

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

“Holding Forth The Word of Life”

Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXXIII

St. Louis, MO • May 12., 2020

Issue No. 5

News & Views From Camp Garwood

Interesting Thoughts, Comments, and News from our Camp Director

Colossians 1:15-20 “*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*” ESV

History is HIS story. An appropriate theme for 2020, much

better than ‘vision 2020’ because none of us saw this coming. But Jesus did, even this is His story. We don’t know what the LORD is doing with this time in history. There’s a lot of speculation, there’s a lot of accusations. But that’s the thing about history. We can’t really see what’s going on until it has already happened. Is it all a hoax? Will half the population be killed off? Is it an evil plan devised and carried out by a political party, or another country? There are all kinds of ideas floating around, some of them a lot crazier than others.

While we don’t know what the end of the Coronavirus will look like, we do know what THE END looks like. Jesus will be seated on HIS throne ruling over HIS perfect creation, and in that knowledge I find peace.

Just like you, I have more questions than answers at this point. Will we have camp? I don’t know. If we do, what will that look like? I don’t know. When will you know? I don’t know. Even by the time you are reading this report it will still be too early to make a decision. I would like to say, “You know what, It’s not as bad as they say, we are having camp no matter what.” But the reality is, We can’t say that. And that is not a lack of faith.

I was able to watch the Governors Broadcast on FB today. I was actually able to tune in early. It seemed like 15 minutes but was probably only 3-4 minutes of watching closed doors. No movement, no talking, just closed doors. And even at that the angry faces were flying. There were some likes and hearts too, but it was overwhelmingly angry faces. People angry because he is opening the state, because he isn’t opening it fast enough, because he didn’t open it soon enough, because he didn’t close it fast enough, because he is helping this group and hasn’t done anything about this that or the other. Everyone has an opinion and on FB they don’t care to share it. In the midst of the angry faces and the angry comments people were signing in, posting where they are from. Florissant, Jackson, Kennett, Branson, Literally all over the state. When you think about that load, Whether you like him or hate him, that guy has a lot of weight on his shoulders and no matter what he does, a lot of people are not going to like it.

Everyone has an opinion, but that doesn’t make them right. People are failing to realize, this pandemic is not about them. Oh, it involves you in some way. But it is not about you. Even though we can’t see it yet, it is about Jesus. Everything that happens in history will be for HIM. “All things are for him and through Him

• See *CAMP* on Page 3 •

Hopefully, We Are Learning!

By the time most of you are reading this we hope you already know we cancelled our Missions Symposium and the Mid-year meeting of the BMA of Missouri. One thing we have learned, along with many of our churches, is that we need to use the technology available to us to communicate when changes occur. Thankfully, with the help of our Association Clerk, Bro. Don Burke we now have a FaceBook presence. See more in “From Our Missions Director” on page 3.

“Trust in the Lord with all
thine heart; and lean not unto
thine own understanding. In
all thy ways acknowledge
him, and he shall direct thy
paths.”

Proverbs 3:5

The Votes are In, and Here are the Results!

by Jeff Swart

As president of the BMA of America, I want to thank the officers of our association, the department directors, and especially John Merriweather and his BMA of America Service Team for their cooperation in providing the opportunity for our churches to vote on several issues that simply needed to be decided this spring. I also want to thank the churches and pastors of our association for graciously cooperating with us as we navigated through this unprecedented national emergency.

The following results express the will of the churches concerning the issues that were placed before them to consider:

• **Proposed Change to the Amendments to the Statement of Principles of Cooperation Article X (Department of Camp Ministries) — In Favor, 188; Opposed, 1; Abstained, 1.**

• **Proposed Change to the Amendments to the Statement of Principles of Cooperation Article XII (Publications Department) — In Favor, 188; Opposed, 1; Abstained, 1.**

• **Proposed Addition to the Amendments to the Statement of Principles of Cooperation Article XVII (BMA of America Service Team) — In Favor, 184; Opposed, 3; Abstained, 3.**

• **Proposed changes to Re-ordering the Articles of the BMAA Statement of Principles of Cooperation — In Favor, 186; Opposed, 2; Abstained, 2.**

• **DiscipleGuide Board Recommendations — In Favor, 182; Opposed, 3; Abstained, 5.**

• **Lifeword Board Recommendations — In Favor, 185; Opposed, 4; Abstained, 1.**

• **BMA Seminary Trustee Recommendations — In Favor, 186; Opposed, 2; Abstained, 2.**

• **Advisory Committee Recommendations for the Missions Department — In**

Favor, 182; Opposed, 3; Abstained, 5.

