

# The Missouri Missionary Baptist

“Holding Forth The Word of Life”

Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXXIII

St. Louis, MO • January 14, 2020

Issue No. 1

## BMA of the Philippines Disaster Relief Fund

December 2, Typhoon Kammuri brought damaging winds and heavy rain to the Philippines after making landfall in the Bicol region, about 240 miles southeast of Manila. The Category 4 storm affected approximately 250 families from BMA Philippines churches in that region. Widespread power outages have displaced storm victims and resulted in a lack of work that is affecting their livelihoods.

BMA Philippines and local BMA churches in Bicol are helping coordinate and carry out the response to the affected area. If you would



like to donate to these individuals and families in need of assistance you may give online at [bmamissions.org/disasterrelief/](http://bmamissions.org/disasterrelief/) (Designate “Philippines” in “add a message.”) or send to BMA Missions, P.O. Box 878, Conway, Ark. 72033. Thank you for your steadfast support of BMA Missions

### Organizational Service

Refuge Mission,  
Nixa, MO

will become

Refuge Church

January 25, 2020  
2:00 p.m.

• See more on page 3 •

### Annual State WMA & Brotherhood Meetings

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

See related articles: WMA on Page 6 • Brotherhood on Page 7

### BMAA Committee on Arrangements... It's Time To Make Reservations!!

The 2020 session of the Baptist Missionary Association of America will meet April 27-29 at the Farley Street Baptist Church in Waxahachie, Texas. The church and hotels are looking forward to our meeting there. Please make your reservations early. Call the local hotels directly to make your reservations. Local telephone numbers are included below. You must identify that you are with the Baptist Missionary Association of America. Also, when making your reservations, be sure to let them know you want rooms in the block for the BMAA that begins on April 26. Your stay does not have to include the night of the 26th, but that will make sure you get the BMA block rate.

The Fairfield Inn and Suites will serve as our headquarters hotel for the annual meeting in Waxahachie.

**Fairfield Inn & Suites, 2020 Civic Center Lane:** (Single/Double, \$135 per night, Rate Code: BMCQ; King, \$135.00, Rate Code: BMCK; King Suite, \$155, Rate Code: BMCX). Telephone reservations: 972-937-8886. Reservation cutoff date is March 15, 2020.

In addition to the headquarters hotel, additional facilities are available in the area. Following is a list of properties that have blocked rooms for the BMA meeting.

- **Best Western Plus, 1701 North Highway 77:** (Single/Double, \$119.99; Queen/King, \$129.99). Complimentary hot breakfast buffet daily. Telephone reservations: 972-938-1600. Reservation cutoff date is April 12, 2020.

- **Comfort Suites, 131 RVG Plaza:** (2 queen suite, \$109.00; King suite, \$109.00; for more than 2 people in the room, not including children, there will be an additional \$15.00/person

## WORLD MISSIONS DAY February 23, 2020!

by John David Smith

World Missions Day is a significant event for BMA Missions as churches around the association pray and give a special offering to support our partnership in global missions. Pastor, this year I am personally asking if you will lead your church to prayerfully support global missions on World Missions Day with a special offering. BMA Missions – Your PARTNER in global missions. In the New Testament we get a picture of the early church and a multiplication movement that was fueled by missionary endeavors supported through the partnership of local churches. Partnership is at the heart of our missions philosophy. Here’s how it works: Local Churches are both the source (sending) AND the goal (planting) of missions.



BMA Missions provides the assessment, training, and support missionaries need for effective global ministry. U.S. Missionaries spread the gospel, make disciples, and plant churches around the world. ChangeMaker Missionaries are the product of our missions partnership. They are local missionaries planting churches in their native countries. We want to be YOUR partner! Will you help us send more missionaries to develop more disciples and train more local ChangeMaker missionaries to plant more churches so more people will hear the gospel? Register your church for World Missions Day 2020 at <https://bmamissions.org/worldmissionsday/> and we will send your pastor a FREE rain jacket! (Read ChangeMakers story on Page 5.)

charge). Hot breakfast buffet daily. Telephone reservations: 469-517-1600. Use Group Code: BMAA. Reservation cutoff date is April 12, 2020.

- **Hampton Inn, 2010 Civic Center Lane:** (Double Queen: \$139.00; King standard, \$129.00). Hot breakfast daily. Telephone reservations: 972-923-0666, EXT 0. Reservation cutoff date is April 1, 2020.

- **Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 984 North US 287 Bypass:** (Single King, \$139.99; 2 Queen, \$139.99; King Suite, \$169.99). Use Group Code: BMAA 2020. Telephone reservations: 972-938-3300. Reservation cutoff date is March 1, 2020.

- **La Quinta Inns & Suites, 311 Stadium Drive:** (Standard room, \$104.00). Hot breakfast buffet daily. Telephone reservations: 972-937-5525. Reservation cutoff date is April 12, 2020.

All room rates quoted above are subject to all local taxes.

— Jerome Cooper, Bill Thornton, and Daniel Williams



# NEWS BRIEFS



Happy New Year from **Bethel, Sikeston!** We are starting the new year with the complete study of the Book of Revelation with Bro. Tom McCanless as our teacher. This started Sunday evening, January 5th and will continue throughout the month of January until it is finished. Our pastor and his wife, along with a few other members, went to two nursing homes on the 20th of December. We have members that reside in these two nursing facilities. We sang Christmas carols to them. Other residents came to listen and everyone seemed to enjoy it. We also got a huge blessing from it as we got to visit with other residents and put a smile on their faces. Our Christmas program was on the 22nd. It was a blessing to all! Bro. Matt and Sis. Keeley Bolen did an awesome job on the program, "What Child Is This," as well as all that had a part in it. After the program we had snacks in the fellowship hall. The 29th our pastor, his wife, and some of our other members went to Wendell Apartments to have our usual service with them from 4:30 to 5:30, then to our church for the evening service in which we observed the Lord's Supper. What a way to end the year!! God is Good!!

