as we enjoy the beautiful fall colors. I continue to thank Him for the changing seasons, even the cold and the heat. Until the Lord's Return or Next Month,
David Crites, Interim Pastor • Sharon Page, Reporter

Lindsay Lane Baptist Church, Florissant, sends greetings to all. I hope this article gets to the editor. I hit the wrong button on my phone last month. No telling where the article went, so here goes!! September was a very busy month here at Lindsey Lane as our soccer and AWANA programs started again. Pastor Brian and Sis. Dawn took a week of vacation and Bro. Hoffmann filled in for him. It is always refreshing to visit with him and Sis. Mary. Our Fund Raiser for our youth was a success, thanks to those cooking and serving. Sis. Michelle is preparing our kids for the Christmas program. They are working very hard to share the true meaning of Christmas. Our men's FORGE Group meets the first Friday night of each month for food and fellowship. Our Saints Alive group meets the second Tuesday of each month. We appreciate all of those who are serving in the ministries here. Several folks met others in North County on Life Chain Sunday to take a stand against abortion. Now for October! We had our usual meetings along with a family hot dog roast on the 13th. LifeWord Sunday was the 20th with a special offering of \$730, and lunch after the morning service. October 31st was our fall festival and chili cook off! We love being about our Father's business and the fellowship it affords. Pray for us as we continue to serve in the Florissant area. God bless till next time!
Brian Meade, Pastor • Kathy Chapman, Reporter

Greetings from your friends at **Faith Baptist Church, St. Charles!** We kicked off fall with a Community Picnic. Often we've had a Fall Festival, but this year, it seemed more appropriate to have an event where more of our members could be free to visit with anyone who came out from the community.

It was great to meet some new people and be able to share God's love with them! Everyone seemed happy to be there, and members and visitors alike joined in the fun of the Annual Chili Cook off voting. This year, our Pastor's perseverance (and his amazing wife's great skill in the kitchen) paid off, and he won first place! This month, we're looking forward to our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner November 24th. It is our largest meal at the church each year because extended family members come to fellowship with us. (Of course, they're invited and welcome at all our dinners, but somehow the Thanksgiving meal is the biggest hit!) After service Sunday (November 3rd), the Christmas Tree came down from the attic so it can be set up. It's hard to believe we're already to that time of year again, but all the stores have been declaring the commercial side of Christmas for about a month! Some of the children's teachers have started inserting reminders into their lessons about the real reason we celebrate Christmas. Friends, isn't it so awesome to think when we read John 3:16 that God loved us so much that He gave us the ultimate gift: Jesus! While it's nice to think of buying presents for others this time of year, how much more wonderful to stop and reflect on the Great Gift that has been given to us and to share Him with those around us. We were reminded by our Pastor recently that we all know at least one person who is headed for a lost eternity in Hell. The man with the palsy had four friends who knew he needed Jesus and went as far as to uncover the roof to bring him to Jesus. What are we willing to do to bring our friends to Jesus? As always, we hope that this finds our sister churches doing well in the Lord. We know that many are dealing with physical sickness and suffering, and we pray for God's healing and comfort for those who need it.

Justin Arender, Pastor
Annaliese Wagner, Reporter

HELLO to All from **Oak Hill Baptist Church, Alton!** We are truly blessed to have members that are devoted to honoring their marriage vows to each other and the Lord! October 26th Bro. Tom and Sis. Evelyn Foster celebrated 62 years of Marriage. We have three couples that have reached 60 plus years of Marriage and two couples that are getting close to reaching that number. In October we had our Walk-of-Faith fish fry and had a great time of fellowship but our attendance was down. We are striving to reach our goal of \$1,000 to help spread the preaching of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. November 9th we are having our Hayride and Weiner Roast at 5:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come and roast a hot dog or two or a marshmallow and go on our Hayride. My brother, Jesse Williams Jr., is supplying the truck and trailer and Bro. Donnie Cooley is allowing us to use some of his square bales of Hay. Until next month when I hope I will have more good news about what God is doing in and through us. Until then we will be praising and honoring our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
God Bless each of you!!