• **Moral Action Board Recommendations — In Favor, 184; Opposed, 3; Abstained, 3.**

• **Ministers Resource Services Board Recommendations — In Favor, 186; Opposed, 2; Abstained, 2.**

• **BMA Foundation Board Recommendations — In Favor, 186; Opposed, 2; Abstained, 2.**

• **Resolution on Beholding the Majesty of God — In Favor, 154; Opposed, 15; Abstained, 21.**

• **Nominating Committee Report — In Favor, 182; Opposed, 3; Abstained, 5.**

I remind you that since Pastor Richard Smith and the people of Farley Street Baptist Church in Waxahachie, Texas worked so hard to prepare for our coming this year, we have decided to allow Farley Street to host the 2021 national meeting which will be held April 19-21, 2021. The 2022 meeting will be held in Springfield, Mo. and the 2023 meeting will be at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, Ark.

Editor’s Note: To review these items go to bmaamerica.org/national-meeting and click on 2020 BMA Reports & Recommendations.



NEWS BRIEFS



On behalf of **Bates Creek Landmark Missionary Baptist Church in Potosi**, we hope and pray all is well with our brothers and sisters in Christ. The Coronavirus has wreaked havoc on our great country trying to destroy God's people's spirit. In the news, we listen to and watch families that have to make adjustments to their lifestyle. Some are dealing with losing their loved ones to this nightmare of a disease. We as God's people have been used to going to work, making plans to pleasurable events, and worshipping in our churches, not worrying about making others sick. Things have changed now. I believe God's saying, "Wake Up." 1 Thessalonians 5:5-6 *"Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober."* As we deal with these changes and tough times, remember Jesus is watching and waiting for his children to respond to our Heavenly Father for help. Don't let the stress and anxiety of this world overwhelm us. Remember God's words in Matthew 11:28-30: *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."* We might have to keep our social distance from each other, wear masks on our faces, and have services online but we are not defeated. Pastor Bryan Buckley has it down pat providing our church with spiritual messages online. The WMA ladies are meeting on Zoom on Mondays with devotionals and having great fellowship. I know cards and phones calls are being made to some who do not have internet or use social media. For the time being, it's acceptable to use modern technology, but I want to walk into my church and fellowship with my brothers and sisters in Christ face to face, even if it is six feet apart. Please remember to pray for our churches, country, and each other. May God bless you all. With love in Christ Jesus, Bryan Buckley, Pastor • Connie Evans, Reporter

Bethesda, Park Hills, responded to the Coronavirus outbreak by omitting services for the last two weeks of March and all of April. We are missing meeting together and we pray that we will be able to meet again on May 10th. None of our members have been infected with the virus so far. Bro. Alan Dane and Bro. Zach Dane filled the pulpit the first three weeks of March. On March 1st we studied how God is our Shepherd and the text was taken from Psalm 23. On March 8th we studied how to live a better Christian life, and what to remove from your life in order to serve God more. The text was taken from Luke 10:38-42. On March 15th we learned about respecting and fearing God taken from Ecclesiastes 12:13-14. As an update, Bro. Alan Dane has completed chemo treatment and is doing well. His MRI results showed that the tumor is gone but the doctors are waiting on other tests to determine whether surgery will be needed or not. Continue to keep our church in prayer as we are still searching for a pastor. Ashton Dane, Youth Reporter

Landmark, DeSoto has made it through another month of Stay at Home orders and social distancing. These things would never have occurred to us at the end of December 2019 that they would be happening. Both Governor Parsons and our Jefferson County executives have said that we can reopen as of May 4th. We of Landmark have been hashing over when we should open the doors again and what would be required of us. (masks and social distancing?). We are so wanting to get back together and fellowship with one another and worship God together as a group and not just in our own homes with our mates or alone as the case may be.