Billy Davis, Pastor - Joan Wood, Reporter

December was a fun but busy month at **Bates Creek, Potosi.** The WMA enjoyed a fun-filled Christmas party complete with a couple of visitors. Thanks to Sis. Connie for the devotional and games. The church also hosted a local community Christmas get together with good attendance and good fellowship. Bro. Claude Evans brought the Wreaths Across America to our church cemetery. A moving ceremony was held with good attendance. Thank you to Bro. Claude. The church Christmas program was held following morning worship. It was an awesome program. There was good attendance and visitors for this day as well. Have you noticed a theme? We continue to have visitors. People are still seeking God and a home church. Join us in praying for them. Finally, a special thank you to the Youth Alive committee and all of the sponsors that made the last 3 days of December an awesome worship experience for teens. Pray for all the teens that attended the conference that



they will continue to seek after God and put Him first. We will continue to remember your church and communities in prayer and we ask that you lift our church and community up as well. Bryan Buckley, Pastor • Sara Buckley, Reporter

January 2020! How can this be? Greetings once again from **Lindsay Lane Baptist Church, Florissant.** December was such a busy month. We had our Santa Alive Christmas lunch on the 10th with a good group. Lots of great food, fellowship and fun! December 22nd was our kids Christmas program and we were so blessed with their program with Sis. Michelle Shell directing. We were saddened by the Lord calling Bro. Al Cornett home on the 16th. But our hearts are glad knowing we will be reunited once again. Please keep Sis. Thelma and their family in your prayers. Our SWANS program is in

full swing and our adult Bible study on The Messiah continues. We have had a lot of illness with folks in and out of the hospital, but we continue to thank God for healing and blessings. We had eleven teens and sponsors attend the Alive Conference and came back with glowing reports of a great time of fellowship and learning how to lean on God's promises. Please pray for us as we serve in the Florissant area. May God bless. Brian Meade, Pastor  
Kathy Chapman, Reporter

Greetings and Happy New Year from **Landmark Baptist Church, DeSoto,** to each and every one reading this report. It has been a wild and sometimes a bumpy ride at Landmark this past year. We are grateful for those ministers who have helped throughout the year. Bro. and Sis. David Crites has filled many gaps for us and we have all learned to love and appreciate them so very much. We've been blessed by God's messengers bringing God's messages this month. Those were: Bro. Terry Sharpe, Bro. Brendan Sanders, (twice), Bro. Bryce Wilson and Bro. Crites. Thank you gentlemen for your help. We did have Thanksgiving/Christmas dinner on the 15th. We were supposed to have it the Sunday before Christmas, but things just didn't work out according to our plans. But it was enjoyed by all. We were able to take fruit baskets to our shut-ins and it was evident that they enjoyed them. The church also had a float in the DeSoto Christmas parade, thanks to some very hard working members of our church. We ended up not having service on the 18th, due to snow still not cleared off the parking lot and also dismissed on the 25th knowing that most would be spending Christmas with their families. Our men voluntarily bring devotionals on Wednesday evenings. They are well studied and we can relate to them in our individual lives. We

appreciate each of them so very much. I, personally want to thank each of you that reached out to us in the death of our daughter-in-law. Many of you got in touch with me via Facebook. My son was able to come up from Alabama and spend Christmas with us and his siblings which he wasn't able to do before due to Mary's restrictions on travel. We are busy searching for the pastor that God wants us to have. If we choose one and he accepts and it is not the one that God has prepared or is in the process of preparing for us, we totally understand that it just won't work. God's Way, not Ours. Until next month or the Lord's return, Sharon Page, Reporter

Happy New Year from **Stony Point, at Mineral Point!** Before the weather hit on the 15th, the church youth presented their Christmas program. We are thankful for the Lord working in these young lives and the effort they gave putting this program together. It was a blessing to us all. Also, on the 15th the GMA's were going to go caroling but weather prevented this. They did get to deliver cookies to 3 widows in the community. Barb Werley was received as a member of the church on the promise of her letter and given the hand of church fellowship. December 29th-31st Stony Point had 10 youth and 2 adults attend the Alive Conference in St. Louis Claude Evans, Pastor • David Hughes, Reporter

**Ohlman, Bunker,** reports that we flew through November and December raced past us too! The men of the church fixed breakfast December 15th as an outreach to invite others to attend church. Then the bad weather came. Only one scheduled meeting had to be cancelled due to the weather which caused the school districts to change their events. However, we were able to have a Christmas program with our Wednesday night kids December 18th. Sis. Juanita May planned a very simple program which involved all age groups. With only one prac-



tice, the kids did pretty good. Thankfully there were enough adults to assist in herding the sheep, the shepherds and the angels! It was great to see a FULL house on a Wednesday

• Continued on Page 4 •

## The Missouri

### Missionary Baptist

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**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](http://bmissouri.org)**

# STATE MISSIONS

## SEND MISSIONS OFFERINGS TO:

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

## SEND MMB LOAN ASSOC. OFFERINGS TO:

**David Griggs, Treasurer**  
405 Hoffmeister Ave.  
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Phone 314-631-2213  
E-mail: [david92951@aol.com](mailto:david92951@aol.com)

BMA of Missouri Website: [www.bmamissouri.org](http://www.bmamissouri.org)

## FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS • December 2019

### General Fund:

#### Checking Account:

Balance November 30, 2019		\$	33,487.99
December Receipts:			
Missions:	\$	<u>2,714.51</u>	
Total Income:	\$	2,714.51	\$ <u>2,714.51</u>
Total Available		\$	36,202.50
Disbursements:			
Director, Salary+Bonus	\$	1,300.00	
Website	\$	124.00	
Brotherhood Ins. •	\$	<u>15,860.87</u>	
Total Disbursements	\$	17,284.87	\$ <u>(17,284.87)</u>
<b>Balance December 31, 2019:</b>		\$	<b>18,917.63</b>