Edward Casey, Pastor • Jennifer Williams, Reporter

Greetings from **Briar Baptist Church, Doniphan!** We are very excited about things happening at Briar! You may recall that our youth group, led by Sis. Lydia Blackshear, has been working on Christmas Shoeboxes for the Navajo Indians in Colorado. The 31st of October they left Briar heading for Colorado to hand deliver the items they have helped to make or purchase for the shoeboxes. By the time you read this they will have returned, but as I am typing this we are anxiously awaiting for their arrival back to us. So next month I will have more to relay to you about their trip. We would like to thank the following churches for their help and support to our youth: Friendship, Harviell, for both their funds to help with the trip and the items they also donated; Bethlehem, Doniphan, for their funds for helping with the trip; Black River, Qulin, who donated some of the Bibles to go in the shoeboxes; and Sis. Sharon Lourance, a member of Black River, who not only donated items for the boxes but also her time by accompanying the group on their trip. We give God the glory for all things! October 19th we attended the Walk for the World at Pinewoods Lake. It was a beautiful day provided by God. We were joined by some from 3 other Associations. There were



5 Pastors present: Bro. David Grubb, Bro. Russell Chitwood, Bro. Dale Fish, Bro. Chris Polk and Bro. Melvin Meade and 1 licensed preacher, Bro. Matthew Green. Bro. Blake and Sis. Deekota Wilson, part of the musical group of Central Collective also joined us. It was a wonderful time of fellowship. We look forward to God's continued blessings! Continue to pray for our country, our leaders, our Pastor's and the churches without Pastor's.

David Grubb, Pastor • Yvonne Hill, Reporter

*Each of us need to ask ourselves...
If every church member were just like ME,
What kind of church would my church BE?*

Central Baptist College Celebrates 20 Years of PACE With a 20% Discount

Central Baptist College President Terry Kimbrow has announced that the CBC Board of Trustees has approved a new student discount for the Spring 2020 semester of the PACE program to celebrate the program's 20th Anniversary.

"We have been anticipating the 20th Anniversary of PACE, which stands for Professional Adult College Education and wanted to do something as a way of celebrating this unique program. Offering a 20% discount for the 20th Anniversary of the program in the year 2020 to allow new students to experience PACE seemed like a great fit!" said Kimbrow.

The board approved the following language for the discount: "In commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the PACE Program (January 2020), we approve a 20% tuition discount for all first time entering, transfer, or readmit students to the PACE program for the Spring 2020 semester. This discount would be stackable with any other institutional aid they are eligible to receive."

"So many people have put their dream of obtaining a college degree on hold because they find themselves place-bound, working during the day, caring for a family or facing other obstacles that hinder their ability to go to college," said Dr. Gary McAllister, Vice President of Academic Affairs. "PACE can remove those roadblocks and give adults an opportunity to achieve their dreams. The time to enroll is now!"

Ryan Johnson, Vice President for Enrollment Management said that "the PACE Program began as a non-scholarship program with students being required to pay out of pocket for 100% of program costs. In recent years Central Baptist College has added multiple types of institutional aid available in the PACE program to assist students with covering program costs. This additional 20% discount should further assist students make their dream of beginning or completing a college degree a reality."

In addition to available state and federal financial aid programs, Central Baptist College offers a Veteran's Discount Grant, Ministry Tuition Grant, and BMAA Grant for students who attend a BMAA church. Most recently, the College has started a PACE Business Partner program where area businesses can partner with CBC to offer their employees a 25% tuition discount.

According to McAllister, the initial purpose of the PACE Program was to accommodate the educational needs of adults, which led to the development of a nontraditional program to assist them in completing their education. "Because of the flexible format of the degree completion program, adult learners, who found themselves hindered by a work schedule or other conflicts, could complete a Bachelor of Science Degree in Organizational Management by attending class once a week in

the evening for 18 months." Integration of new technology has further enhanced the flexibility of the program and kept it relevant in an ever-changing environment.