So, we really do not have any earth shattering news this month. But, as far as I know, there have been none of our members or associates that have the virus. Praise the Lord for that! Until next month or the Lord's Return, Sharon Page, reporter.

Abundant Life in Christ, Charleston, reports that, no doubt as for the rest of you as well, April was challenging. We had a morning worship service the first Sunday of the month and were then shut down the rest of the month. Many local churches were bringing in skeleton crews to produce a service for Facebook. We do not have wi-fi in our building, and in the past have been unable to post long videos that we've recorded, and so that option wasn't available to us. We instead recorded and posted daily "Today's Word from the Word" devotionals to our Facebook page. This allowed our people to still be somewhat fed. We also used it as an opportunity to potentially reach beyond our own people by covering such subjects as our views on prophecy, the absolute authority of scripture, word-faith theology, Calvinism, antinomianism and other subjects where views can't be automatically ascertained simply by reading a name on a church sign. We had indications the devotionals were going beyond our own people. As of this writing, we are scheduled to resume all services May 6th. We thought we had the carpet for our sanctuary...but as it was being laid it was evident we had gotten a bad run with an errant dye job. The company agreed to manufacture new carpet for us. However, because of the coronavirus they've shut down their carpet mill, and so for the foreseeable future we have gone from a bare concrete floor to mismatched carpet rolled out, but not secured.

Rodney Dunlap, Pastor

First Baptist, Potosi, reports

that in order to comply with social distancing and still meet together, our first Sunday in April was a drive-in church parking lot service. Brother Jim presented the message twice, once at 8:30 and again at 10:00. It was wonderful at least to see others and wave even though we had to stay inside our vehicles. We planned the same for Easter Sunday, but the Health Department sent out notices that everyone should stay at home and watch the services online as we did before. It was a very tough decision, but we followed the rules and Brother Jim presented his message online. Brother Kevin has been giving the youth online messages for several weeks now and also began Celebrate Recovery messages online. Sister Raven has been using ZOOM to meet with the children and their teachers. Our pastors and wives passed out donuts and coffee to workers in the community on Good Friday. The last Sunday in April was once again a drive-in service on the church parking lot. We had a food drive for the Well of Hope organization. They ran out of food and they assist a lot of families in the community; we placed a trailer on the church parking lot and it was filled twice with donations. We keep a positive attitude by continuing to rely on God and his promises and we need to help those who are in difficult situations whether they be personal, physical, or spiritual. Even though there have been no meetings in the church building, the church itself (members) continue to serve God through their own ministries and continue to reach out to others. God continues to bless even through the storm. Please pray for us as we pray for you.

Jim Ainley, Pastor • Deborah Rauhut, Reporter

God's blessings to all, from **Bethel, Sikeston**. Happy Father's Day to all you father's, praying that your day is blessed! By the time you read this Mother's Day has already past and we hope you had a blessed and happy day also. May God richly bless all of our mothers and fathers amid all the fear and anxiety that has been going around because of the covid-19 virus. God's people still find a way to communicate with their brothers and sisters in Christ. We thank God for social media where we can communicate with one another without being together in person. We closed our doors to members and visitors for a period of time as we have elderly and sick folks and healthy members as well that don't need to be exposed to this virus. We do know that God is still in control but He also gave us good sense to take precautions. This pandemic has not only caused bad things but it has brought out some good things: as families are once again staying home having meals together, calling their friends and loved ones to check on them and many more. No

• 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

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DEADLINE for copy is the FIRST TUESDAY

of the month in which you want it to appear

See the MMB online at bmissouri.org

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FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS • April 2020

General Fund:

Checking Account:

Balance March 31, 2020		\$	38,313.59
April Receipts:			
Missions:	\$	3,007.18	
Total Income:	\$	3,007.18	\$ 3,007.18
Total Available		\$	41,320.77
Disbursements:			
Director, Salary	\$	650.00	
Toner	\$	139.86	
Total Disbursements	\$	789.86	\$ (789.86)
Balance April 30, 2020:			\$ 40,530.91

Bank of America Savings Account:

Balance March 31, 2020		\$	1,101.16
Interest:	\$.02	\$.02
Balance April 30, 2020:			\$ 1,101.18

Investment in BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund:

Balance March 31, 2020:		\$	106,342.54
Interest:		\$	0.00
Balance April 30, 2020:			\$ 106,342.54

Total of all Funds April 30, 2020: \$ 147,974.63

From Our Missions Director...

Learning is an on-going part of life. This is so very true at this particular time as our churches and departments, along with most of us as individuals, are learning a lot of things we never thought about before. Many are finding that we can do some things differently than we imagined and sometimes different is better but sometimes it makes us long to get back to where we were!

It is hard to make some decisions, especially those that affect others, and our leaders are doing the best they can with the knowledge they have.

One thing that stands out is that when we have meetings scheduled and must make changes giving people time to make adjustments it is helpful to get the information out quickly.

For this reason I asked our associational clerk about setting up a Facebook page for the BMA of Missouri. He graciously offered to take care of it.

Now that we have a Facebook page you are encouraged to check it from time to time get information that we might post between the monthly editions of the Missouri Missionary Baptist.

Just go to Facebook and type in BMAMissouri to visit our page. We need you to join our group and tell others to check it out.

We also appreciate the work of Bro. Brad Miller who maintains our BMAMissouri.org website. He posted the cancelation of our meetings as soon as we notified him.

We are trying to make sure we keep our people notified of changes that occur.

It has been encouraging to hear about, and sometimes see the many ways our churches have continued to minister in their areas during the last several weeks. The use of technology has enhanced several ministries and has opened doors for future possibilities of communicating God's Word to the World!

I am sure there are some questions, and a lot of opinions about what to do since we are not having our Missions Symposium and Mid-Year Business Meeting. Those involved in making the decision (the host pastor, our President, our Clerk, and Missions Director) agree that everything can be taken care of at the Annual Meeting in October without causing any problems and only a slight delay in transitioning to a new Missions Director who will be elected in October instead of now.

There was no nominee for the position of Editor so that will be addressed in October.

My resignation as Missions Director was to be effective October 1, 2020, so the committee will have recommendations about extending that until the newly elected Director can make the transition.

All other committees will give their reports and recommendations in October.

Thanks for your patience and prayers!

• CAMP From Page 1 •

and to Him." He will receive glory through this; the question is, will it be by your lips and actions?

When your pastor or your elders or your deacons make a decision during this time remember they didn't ask for this. They are doing the best they can and trying to glorify the LORD in the process. Their decision may not agree with yours but they don't need to know that and neither does anyone else. Remember, It's not about you.

Whatever the camp committee decides about camp this year it will be the right decision because it will be made through prayer and with the desire to please the LORD. Whatever we decide some of you will have other opinions. Remember, It's not about you. There are a lot of things to factor into our decision. Are there liability issues? We are drawing in people from all over the state and out of state to pack into dorms that are not social distancing friendly. The tabernacle doesn't have walls but we are normally packed in the pews. Will food be an issue? Will kids practice being sanitary? (That record speaks for itself). Right now it's early May, How will the numbers be trending at the end of June? There are too many questions that can't be answered yet. So be patient, we are waiting as long as possible to make a decision.

At this point we have no activities planned at camp, The DEW weekend and the GMA retreat are on hold. We are continuing to do maintenance at camp and plan to have camp ready to go, hopeful that it will be used.

We have opened a PayPal account for camp to help you support this ministry. The easiest way to find us on PayPal is with our email address. campgarwood@gmail.com It will show up as Baptist Missionary Association of Missouri because that is our official name. But it will send the funds directly to the camp account.