#### Bank of America Savings Account:

Balance November 30, 2019		\$	1,101.08
Interest:	\$	.02	\$ <u>.02</u>
<b>Balance December 31, 2019:</b>		\$	<b>1,101.10</b>

#### Investment in BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund:

Balance November 30, 2019:	\$	105,152.98
Interest:	\$	<u>596.35</u>

**Balance August 31, 2019:** \$ **105,749.33**

**Total of all Funds December 31, 2019:** \$ **125,768.06**

• **Brotherhood Insurance Note:** See "From Our Director" for an explanation about our Insurance expenditure.

## From Our Director...

**Happy New Year** from Mary and I. Thank you for allowing me to serve you in this capacity.

The time for receiving applications for a new Missions Director and a new Editor is now passed. I do not know who has applied for either position, but I ask you to pray for the Special Missions Committee and the Publications Committee as they interview applicants and seek God's leadership in making recommendations to the Association at our mid-year meeting to fill these positions.

**Explanation of Insurance Expenditure** in this month's Missions financial report. In our annual meeting in October, 2019, the messengers approved a recommendation from the Special Missions Committee to combine the Camp Insurance with the other liability policy we were carrying for the As-

sociation. This consolidation would reduce the overall cost of the two policies and the cost of the insurance would be shared among three of our entities in the following proportions: the Camp Ministry 60%, the Loan Association 20%, and Missions 20%.

When I contacted our insurance agent he told me that they would work on the consolidated policies and send us a bill for what we owed. It wasn't as smooth a transition as we thought and we had to pay some partial payments to keep our insurance in effect during the transition and when it was completed we had to pay the total premium for a year (as we agreed to make an annual payment) and there would be a reimbursement coming in a few weeks for the excess we paid. This was just a couple weeks ago and the financial report shows the total we paid out in December, but we are still

waiting on the reimbursement from the insurance company.

Bro. Baker and Bro. Polk have been very cooperative during this transition and are ready to reimburse Missions for their part just as soon as we know for sure what that will be. Hopefully we will be able to have everything straightened out by our next report.

The total premium for the consolidated policies should be between \$9,000 and \$10,000 annually and the overall coverage is better than what we previously had.

If you have any questions about this please contact me.

It is time to make plans for our **Annual Missions Symposium** which will be May 15, 2020 at New Testament, Sullivan. The next day, May 16th is the **Mid-year meeting** at New Testament. The **Annual meeting** will be October 10, 2020 at Zion, St. Louis.

**Please mark these dates!**

## Refuge Mission Organization

**January 25, 2020**, we'll be having a special service at 2:00 p.m. to celebrate the organization of Refuge Church.

We will use this time to praise God for all that He has done through the mission of Refuge Church and all that He will continue to do in the years ahead.

We want to invite you to come and be a part of this special time in the mission and ministry of our work! We also want to thank you for your continued prayers and support of all that God is doing in the life of the ministry here.

We know that many of the things we've seen God do have been made possible through the power of your prayers and generosity to provide the resources for the vision.

Our family and multiple other families have been changed forever because of your desire to invest in missions and impact the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Thank You!**

Missionary, *John Herring* • via The Baptist Herald

## First Quarter 2019-2020 Financial Report

### Kenneth Gibson Seminary Student Grant Fund

October 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019

Balance: October 1, 2019	\$	12,021.43
Receipts:	\$	<u>0.00</u>
Total Available:	\$	12,021.43
Disbursements:	\$	<u>(0.00)</u>
Balance: December 31, 2019	\$	12,021.43

## Furlough Plans for Missionaries

### Stan & Donna Scroggins

We will depart the Philippines for furlough March 19th. After a stop off in Los Angeles we will head on to Texas. It is still early but please contact us to visit your church, WMA, AWANA groups, VBS, anything we might could do to promote and help your church be better informed about BMA missions.

We plan to be based in the following areas:

- March & April with our daughter in Jacksonville, Texas
- May with our daughter in Columbia, Missouri
- June with my Mom in Huntsville, Alabama
- July with our Home church in Magnolia, Arkansas

It has been two years since our last furlough and we need to enlist about ten new supporting churches. Please consider inviting us to learn more about missions in Asia and the Philippines.

Contact us at:

- [stanmusical@icloud.com](mailto:stanmusical@icloud.com)
- on Facebook Messenger
- Texting +63 908 894 6723
- Facetime

## First Quarter 2019-2020 Financial Report

### Missouri Missionary Baptist Paper

October 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019

Balance: October 1, 2019	\$	2,756.90
Receipts:	\$	<u>3,393.68</u>
Total Available:	\$	6,150.58
Disbursements:	\$	<u>(5,362.84)</u>
Balance: December 31, 2019	\$	787.74

**Thanks for your support of this ministry!**

**Editor's Note:** Please note the First Quarter report above. Our income is just over half of what we need to operate and unless we receive **Special Offerings** this month we will be out of operating funds. **Please help** immediately if you can!