"Over the years, PACE has grown," added McAllister. "Although it began with just one degree program, it now offers 12 different degree programs in areas such as Psychology, Human Resource Management, Leadership & Ministry and Management Information Systems. Students can begin these programs with no previous college experience. They also have more flexibility. They can still come to class once a week, if they choose, or they can take advantage of the hybrid and online programs that we offer and complete their degree from home."

To take advantage of the one-time 20% tuition discount, first-time entering, transfer, or readmit students should apply for admission and complete the registration process during the Spring 2020 semester. There are four registration periods (blocks) for the Spring 2020 semester. The application deadline for the first block is December 6 with classes set to begin January 13. The application deadline for the second block is January 24 with classes beginning February 17.

To learn more or complete an application for admission visit cbc.edu/itsyourtime or contact the Admissions Office at 501-329-6873.

realize they can know and understand the Word of God and apply it to their lives!"

"I think both our women's and men's classes are enjoying it. The men say they really enjoy the depth of it. It has challenged my women's teacher. She's already become a better Bible student because of it."

It's time to order your Winter 2019 Bible Study Curriculum! BaptistPublishingHouse.com or call 800-333-1442

Food for Thought and Digestion!!

by Ben Kingston • Pastor Bethel Baptist Church, Lonedell, MO
Moderator BMAMO

For all the Dear Churches and readers
of the Missouri Missionary Baptist paper:

I hope this month's paper finds you doing well. I always desired to write a monthly article, but the months seem to come by every second week these days.

At our state meeting this year I was intrigued by an idea I would like to address just for the sake of argument perhaps, but certainly for clarity on how I believe we should approach church growth.

First, to be clear, this isn't a shot on any level at anyone. I called Bro. Troy Sisk to make sure he knew that this is not a criticism of his devotional. However, it was the devotional that sparked my interest in this article.

The subject is simply this: **are our churches still embracing the age-old cliché, "the message never changes but methods always do"?**

As I told Bro. Troy, and He agreed, I can't control what any other church or denomination does, but like every pastor, I can certainly have a say in what Bethel does and in what our Association gets involved!

I believe it is vitally important that we as churches stay relevant in our outreach methods to a lost world. As Paul states in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (KJV): "*For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.*"

For me, the fear is not what anyone else is doing that may be beyond the pale, but what have we done recently that could be called a 'new method' to reach the lost?

Now, let me quickly share that this can be a very frustrating experience. New doesn't always translate into successful. And just because it worked at Bro. John Doe's Church doesn't mean it will work at the Church I pastor. But with saturating prayer each Church leadership should seek out and be open to new avenues to reach new people for Christ.

Please let me be very clear: I am not accusing anyone in our association of being afraid of change. However, I am asking each church to ask the question: "what can we point to in the last year that we have done that is new to reach someone for Christ as a Church?"

I am not pushing a program, though there are some good ones. I prefer the word 'process.' Every process should involve these three elements when trying to reach the lost:

1. **Invite your sphere of influence.**
2. **Meet a felt need.**
3. **Share your faith succinctly and sincerely.**

May the Lord bless you in your endeavors to reach your world for Christ!

PS. One church growth analyst encourages you to stand in your auditorium and ask this question: "What year is it?"

I can tell you for sure that it is not 2019 decor in the Bethel auditorium. And yes, I hope to practice what I preach.

Thank you for reading this...

What People Are Saying About Baptist Expositor!

• "Definitely a fan! The content quality stands on its own. I'm excited to see what the curriculum brings out in regard to raising up students of the Word instead of students of curricula."

• "It makes it easier for me as a teacher to prepare and to do the lessons. My class praises it!

• "I appreciate the different levels which are built into it. It works well for our teachers."

• "I like the layout of the teacher's book. The content is superb. The options are helpful. I love it!"

• "I wanted to express my delight in the new curriculum. I teach a women's Sunday School class...I am so thankful for the Baptist Expositor. My desire as a leader is to see women

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

Who's at the Door?