Have a great day and remember to pray,
Chris Polk, Camp Garwood
PO Box 271 • Matthews, MO 63867
573-380-1975 • campgarwood@gmail.com

Camp Garwood Semi-Annual Financial Report

October 1, 2019 - April 30, 2020

General Funds

Beginning Bal.	7,194.09
Received.	19,672.24
Disbursed.	(12,156.39)
Total Fund.	14,709.94

Food Fund

Beginning Bal.	0.00
Received.	0.00
Disbursed.	(137.48)
Total Fund.	(137.48)

Insurance Fund

Beginning Bal.	0.00
Received.	0.00
Disbursed.	(6,085.29)
Total Fund.	(6,085.29)

Concession

Beginning Bal.	0.00
Received.	81.26
Disbursed.	0.00
Total Fund.	81.26

Total All Funds. 8,568.43

• **NEWS From Page 2** •

matter how bad things get, God always brings something good out of it! Bro. Billy has been live streaming his messages and they have been a real inspiration. Thanks to our deacons Bro. Joe Mcelroy and Bro. Matt Bolen that helped get this set up so we were able to hear our pastor preach the Word and bring us comfort for such a time as this. Our members have been together in spirit as we watched it in the comforts of our homes. I believe that God is giving a warning to his churches to wake up, and rise up and do what he has commissioned us to do, quit being so lax and in a comfort zone! We need to put God back to number 1 instead of last on our list! 2 Chronicles 7:14, *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."* We were blessed to have regular services again May 3rd with our brothers and sisters at church. We followed the guidelines of social distancing and not shaking hands or hugging. We are starting off slow as we only had morning worship service at 9:45, evening service at 6:00, and Wednesday night service at 7:00 as usual. Thanks to Bro. Josh and Sis. Nicky Beardsley, and Breanna, as they did an awesome job of remodeling our nursery. Sis. Letha Buckthorpe and Sis. Keeley Bolen will be painting murals on the walls. We are so grateful for our members that are willing to give of their time and talents to the Lord's work! We covet your prayers, as we keep you all in our prayers, to be safe from this covid-19 virus! God bless you all!!

Billy Davis, Pastor • Joan Wood, Reporter

Greetings from **Briar, Doniphan!** April has been a very unusual month! Easter has come and gone without our usual "Sonrise Service." Bro. Grubb has been doing really well at taking care of his flock. He gives us a message on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings via Youtube. We stay in contact with each other on Facebook Messenger. The majority of our congregation is on Facebook and those who are not seem to keep up with what is happening through those who are. We are so ready for our world to go back to normal, or are we? Right now we have taken our church services outside of the church building. How many people are being reached? When we do go back to the building I pray God has had victory in families that were not going to church and we find them becoming a part of all our services. God is in control and God knows the outcome of it all. As of May 4th the lockdown for our state has been lifted but because of a majority of us are in the senior citizen range and we don't want to risk being a carrier of the COVID 19 virus we have chosen not to reopen our church services for a couple of weeks. Prayerfully we will all be back to our church services by the time you are reading this paper. May God continue to bless us all! Continue to pray for our country, our leaders, our Pastors and the churches without Pastors and all of the families who are affected by the COVID-19.

David Grubb, Pastor • Yvonne Hill, Reporter

Greetings from **Ozark Heights Baptist Church!** I hope everyone is well, headed into the month of May! I want to continue to encourage all to pray for our government federal and local, but most importantly we need to be praying for our Pastors as they meet with leadership committees to decide how it is best for our churches to reopen! Remember our God sits on the throne through all these things and He will sustain us! Our church has been doing parking lot services, but are planning on opening our doors this Sunday on Mother's Day! While still providing a parking lot and zoom service for the congregation! If you would like more information look us up on Facebook! God Bless.