• **NEWS From Page 2** •

night with parents, grandparents and other family members attending. Bro. and Sis. Sisk, along with some of the men of the church have been busy upgrading and spiffing up the parsonage, as time allows in their schedules. Bro. Sisk is also staying busy getting acquainted with others in the Bunker community. We are looking forward hosting the Missouri WMA and Brotherhood March 7th and a revival in April with Bro. Scotty Rayburn from Mississippi.  
Troy Sisk, Pastor • Janet Widger, Reporter

Greetings from **Briar, Doniphan!** We pray everyone had a wonderful Christmas time with their families and friends. We were very blessed at our church with everyone who traveled, and had family traveling, had safe travels. My family and I were able to travel to Clarksville, TN to see my son and his family. As we got to Clarksville we noticed a billboard sign that read, "Jesus is the reason," and as we kept going we noticed small red signs along the road that read, "Christmas is all about Jesus." What a blessing it was to see all the signs confirming what we all know is the truth! Two of our youth, Sis. Kenzie Roberts and Sis. Nicole Hinton, attended the Alive Conference along with their sponsor, Sis. Lydia Blackshear. We have heard they had a great time but 2 came home with colds and/or sinus infections and 1 with strep throat. We are looking forward to hearing more about the good time they all shared together. One of our youth was unable to attend as she had surgery the week before Christmas removing a tumor from her stomach. The tumor turned out to weigh between 35 and 40 pounds. The biopsy came back as cancerous but praise the Lord; she is cancer free as they had removed it all with the one surgery. Miracles do still happen today! Prayer does work, and we do know the Great Physician! I guess this next topic should actually go in next month's letter but with it happening on New Year's Day evening it will be okay to include in this month. With our Pastor and his wife being gone to see one of their daughters and her family we chose to show a movie. The movie is based about a true story of a circuit riding preacher in the 1800's. The name of the movie is "Sheffey." One of our members made the comment that back in those days, sinners did come to church. But not today, in our times. So, we are thinking it is time we need to change up what we are doing. If the sinners won't come to us we need to take the gospel to them! Please be praying for us as we work on doing just that. Our youth are doing their part and now it is up to us older folks to do our part too. May God continue to bless us all! Continue to pray for our country, our leaders, our Pastor's and the churches without Pastor's.

David Grubb, Pastor • Yvonne Hill, Reporter

**Zion, St. Louis,** sends a Happy New Year's greetings to her sister churches. Hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and pray the richest blessings on you in this New Year. Everyone at Zion enjoyed the Christmas season. The ladies again participated in a cookie exchange. They also participated in a Christmas Advent challenge. Starting December 1st, we bought a food item each day so that by the 25th, we would have a basket or box with 24 items to be given to a needy family or to a food pantry. Each lady chose what she would do with her own basket. I must confess, I bought all the items at one time. It was such a blessing. I had the list and as I walked up and down the aisles and filled the cart, I would mark off the item and pray it would be a blessing to someone in need. We were also challenged by our WMA Bible Teacher to read a chapter of Luke a day, so that by Christmas, we had read the entire Book of Luke. This was also a blessing. We enjoyed our Christmas dinner the third Sunday. Some friends from Emmanuel joined us and we enjoyed their fellowship. We had also invited Berean to join us but because of the prediction of bad weather,

they were not able to come. There has been a few with health problems the past couple months, but they seem to be on the mend and doing better. Zion enjoyed hosting the 5th Sunday Singing with Emmanuel. We did miss Bro. David Griggs not being able to attend. Please pray for him as he is in rehab recovering from surgery. The first Sunday of the year Zion observed the Lord's Supper. Bro. Baker brought a wonderful message from Matthew 26 and 1 Corinthians 11 about the Lord Jesus instructing us to take the bread and the fruit of the vine as remembrance of his broken body and his spilled blood for the remission of our sins. Please pray for us at Zion. We desire to be busy doing the Lord's will. We are so thankful for our Pastor and wife. Zion is a small group, but each member is precious and so faithful. We desire your prayers and we will be faithful to pray for you. We are also thankful for Bro. Hoffmann and his service over the years as the Editor of the Missouri Baptist Paper and also serving as Missions Director. We will miss him in these positions but pray as a new editor and Missions Director is being sought.

Dennis Baker, Pastor  
Norma Womble, Reporter

We are praising God for His blessings to His church, **Lower Doe Run in Ellington.** We are praying for more people to worship with us and be committed to the church. We were blessed with two young teens Sunday that had said they were coming regularly, but hadn't made it together. It was a blessing to have a new teacher for their class. God blessed as a faithful attendee came forward to unite with the church. She had been baptized there several years ago but had lived in another state for years. We are so glad to see her back and serving the Lord. We are praying for her son who is living with her. We missed the fifth Sunday singing in December and pray that our sister churches are able to meet the next time. We used

the time to gather around the piano and sing the old hymns of faith! A good group of the church and the community came for our Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinner in December. We look forward to singing at the Ellington Nursing Home on the 12th. We were left off the list last year so we are glad to see our name on the list for 2020. We pray for good winter weather so we can meet regularly at the church and in our weekly Bible Study in town.

Melvin Meade, Pastor • Carolyn Meade, Reporter

HELLO to all from **Oak Hill, Alton!** We hope and pray that everyone had a wonderful and blessed Christmas! We hope and pray that everyone has had a safe and blessed start of the New Year! Time is at a fast rate of speed, I think, or the older I get the faster time seems to fly. It reminds me of one of Kenny Chesney's song Don't Blink "When you are six years old and you take a nap then you wake up and your twenty-five and your high school sweetheart becomes your wife." I know when I was back in high school time did not move as fast as it does now, or at least I did not think so at that time. Edith Williams (my Mom) and I would like to thank-you for the thoughts and prayers for her procedure on her one blockage below her heart December 4th. Everything went GREAT and the results after the procedure are good. We have had some of our members out and not able to worship the Lord because of the flu and other health problems. We would like to ask that you remember us in your prayers as we will remember you in our prayers. As of right now I do not know any events planned for the month of January. The 25th Bro. Ed's granddaughter Emalyn will turn the big "1." Until next month, when I hope I will have some good news to tell you, we will be praising and honoring our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. God Bless!!