How long has that been there? The building or the sign you pass every day but seldom notice. You know what I am talking about. Something that has been right there under your nose, and you haven't even noticed.

I recently began a study that touched the subject of covenant. I read a few commentaries here and there, looked up some

companion verses, learned some things about covenant and something happened — passages once familiar carried a new meaning when I looked at them through eyes of covenant! I started seeing covenant everywhere! I may have to write a book because there is just too much to grasp in 500 words or less.

The dictionary says a covenant is "a formal agreement or contract, a solemn and binding promise between two parties." The contract can be between two equal partners or between a monarch and

WMA of MO Annual Meeting

Ohlman Baptist Church • Bunker, MO
Saturday • March 7, 2020 • 10:00 a.m.

his people.

In our sinful society, the one thing we know for sure about promises is they are made to be broken. Even the most airtight, legally binding contract can be negotiated, changed, updated and invalidated. Depending on who negotiated the original contract and who initiated the proceedings, the contract could become worthless and void in no time at all.

The strength of a covenant rests, first and foremost, on the name in which it is introduced and proclaimed under. Every promise of a covenant and every condition of a covenant depends on who make the promises and conditions.

When God spoke to Moses and called him to be the mediator between Himself and the captives in Egypt, He introduced

Himself: "I am the God of your father — the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob" (Exodus 3:6). Still Moses asked for a name — the name which would be the foundation and the strength of the covenant.

In Bible times, when a man chose a wife, he would go with his father to the bride's family to begin the process of the marriage contract. The first step would be an introduction of sorts. He would knock on the door and when they asked, "Who's there?" the father would state his name and his lineage, his reputation found in the names of his most respected ancestors and their most important contributions to the world. Every promise to follow was staked on his name. "For the Lord will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake..." (1 Sam. 12:22).

How many times have I read the phrase "for His name's sake" and not seen the connection? Everything God does is built on His name and the promises He has made. He will do what He promised - not because I deserve anything, but because of His name.

Oh, and remember the father of the prospective groom standing at the door? When he finished introducing himself, he would then announce: "and with me is my beloved son..." and give his name. The name and reputation of the Son rested on the strength of the name of the Father. For the sake of the marriage covenant, they were one and they were coming to make an offer.

God the Father initiates a covenant relationship by knocking on your heart's door. He reveals His right to make the offer based on His name and His character and introduces His beloved Son. Why don't you invite them in and hear them out? You might find an offer you don't want to refuse.

A Sip From The Saucer • Valarie Fish
P.O. Box 66 • Emerson, Ark. 71740
dvfish@swat.coop
via Baptist Trumpet

2020 NATIONAL WMA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

APRIL 28, 2020
HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH
WAXAHACHIE, TEXAS



"Therefore...I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance."
Acts 26:19-20



SABRINA CLAYTON
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Sabrina Clayton is a talented vocalist and inspirational speaker for women's conferences. She lives in Fulton, Mississippi, has been married to Kevin for 41 years, and they have 3 children and 2 granddaughters.



SPECIAL MUSIC
Valarie Fish, vocalist/writer/speaker/ encourager lives in Emerson, Arkansas. She and her husband, Dale, have been married for 29 years, and have 3 sons (2 on earth & 1 in Heaven).

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Share the Vision thru Gospel Music



Judy Biggers lives in Springfield, Arkansas. She is a founding member of the Southern Gospel Quartet, Heaven's Echoes, singing lead for 36 years. She has been married to Gus for 38 years and they have 3 girls (2 on earth & 1 in Heaven) & 3 grandchildren. Judy desires to inspire everyone she meets with God's Word through song.

Share the Vision thru the Written Word



Diane Spriggs lives south of Little Rock, Arkansas. She has been the editor/business manager of the *Baptist Trumpet* for 14 yrs. She is a teacher and speaker (previously in WMA and GMA). She has been married to Pat for 53 years and they have 2 children, 3 grandchildren, and 1 great grandson.