Brian Kingston, Pastor

For us at **Ohlman Baptist Church, Bunker**, as well as for the rest of you, the past two months have passed by quickly but yet at a standstill. Like most of you, services were cancelled for the first couple of weeks of the famous corona virus (Covid-19). However, while services were cancelled, it did not stop many from worshipping the Lord. With the technology now available many were able to worship via electronic means. Some of us got to enjoy watching and listening to several services that we would not have been able to. We cancelled the revival that was scheduled in April and will try to reschedule it in the fall. The past couple of weeks Ohlman, like many others, started having services outside on the parking lot. This was okay but still not the same as being inside the sanctuary. On Sunday, May 3rd after the outdoor service, a former member came forward to be reinstated in church membership. She had moved from the area several years ago and now is back living in Bunker. We rejoice in the fact that even in the inconvenience of the outside service, she followed the Lord and rejoined the church. Where do we go from here? Like most of you, we will begin having inside corporate worship. We will follow the guidelines suggested by the government and take precautions. We will take these precautions not just because the government has said to, but because we have several members who have compromised immune systems and we want to protect their health as best we can. We know that God will watch over and protect us but we also must be good stewards and watch over each other as well.

Troy Sisk, Pastor
Janet Widger, Reporter

Greetings to the churches of the Association. The **Lower Doe Run Baptist Church** has been waiting out the stay at home order by communicating through Phone, Facebook, and our Pastor has sent weekly messages via

CD recording each week. We delivered the CDs personally so we got to see our members through the storm doors or on their porches. He decided to preach in the church pulpit during the last 2 weeks of 'stay at home' orders. When members found out that we were there, they came! They used social distance, signed that they were not sick or had not travel out of the country for the last 2 weeks. Some members found physical healing during their time at home-bones were healed and pneumonia was healed. Some found time to be alone with God and were greatly blessed. Some had kids at home and were blessed to get to know them better! All in all we are healthy and in much prayer for our country to wake up to what God is telling us. Pray for one another and for our leaders! God knows our hearts and longs for us to know His heart!

Melvin Meade, Pastor • Carolyn Meade, Reporter

Greetings from **Zion, St. Louis.** We hope everyone is staying safe and healthy during this pandemic. Even though we cannot meet together physically, our pastor is taping messages that are encouraging and keeping our spirits strong. We were sad when the National meeting was canceled and then the State meeting was also canceled. Within a couple weeks time, two families at Zion lost a loved one. Jacqueline Baker and Perry Womble lost a mother and sister, Judy Huebner. We appreciated Bro. Baker providing the message for her funeral service. Then a few days later, Bro. Roy Callahan's sister, Cheryl Sapp, passed away. Sympathy to both these families. May the Lord keep each one safe and healthy. Pray for us as we pray for you. Dennis Baker, Pastor • Norma Womble, Reporter

2020 BMA Salary and Benefits Survey

Ministers Resource Services and BMA America Information Services are partnering on the first BMA Salary and Benefits Survey. The purpose of the survey is to provide churches with benchmark data to inform and assist in the establishment and maintenance of viable compensation packages for their pastor and staff.

Of course, the data resulting from the study will be made available with respect for the autonomy of each local church, but we hope the information will provide churches an objective resource in considering appropriate staff compensation.

To provide the most comprehensive assessment, we encourage **EVERY** church pastor and staff member to complete the survey. Your participation is completely anonymous. An email about the survey will be sent to every church May 5th with a completion deadline of **May 29th**. A link to the survey can be found at <https://bmaamerica.org/salariesurvey/>

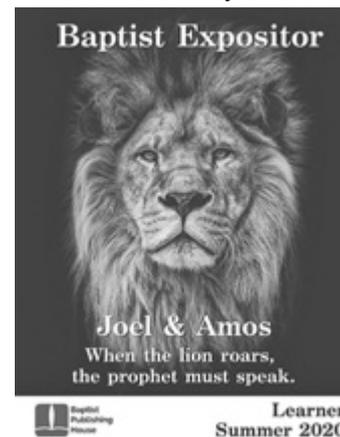
For questions about the survey contact:

John Meriweather (BMA Information Services) john@bmaamerica.org or 501-499-6810

-OR-

Steve Crawley (MRS Executive Director) steve@bmaamerica.org or 501-472-0517

The Baptist Publishing House (BPH) reminds everyone it is time to order your Bible Study material for the Summer quarter of 2020!