Edward Casey, Pastor • Jennifer Williams, Reporter

Greetings from **First Baptist Church, Potosi, MO.** December was a very busy month for us. We began the month with our outreach program "The Taste of Christmas." It was a huge success and reached many women in the community who want to hear more about Christ. Several of our youth were in the Vespers program held at the school but sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance. It is such a blessing that we are able to continue to produce this program; many schools have been forced to drop anything that relates to Christ. Our younger youth were involved in the Middle School choir and band performance. We have made it easier for members to keep their own record of their giving by making available an online app. UPWARD basketball and cheerleading has begun in January and the games will be played on Saturdays January 25 - February 29. This is another outreach from our church to the community. GMA has begun the new year and they are going to focus on the Prayer Calendar published in Mission:World. With all of our technology available, the girls can learn more about what the missionaries actually experience. Ladies Bible Study is resuming again and Celebrate Recovery is continuing to grow. We are beginning our fifth year in March and it is unbelievable the impact this program has on all of us who attend. Our youth experienced ALIVE over Christmas break. What a great way to end the year by worshipping Christ. We have some activities happening in the next three months that are open to all: Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, January 19; WINTER JAM, February 9; WORLD MISSIONS SUNDAY, February 23; and our 64th Annual Friends Day, March 1 (Sunday School at 9 and worship at 10). I'm sure your church has most of these on your calendar also. We have gained members by letter and by baptism; and we have lost some long-time members and friends. God continues to bless us and always reminds us that we are not alone. Please pray for us as we pray for you.

James Ainley, Pastor • Deborah Rauhut, Reporter

## ChangeMakers in Bolivia

### BMA ChangeMakers are all “cut from the same cloth”

What they have in common is a dedication to and passion for church planting and discipleship that has changed countless lives. Their mission is pointing people to the cross of Jesus Christ, and they can be found all over the world speaking hundreds of languages in forty percent of the world’s 196 countries.

Just ask Bro. Buddy Johnson, long time BMA missionary to Mexico and DCPI (Dynamic Church Planting International) trainer. He has the same passion, and he knows and has literally walked alongside countless ChangeMakers through the years.

Bro. Buddy has been profoundly affected by their ministries and loves to tell their stories. Like the story of Regino Acuña Cossio:

Bro. Acuña is a Bolivian ChangeMaker now ministering, along with his family, in Paraguay. For Bro. “Nino,” as he is called, it all began in 1969 when he was eleven years old. At a BMA youth camp, a local pastor, Roger Aguirre, preached



l to r-Andres Tinoco, Regino Acuña Cossio, Huber Aliaga, and Richard Oscanoa

a message that prompted his salvation. Bro. Jerry Kidd was a missionary in Bolivia at the time, and he began mentoring young Regino. Later, Brothers Marvin Loyd, Larry Hendren and Jimmy Swindoll were his co-workers and further prepared him for mission work. What a powerhouse of men to learn from and be discipled by!

In the years that followed, Bro. Nino became the director of the Bolivia Bible Institute after the death of Swindoll. In addition, he coordinated pastors’ conferences, marriage conferences, church planter training, and other meetings and events. Johnson describes him as “a humble, hard-working



Some of the “angels” in Ohlman’s Christmas program

preacher who has a passion for our Lord’s kingdom work. His wife Celia and their three children are also quiet, humble believers.”

In 2010, God began to stir Bro. Nino’s heart toward the country of Paraguay. Bro. Nino shared this burden with Bro. Buddy and other Bolivian pastors, and in 2013, after much prayer, BMA mission work in Paraguay became a reality.

Bolivia no longer has American missionaries, but there are indigenous BMA personnel in the ChangeMakers who continue to plant churches there. And it all began through the calling of an indigenous pastor, Bro. Nino, to serve his people group in both Bolivia and Paraguay.

The “cloth” that he and other ChangeMakers have been cut from has become a beautiful tapestry since 1950 when the Baptist Missionary Association was born. Seventy years of steadfast global mission work has produced so many ChangeMakers that it is almost impossible to count.

World Missions Day is dedicated to these faithful servants whose faces you will likely never see, but who are the lifeblood of BMA Global Missions. On February 23, will you celebrate with us - your BMA Missions team - and BMA churches throughout the country? For more information and to sign up to participate in World Missions Day 2020 go to <https://bmamissions.org/world-missionsday/> or email [eli@bmaam.org](mailto:eli@bmaam.org).

## From Our Camp Director

Well, **Happy New Year everyone!** I hope you’ve had a good Holiday season. I’ve put together some dates for 2020. I hope this is helpful as you plan to participate in camp activities and all the other things that will help you grow in the Lord!

- **February**  
22nd - Pancake Breakfast Camp Fundraiser  
Matthews Bapt. Church 7:00 a.m.
- **March**  
7th - WMA/Brotherhood @ Ohlman  
27-28th - Renewal weekend @ Garwood
- **April**  
17-18th - Spring Paintball @ Garwood  
27-29th - National meeting Waxahachie, TX
- **May**  
15th - Mission Symposium @  
New Testament, Sullivan  
16th - Mid year meeting @  
New Testament, Sullivan
- **June -**  
9-12th - National GMA Retreat @  
Daniel Springs Camp Gary, TX  
19-20th - DEWr weekend @ Camp Garwood
- **July**  
1-3rd - SOAR @ Grapevine TX  
10-11th - GMA retreat @ Camp Garwood  
27-31st - State Camp Week @ Camp Garwood
- **August**  
28th - SEMO Association meeting @ Kewanee
- **October**  
10th - BMAMO Annual meeting @  
Zion St. Louis
- **November**  
16-18th - Senior Adult conference @ Branson

### Please note:

- I am not planning a Fall Paintball Retreat this year. Encourage your groups to come to the Spring retreat.
- Are you a DEWr? If you support camp by giving \$ 75. or more annually, You Are! And we have a weekend just for you, so be sure to put the DEWr weekend on your calendar.
- Are you 18 or older? It’s a new year so be sure to complete the adult screening form if you plan to spend a night at camp in 2020. You can find the screening form at [bmamissouri.org](http://bmamissouri.org).