Share the Vision thru Women's Ministries



Pat Quesenbury lives in Arlington, Texas. She is the founder of *Creative Living* (teaching seminars and Bible studies in the US and foreign countries). For 21 years, she directed *New Life Celebration* women's conference in Dallas. She writes a monthly column for the *Baptist Progress* and has authored 2 books (*The Feminine Touch* and *What's a Girl to Do?*) Pat and her husband, Coy, have 2 sons & 8 grandchildren.

Share the Vision thru Community Outreach



Kim Mobly lives in Moore, Oklahoma. She has been married to Mike for 32 years. They have 3 children and 1 grandson. She has been blessed to see God healing hearts through **grief ministry** for the last 20 years.



Penny Jacobs lives in Wayne, Oklahoma, has been married to Roy for 28 years, & they have one son. She has been involved with a **homeless ministry** at her church for 4 years and absolutely has a passion for this ministry.

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

**Application for Thanksgiving
From the Book of Psalms**

by Dennis Baker • BMAMO Brotherhood President

The book of Psalms is a collection of prayers, worship songs, and poems sung and spoke in public worship. They speak of the feelings of the author for himself and his people. Some of the Psalms were written for private worship but were later incorporated into the book for public worship. The individual Psalms were composed over several centuries for use in temple worship as an expression of the history and faith of the people of Israel. It is difficult to determine if the Psalms were originally intended to be used as a hymnbook, but the technical terms found in many of the headings of the canonized book show the Psalms were used regularly in the temple as a hymnbook.

The Psalms of Thanksgiving focus on individual or community crises. While there is disagreement concerning which of the Psalms should be classified as Psalms of Thanksgiving there is some agreement for the components generally

contained in the Psalms of Thanksgiving. Psalms of Thanksgiving usually contain some form that calls for worship, a statement why worship is appropriate, a deliverance from a crisis that causes praise, a vow to praise or make a sacrifice to the Lord, a statement of God's faithfulness, or confession of personal experiences.

The description of the crisis found in Psalms of Thanksgiving varies from detailed to vague, but include dreadful experiences such as being delivered from illness and the prospect of death, spiritual and emotional anguish, hostility and contempt by friends and enemies, banishment from home, and threat of war.

The importance of the

Psalms of Thanksgiving is that they involved the total community, whether among friends and relatives or in formal temple worship. As they shared their personal or community experiences of God's deliverance from crisis, they became a source of inspiration and reason for the individual to believe that God would accomplish personal deliverance in their own life. True worship comes as the individual makes a public witness of God's deliverance and strengthens fellow worshipers by sharing God's grace, Gratitude is being thankful for what God has done and sharing the joy with others.

It is interesting that noisemaking and shouting, Psalms 27:6, 31:11, 33:3; singing and playing of musical instruments Psalms 66:2, 71:22, 100:2; hand-clapping and dancing Psalms 149:3, 150:4 were expressions that the Hebrews used in praise and thanksgiving. The jubilant triumphant, and exuberant nature expressed in worship reflected the joy of God's deliverance from personal or community crisis.

As families and churches celebrate the national holiday of Thanksgiving let's share our personal crisis so they become sources of inspiration and reason to others that God can accomplish deliverance for them. May our reflection of God's deliverance be a call to worship, declaring why worship is appropriate. May our statement of God's faithfulness and a vow to praise the Lord reflect the joy of God's deliverance from personal or community crisis.

It's Popular to be LGBTQ!

by Anders Lee
via Mississippi Baptist

The times have drastically changed. When I was a teenager in South Mississippi in the 80's, it was taboo to talk about the promiscuity of the youth around us or the fact that one of them was "expecting." Today, teens use sexual terms openly in every day conversations, and one thing is abundantly clear in their dialogue — it's very popular to be gay or a lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender or questioning.

Our youth and college students today are facing an unprecedented effort by liberal news agencies, social media and their circle of friends to embrace the LGBTQ movement. They are being indoctrinated by the public on a massive scale, and this effort is invading the local church.