This Bible based curriculum for Senior High through adults is profitable for Bible study groups, disciple training classes, one-on-one studies, Wednesday group studies as well as Sunday School classes. Contact BPH online baptistpublishinghouse.com to place your order or to find out more about this publishing ministry of the BMAA.

Central Baptist College Extends 20% Tuition Discount for the PACE Program

Conway, Ark. (April 6, 2020) – Central Baptist College President Terry Kimbrow has announced that the one-time 20% tuition discount for new students enrolling in the PACE Program has been extended through the Fall 2020 semester. This tuition discount was initially offered for Spring 2020 to celebrate the PACE Program's 20th Anniversary.

"In response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, we know that many people's lives have changed drastically in the past few weeks. Because of the uncertainty in our world and in our global workforce, CBC wanted to offer a help to individuals to be able to begin or complete their college degree now. There is no better time to do this than in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of PACE, which stands for Professional Adult College Education. Extending this 20% discount for the 20th Anniversary of the PACE program in the year 2020 to allow new students to experience PACE seemed like the right thing to do," said Kimbrow.

"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 for Academic Affairs. "PACE can remove those roadblocks and give adults an opportunity to achieve their dreams. The time to enroll is now!"

Dr. McAllister went on to say that "because of the recent pandemic, many institutions are scrambling to teach their courses online; however, PACE faculty were already prepared. We have been teaching online courses and offering online degrees for nearly a decade! In a time when students cannot come to the classroom, they can connect online via Zoom and through our learning management system. This is not a new process for us, so students can expect to receive the same quality education that has always been offered through the PACE Program."

In 2000, 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. In addition to the one-time 20% discount for newly enrolling students, students can apply for state and federal financial aid programs by completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) online at <https://studentaid.gov>. Central Baptist College also 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.

The initial purpose of developing the PACE Program was to accommodate the educational needs of adults. Address-

ing this growing need led to the development of a non-traditional program to assist adults in completing their education. Integration of new technology throughout the life of the program has further enhanced the flexibility of PACE and kept it relevant in an ever-changing environment, especially now that almost all education across the nation has moved into an online course delivery format.

"Over the years, PACE has grown," added McAllister. "Although it began with just one degree program, a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management, it now offers 12 different degree programs in areas such as Psychology, Human Resource Management, Leadership and Ministry and Management Information Systems. Students can begin these programs with no previous college experience. They also have flexibility since all our degree programs are offered in an online course delivery format."

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. There are four registration periods (blocks) for the Fall 2020 semester, the first deadline is June 12 for classes beginning on July 6. To learn more or to complete an application for admission visit cbc.edu/itsyourtime. Claudette Holt, Director of PACE Enrollment, can be reached at cholt@cbc.edu or 501-205-8840.

COVID-19 CURE

As I sit here on this Sunday morning, the latest headlines read that 1300+ died just yesterday from the virus. Not in China or Italy, but here in America. Not a 3rd world country, but here in our country. A country that was founded on the principles of Jesus Christ. Our currency includes the words, "In God We Trust," yet the nation's attitude has drastically changed through the years.

I am truly thankful that we have had somewhat of a turning back. Less tax dollars are going to fund abortion, and it is no longer lawful to have "transgender" bathrooms in some places. However, we still have major troubles in our country. DRAG QUEEN story time at some city libraries is very disturbing. It is easy for me to see the sins of the country.

What about MY sins and the sin in our Church? How concerned am I? Have I allowed my heart to grow cold and calloused? Do I care for my fellow man, who might be lost and on the freeway to HELL? How grateful am I for a New Day? Am I excited about that DAY which is fast approaching when I am going to see my Dear Savior who died and lives for me? How excited am I on any given Sunday to rise and shine for the Lord? Do we drag into Church late and then grumble under our breath that the message is still going at 12:05 pm? Do I take too much upon me, that I am always right and everyone else is wrong? How often do I complain? There are 100 or more questions that I need to ask to measure my daily walk. Yes, we are saved, but how are we (you and I) serving HIM daily? When is the last time the HOLY SPIRIT moved me so much that I responded with tears and action?