**So, are you ready for camp?** Be praying for us as we get things ready. Our theme this year, “History is HIStory,” will be preached by Bro. Dustin Wisely. Be praying for Dustin, our camp band, sponsors, committee and our campers.

We are praying for the churches. That you will have adults willing to bring the kids to camp. That you will have new kids join the seasoned veterans. Our prayer is that the Lord will bless the churches and stir hearts in the new year.

*Chris Polk, Director Camp Garwood*

P. O. Box 271 • Matthews MO 63867 • 573-380-1975

## 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

### *Hello Ladies!*

Can you believe it?? *It's almost time for our Annual Missouri State WMA Meeting!* Ohlman Missionary Baptist Church in Bunker, MO, will be hosting our meeting this year. God bless them! So save the date, **March 7, 2020, beginning at 10 a.m.!**

The 2019 – 2020 theme has been “Mission: POSSIBLE!”. I'd like to hear from you about your own POSSIBLE missions, anywhere from the local level to the national level. Have you been able to minister to an individual or family in need? Supported the various WMA levels with prayers and/or love offerings? How have you been sharing Christ's love? Inquiring (aka “nosey”) state WMA presidents want to know! I want to share these stories at the State WMA Meeting. Example: The ladies in my church (Emmanuel, St. Louis) were very generous in helping out a young widow (a friend of one of my sisters), someone they didn't know, facing a financial crisis after her husband's death. This young woman was overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and generosity from different people that she'd never met. This is just one example of a Mission: POSSIBLE completed. You can send your completed POSSIBLE mission stories to me via e-mail, [bawilly77@yahoo.com](mailto:bawilly77@yahoo.com), **regular mail**, Barbara Williams; 3902 Carol Drive; Imperial, MO 63052, or on the **Missouri State WMA facebook page**. I look forward to hearing from you AND seeing you on March 7th!

In Christ, *Barbara Williams*, Missouri State WMA President

### *Brokenness is not Hopelessness!*

I was at the grocery store this morning and heard a loud crash and something shattering. Being nosy, I walked towards the sound and saw some people whispering and looking back to the end of the next aisle. When I walked down that aisle, I saw an older lady had hit a shelf containing dishes with her cart and many had fallen to the ground and broke. She was kneeling on the floor embarrassed, frantically picking up the shattered pieces, while her husband was peeling off the bar code from each broken dish saying “Now we will have to pay for all this!”

I felt so bad for her, and everyone was just standing there staring at her!! I went and knelt beside her and told her not to worry and started helping her pick up the broken pieces. After about a minute, the store manager came and knelt beside us and said, “Leave it, we will clean this up. Let's get your information so you can go to the hospital and have that cut on your hand looked at.”

The lady, totally embarrassed said, “I need to pay for all this first.” The manager smiled, helped her to her feet and said, “No ma'am, we have insurance for this, you do not have to pay anything!”

**For you who have read this so far**, I would like you to give me a minute. Wherever you are, close your eyes, and imagine God doing the same for you!

Collect the pieces of your broken heart from all the blows life has thrown at you. God will heal all your wounds, and I assure you that your sins and mistakes will be forgiven.

You see, we all have the same insurance, and it's called Grace. When you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior and ask for forgiveness, the Manager of the universe, GOD, will say to you “Everything has already been paid for, now go on your way, all is forgiven!”

## *Alive Conference 2019*

December 29-31 the youth from many of our churches gathered in Chesterfield, Missouri for the annual “Alive Conference” and enjoyed another great time of praising God, learning from His Word, meeting new friends, enjoying the fellowship of many other young people from around our state, and taking part in various activities.

It is wonderful seeing two or three hundred youth and sponsors enjoying a great time and honoring God.

We have a few pictures in this edition that show some of those who attended and places they went while in the area.

During activity time the first night everyone enjoyed a trip to the City Museum where they had the whole place to themselves and experience the unique activities that are only available at this attraction. It was quite an experience!

Worship and praise times were actively interesting and instructional for the youth and their sponsors. God used various talented people to encourage and challenge those in attendance.

We appreciate the hard work the Alive Committee does in planning, scheduling, preparing and carrying out this event each year. It takes a lot of time and hard work to get it all together. Their desire is not to just “entertain” those who attend, but to instruct and challenge each one to live the best life they can and bring honor to God through their words and deeds. The speakers, musicians, singers, and others who are invited to lead in the meetings all have a great desire to help the youth grow into maturity physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Our thanks to the churches who participated in and supported the conference this year by sending your youth and we hope you will do the same in 2020

Pancake Breakfast to Benefit  
Camp Garwood  
Hosted by Matthews Missionary  
Baptist Church  
Sat. February 22  
7a.m.-?  
\$5/Breakfast Plate  
Includes Pancakes and Bacon or  
Sausage, Juice and Coffee



Part of the crowd at the Monday afternoon service



Some of the group at the city museum

## Why Do the Righteous Suffer While the Ungodly Seem to Prosper?

Psalm 73:1-28

It is believed that Asaph, a Levite who served as a musician and worship leader in the sanctuary during David's reign, is the writer. Asaph was dealing with the age-old problem of, "Why do the righteous suffer while the ungodly seem to prosper." As a worship leader Asaph struggled with the question of how he could lead the people in divine worship if he had questions concerning the ways of the Lord. The psalmist shares his story of how worship helped him to find answers with his struggles with envy, doubts, and his faith in God. Through his struggles, Asaph learned to trust in God.