Here in Desoto County in the last month, Gracewood Baptist Church in Southaven ended up on the Memphis news when the pastor refused to marry two lesbians. One of them grew up in the church, and is the daughter of the chairman of deacons at the church. The two went to the media and made it their personal agenda to lambast the church and the pastor. The church has been under attack from without and within.

Saints QB Drew Brees, who is very outspoken about his faith, recently put out a video advising teens to "Bring Your Bible to School" and be open about your faith. Immediately, the LGBTQ group hit the internet saying he was a part of a hate group and was a bigot!

Youth in our church here at Central are taught in the Desoto County school district not to "bully" others, and the teachers have to include in the conversation that they must use sensitivity toward the LGBTQ group and not bully them. This group is steadily growing in our midst.

In our school district it is not an exaggeration to say "It is popular to be LGBTQ!" Any teacher would tell you that.

At school, they hear that they are to use cautious sensitivity; and at church, they hear clear standards and truth from the Word of God. Naturally, the conflict between the two institutions in their minds has to be solved — so there have been a lot of questions from our youth. That's understandable, given the fact that their minds are being loaded with information.

So how do we handle this issue in the context of our churches, and in particular in our youth groups? Let me admit that I

cannot begin to fully address this subject in one article, so my thoughts are not exhaustive, but here are some points:

• **We cannot ignore it.** — The LGBTQ movement is motivated to claim our culture. They are passionately pugnacious! Have you noticed? If we ignore it, we will get run over or passed up like an 80-year-old Grandma trying to drive 45 mph through Jackson Metro in a 1978 Ford Fairmont.

No, we have to be as aggressive on this agenda and others like this hot button issue, or our silence will be loudly heard by our youth. We can't afford to be apathetic!

• **We cannot simply state from the pulpit that it's wrong.** — Should we state that it's wrong? Yes, of course! But this generation craves facts! They are use to a high volume of information from multiple sources at once. They want more than "it's wrong."

As we have stated, they are being saturated by the media with justifications of sin and tolerance. The indoctrination process of the far left is impressive and well-orchestrated. If we only say it is wrong, we come over as simpletons, and they will tend to trust those who seem to be more educated on the issue.

We need to thoroughly and exegetically deal with the issue from the Word of God! It doesn't help the cause to simply get red-faced, spit, holler, wave our handkerchiefs and say it's wrong from the pulpit as the old deacon says, "Amen!"

I know many college students and older teens who appreciate and value informative apologetics! Which leads me to the next point...

• **We must be well informed to deal with it.** — If we are going to know how to teach our kids, we need to know what they are hearing and being exposed to from the other side. These are three examples of what our teens hear and see out there (there are more, trust me):

One, they are being taught that those who do not agree with the LGBTQ people, are "homophobic." That we (the far right, conservative Christians) actually hate their group. We don't hate them, we disagree with them. The Gospel itself will not allow us to hate those in sin. Our youth need to hear that disagreeing on principles does not translate into hatred.

Two, they are being taught that those who are not tolerant are "bigots." In doing so, they have aligned "sexual preference" with racial discrimination. They do so because they are teaching kids that homosexuality is not a choice (like race) but it is hereditary, that there is a "gay" gene in the human race. They also liken the far right with the "Old South" mentality and "backwoods uneducated religion."

Three, the LGBTQ movement has taken Bible passages and fully tried to explain "what God really meant." For example, they say God didn't destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because homosexuality itself was wrong, but because sexual indulgence with multiple partners was wrong and this was rampant in those cities. They further say that God is okay with a monogamous homosexual relationship.

There are multiple sources on the internet which "dismantle traditional viewpoints" of Bible passages that teach against homosexuality. Of course, we know their interpretations are erroneous!

All of this and more is out there... so get informed and be ready to give an answer!

• **We must allow our teens to ask questions and establish an open dialogue with them.** —

Recently, I saw on a Facebook page where a youth sponsor was bragging that this type of discussion was "shut down"

• See **POPULAR** Page 7 •

CBC Hosts Inaugural Scholarship Gala Announces \$510,000 Raised!!