Asaph's description of his crisis of faith began with a basic element of biblical theology, "God is good to Israel" but then he confesses that he almost stumbled when he became envious of the success and wealth of the wicked. The phrase "a clean heart" helps us understand that he was certain that the God he worshipped was good. The phrase "a clean heart" shows that he understood that in his heart he was committed to the Lord, but he was not sinless.

As Asaph meditated on the subject the more he began to slip from his foundation of faith. There is a difference between doubt and unbelief. Doubt comes from a struggling mind, while unbelief comes from a stubborn will that refuses to surrender to God. As Asaph reflected on his envy of the ungodly, he was committing an act of disobedience. Psalm 37:1. "Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity."

From Asaph's viewpoint, the ungodly had it made. Their attitude and actions seemed to place no restriction upon them. They were proud of their wealth and situation in life. He was troubled at their view of God's characteristics. He was bothered by the arrogant behavior of the wicked. They frequently spoke words of opposition against God.

Based on the evidence, Asaph was moving to the wrong conclusion that he had wasted his time and energy maintaining a clean and a pure heart, V 13. Asaph almost bought into a commercial philosophy that the life of faith encourages us to serve God for what we can get out of it.

Before changing his philosophy, Asaph paused to consider the consequences. How would the next generation respond if a sanctuary worship leader turned his back on God? To abandon the faith would undermine all that he had taught and sung in the sanctuary. The more he thought on the problem his heart hurt. He decided to go to the sanctuary and spend time with the Lord in worship, there he would be with other worshippers, hear the Word and songs of praise. Worship helped him see the things of the world in different perspective.

Asaph realized that what he saw in the lives of the ungodly was not a true picture. God can and does give success and wealth to dedicated believers, however the dreams of the ungodly will one day turn into a nightmare. Asaph was humbled before the Lord and regained his spiritual balance.

When Asaph stated that "Truly God is good to Israel" in verse one, he may not have been sure what the word "good" meant. Is it wealth, authority, and pleasure? The ungodly have everything they want and need. The possession of the ungodly are idols that take the place of the Lord. But God's people, even in death, cannot be separated from God's blessings.

The psalm ends with Asaph getting his feet firmly grounded on faith. When he left the sanctuary, he told everybody what he had learned. He had drawn near to God, he had trusted God, and now he was ready to declare God's works.

Dear churches: I would like to discuss a subject that should be at the top of all our New Years resolutions and **that is to get me a present next year!** Opps!! No! no! no! That was a written Freudian slip!

Seriously now, a subject that should be on the top of all our New Years resolutions is to **eradicate all bitterness** from our lives this year.

You are aware, of course, of the Bible verse, "Looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;" Hebrews 12:15. And this one "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice;" Ephesians 4:29-31.

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Ephesians 4:32.

The first time I heard anyone preach on this that I remember was Kenneth Bobo, A revivalist that wandered the south back in the 70's and the 80's and boy, could he preach! His raspy belabored voice was enough to keep you awake, but His message was even more inspiring. He had a three message series on "Bitterness," and that series has spared me from many sleepless nights.

Simply put, I struggle with bitterness on a daily basis but because of God's Word I have a simple but powerful and effective way to overcome it every time it comes knocking.

We can't ever forget that we have a three-fold attack against us daily: the onslaught of the devil, the conformation of the world, and the deceitfulness of our flesh.

Bitterness is that awful desire to see those that hurt us pay in pain for a lengthy time, but since many times there is little we can do about it we are the only ones that end up hurting.

### Truths about bitterness:

It is a sin.

It hurts us more than we are hurting those who make us bitter. It paralyzes growth and stifles effectiveness.

Our focus is on that person and many times we become like them because of our laser focus on them.

We spoil other people on them.

We are acting the opposite of how Christ wants us to act.

You grit your teeth more.

You fall in love with your hate.

Your hate spoils the good relationships in your life.

You become increasingly negative.

You become an energy taker not an energy giver.

You become increasingly lonely because it's all you talk about therefore people begin avoiding you.

Well, have I made my point that bitterness is one of the worst and most common pitfalls the devil sets for God's children?

### Ready for the cure?

Know the truth and the truth shall set you free.

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Ephesians 6:12

The person that hurt you and that you now are bitter towards is not the problem.

We wrestle not against flesh and blood.

The problem is the attack of the devil.

We have all had difficulties with human beings because we

Today, many enjoy wealth and notoriety, but nothing they have or do will last forever. Asaph conclusion was that he would put his trust in the Lord. Only those who place their trust in God will find eternal life and eternal peace. Romans 37:1, "Nay in all things we are more than conquerors through him that love us."

all sin and are affected by the human condition.

But none of us are allowed to see another human being as our problem.

The devil, the world's system, and our flesh is the problem and we must quit fighting each other and fight the real enemy.

There is only one biblical response to when someone mistreats you and that is forgiveness. Which will be the subject of the next article So while we wait on forgiveness to get here in February, soak on these truths:

Bitterness is spiritual cancer It is to be eradicated at all costs.

We are not allowed to hate anyone.

Forgiveness is a choice not a feeling.

In closing if your case is urgent and waiting a month is not an option study Ephesians 4:32. The answer is in that verse.

May the Lord bless you all and the Baptist Missionary Association of Missouri

### Announcement:

**Annual State  
Brotherhood Meeting  
March 7, 2020  
Ohlman Baptist  
Church Bunker, MO  
10:00 a.m.**

The men of the churches of the BMA of Missouri are encouraged to attend this meeting to help elect officers and to make plans for the future of the State Brotherhood.

The State Brotherhood retreats, held at Camp Garwood, the past several years, have been a blessing. But due to low attends caused by schedule conflicts, some hard decisions need to be made concerning the future of the retreats. Do we continue having a Spring and Fall Retreat? What dates would be best? Do we need to change to one retreat a year? Do we need to change the activities? Maybe we need new leadership?