Central Baptist College hosted its inaugural Scholarship Gala October 21. The black tie event featured keynote speaker, Governor Mike Huckabee, and was held at Legacy Acres



in Conway. The proceeds from the event benefitted student scholarships, and Central Baptist College President Terry Kimbrow announced \$510,000 had been raised to date through event sponsorships and private donations.

In his remarks, Governor Huckabee noted that "Central Baptist College is raising up leaders for the future that are not only academically prepared but also spiritually prepared." He acknowledged the night's financial contributors as supporters who not only lend their support to preparing students academically, but also preparing students to be moral leaders. According to Governor Huckabee, that focus on the spiritual is "singularly more important than anything [students] will learn in the classroom. It is all worthless unless they know Christ is the centerpiece of their lives."

The theme of the event was "Shine His Light" and the entire program focused on the mission and ministry of Central Baptist College which is "the integration of Christian faith and academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment." Highlights of the

event included the introduction of Governor Mike Huckabee by CBC alumnus Cody Hiland who currently serves as the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas; a

video produced by Lifeword specifically for the event that highlighted a dozen Central Baptist College alumni and the work they are doing all over the world to Shine Christ's Light; and a performance by the Central Baptist College Choir. Director James Turner, also a CBC alumnus, wrote an original song entitled Shine His Light, for the event.

In his announcement of the \$510,000 total that had been raised through this event for student scholarships, President Kimbrow acknowledged an anonymous matching gift of \$250,000, 35 table sponsors, and additional individuals and businesses who made contributions towards the total. "I am truly grateful for the generosity of so many. The Central Baptist College Board of Trustees, businesses in the Conway and surrounding communities, and other individuals who are such faithful supporters of Central Baptist College all came together to make this an unforgettable night for the support of Christian Higher Education."

Central Baptist College is a four-year, private, liberal arts college founded in 1952 by the Baptist Missionary Association of Arkansas. For more information visit cbc.edu.

• POPULAR From Page 7 •

and they wouldn't "stand for that" in their youth group. Listen folks... we should **want** our teens to discuss it with us since we know the truth! Not allowing discussion, or not having an open dialogue on subjects like this in our youth groups pushes them away from us and leaves them getting their information from faulty sources!

Perhaps this person wasn't informed enough and felt threatened by the youth who were.

• It's our job to disciple them and equip their parents to help them in this culture. —

Discipleship isn't just teaching them the Gospel, how to pray, what baptism means, what their spiritual gift is, etc. It's teaching and training them about how their Christianity translates into this culture and confronts the culture. It's helping them see that Christ in them delivers them from the erroneous segments of their culture. It's equipping them to engage their culture!

We can't fail them in this generation! It's our day to stand and disciple them and prepare them for the dark future ahead of them! (Sorry for all the exclamation points. Mrs. Kellar taught me better, but it's how I feel).

I hope the youth groups of the BMA will not shy away from this battle because it is a battle we cannot afford to lose!
(anders.lee571@gmail.com)

Maybe YOU Can Help??

Your editor is running this request one more time hoping 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 Mis-

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.

Missionary Furlough Plans

We will be home from the Philippines on furlough March to July 2020. There's no way to visit all the churches we would like, so we invite you to check with us if you would like a missionary visit and report at your church, VBS, association or other event. We will be based in three locations:

Jacksonville, Texas from March 23 - May 8

Columbia, Missouri from May 14 - June 1

Huntsville, Alabama from June 3 - June 25

Please e-mail me at stanmusical@icloud.com - My Philippine phone number is +63 908 894 6723 or I can also be contacted through [facebook messenger](https://www.facebook.com/messenger). I will have a US phone Number when we get to the States.

Stan & Donna Scroggins

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

Thanksgiving Thoughts

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them....

It is not HAPPY People who are Thankful....It is THANKFUL People who are Happy!

Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them is the True measure of THANKSGIVING!