Please pray for the ministry of this auxiliary.

Dennis Baker, President

## Joshua 24:15

Moral Action • Dr. John Adams, Executive Director

“Choose you this day” is the cry from these pages. “Choose whom you will serve” is the demanding statement of Joshua 24:15. The people of that era answered and said “God forbid that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods”...verse 16. Moral choices then is the cry confronting 2020 Christian believers and church congregations.

### The So-Called Celebration of Modern Music and Media

Coming out of the 1960's, 1970's and 1980's a small group of dissidents spread vulgarity (curse words) and sexual slang and that began to spread this type of vulgarity in music and media until 2020 it has become the norm.

Just like flood waters and devastating fires will change the physical environment, this heavy storm of immoral words and sexual immoral slang has and is sweeping the American landscape. It is rapidly changing college, school, church, and home life. The ugly, vile, and lack of tactful words confronts our Christian children; so may we parents, grandparents, teachers, and preachers employ wholesome words. We can help stop this escalating breakdown. We (all) know of these words, without calling them in this forum.

American political commentator Joe Klein gave an analysis of the decline of moral values in America: “It is impossible, of course, to pinpoint the precise moment when moral relativism became acceptable public policy – but in the sixties, the structures of moral authority were systematically removed from the poorest neighborhoods. A series of legal judgments made it harder for teachers to discipline their students and for housing projects to screen their tenants; the cop on the beat was seen as an occupying force and removed. The moral consequences of programs like welfare were never considered. Instead of nurturing virtue, popular culture celebrated intemperance—and intemperance, pointed out 200 years ago, may addle the rich, but it devastates the poor.

The enormous costs brought about by this conflict have brought great hardship and compounded the problem for those involved in intervention and rescue.”

### The Analysis of Those Who Support this Moral Downfall

Jeremiah 2:9 “Wherefore I will yet plead with you, saith the Lord, and with your children's children will I plead”...2:11 “Hath a nation (America-my emphasis) changed their God's, which are yet no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit.”

Simply recognizing the source of moral downfall that motivates the other side will not give Christian churches and its people victory in the culture wars, but it is an essential first step in preparing for the battle. The first task in any conflict is to “know your enemy,” and as we come to understand the forces that are arrayed against us, and as we recognize the trail of disaster in their wake, we will be better prepared to make our voices heard and to make a real and lasting difference for the kingdom of God.

Today's world, especially America and the Western world, is turning away from God and desiring to eliminate His name. Most churches in Europe, Australia, and America are empty. Belgium, Denmark, Holland, Spain, Great Britain, and Canada have all legalized same-sex marriage or same-sex unions. So many of these countries have become not only non-Christian but in many areas actually anti-Christian.

“Many elements in the U.S. are hard at work both covertly and openly for the total secularization and paganization of America “according to the late Adrian Rogers. One such group that we identify with the downfall of morals is the A.C.L.U. (American Civil Liberties Union). They are working to tear down the Godly and moral foundation of America. They are just one of many such organizations.

Here are some official A.C.L.U. policy positions. They support:

1. legalized child pornography,
2. partial birth abortions,
3. legalized prostitution,
4. adoption by lesbians/homosexuals,
5. publicly funded profane art,
6. legalized polygamy,
7. they oppose legalized school prayer,
8. they have opposition to police drug searches, and the
9. A.C.L.U. opposes Christian home schooling and on and on in the moral and spiritual downfall.

May we born-again believers in Christ approach heaven with prayers for the churches and members who desire a godly life. The A.C.L.U.'s major goal is a tolerant secularized USA. where religious speech is not only silenced but punished. (Quotes are with permission from the ACLU vs. America published by Alliance Defense Fund).

## Something We Should ALL Be Looking For!

‘Twas the night Jesus came and all through the house  
Not a person was praying,, not one in the house.  
The Bibles were left on the shelf without care,  
For no one thought that Jesus would come there.  
The children were dressing to crawl into bed,  
Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head.  
And mom in her rocker with baby in her lap  
Was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.

When out of the east there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash  
Tore open the shutters and lifted the sash!  
When what to my wondering eyes should appear  
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here!  
The light of His face made me cover my head --  
It was Jesus returning, just as He said.

And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth,  
I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.  
In the Book of Life which He held in His hand  
Was written the name of ever saved man.  
He spoke not a word as He searched for my name;  
When He said, “It’s not here” my head hung in shame.

The people whose names had been written with love  
He gathered to take to His Father above.

## 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.

**Matt Barker** of Nixa, is available for pulpit supply or as the Lord leads. Contact him by phone (501-408-9500) or by e-mail: [mattbarker1988@gmail.com](mailto:mattbarker1988@gmail.com)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:calebhouston@yahoo.com).

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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.*

## Pastor Search

Central Missionary Baptist Church in Union, MO is searching for a bi-vocational pastor or interim pastor. Interested preachers may contact any member of the pulpit committee:

**Bro John Blevins**, (636)388-1372  
**Bro Tim Lomax**, (636)629-8161(home) (314)779-5687 (cell)  
**Bro Daniel Schmitt** (636) 698-2952

With those who were ready  
He rose without a sound  
While all the rest were  
left standing around.  
I fell to my knees, but it was  
too later;

I had waited too long  
and thus sealed my fate.  
I stood and I cried as they  
rose out of sight  
Oh, if only I'd known  
that this was the night.

In the words of this poem  
the meaning is clear:  
The coming of Jesus is  
now drawing near.  
There's only one life and  
when comes the last call  
We'll find that the Bible  
was true, after all.

Submitted by Yvonne Hill, Author unknown

*“Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.*

*Matthew 24:42*