For a vivid picture from the Bible, let us look for an answer for the COVID-19 virus. Turn to NUMBERS 16:41-50. It is best if you read the whole chapter. God had brought the plague into the camp because of sin and complaining. It was Moses and Aaron who put things into action for the plague to be stopped, no doubt with prayers for their sins and then the sins of the people. Daniel prayed to the Lord and said, "*We (myself included) have sinned and have committed iniquity and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments.*" Daniel 9:3-5.

But I am a Pastor, a MISSIONARY BAPTIST Preacher; where have I erred? But we are the BMA of Missouri; where have we erred? As more local Churches get smaller and smaller and some have closed their doors and are no more, we still look for errors in other folks.

What if I got down on my face and became an Aaron and filled the sensor with true prayers from the heart, seasoned with tears? To think on the sins of America is easy, but what about my sins, my undoneness? Can we not say, "Lord, we have erred and strayed and have done wickedly. Lord, we have become cold and indifferent to you who Saved and Redeemed and Sanctified us. Lord, please forgive us, for YOUR NAME's sake. Please bring TRUE RIVIAL to me first, then to YOUR CHURCH.

I ask myself these questions, but it is the reader's choice to do the same, or we can just continue business as usual.

I truly believe the greatest cure for the COVID-19 virus is in this Bible that I hold. Help us, Holy Spirit, to be a Moses and Aaron today, first for our own SINS, then the SINS of the people.

Lee Miller, Pastor

Charity Landmark Missionary Baptist Church

If you agree or disagree, please drop us a note at:

Charity Landmark Missionary Baptist Church
P.O. Box 847, Bismarck, MO, 63624
or give us a call at 573-701-6223

Be a "Camp DEWr" in 2020

A "Camp DEWr" is an individual who gives \$ 75.00 or more to camp in a year. It is a great way for YOU to support camp.

"Camp DEWr" receive a free T-shirt and will have a special retreat weekend open only for DEWr's **June 19-20, 2020**. DEWr's get special recognition camp week.

It is time to apply for your membership for 2020 to the camp! If you were a "Camp DEWr" last year you must renew you status for 2020. Therefore if you renewing or joining for the first time send your \$ 75 or more to Sis. Laura Polk at P.O. Box 271, Matthews, MO 63867. For more information call her at (573)472-1038, or email her at campgarwood@gmail.com.

A "Camp DEWr" weekend is a special retreat. We'll have special guests and activities planned.

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

2020 Missouri Ladies Retreat September 11 & 12, 2020

Registration Fee:
\$ 30.00 BEFORE August 1, 2020
\$ 35.00 after August 1, 2020

Speaker - Pat Quesenbury & Fran Hoover

Drury Inn & Suites
Arnold, Missouri
(636)287-3111

Reservation Information:

Group Name: Women's Missionary Auxiliary of MO

Group Number: 2392123

Room Rate: \$ 135.00 (plus tax)

2 Queen beds (up to 4 people)
Rate guaranteed until August 10, 2020

Room Occupancy will include:

"Kickback" Supper & "Quick-start" Breakfast

Note: Please make room reservations directly with the motel. Be sure to mention Group Name and Number.

Ladies Retreat Registration Form
(Make additional copies as needed)

Make check payable to:

Missouri Women's Missionary Auxiliary

and send with this form to:

Dottie Steelman

1684 County Rd. 2240

Salem, MO 65560

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Church Name: _____

Registration: (\$ 30.00 before August 1st) \$ _____

Late Registration: (\$ 35.00 after August 1st) \$ _____

Total Included: \$ _____

Questions?? Call:

Dottie 573-247-8085

LaDonna 314-856-3661

Plan for 2020-2021 from National WMA President

This has been a year like no other. I didn't anticipate the changes in the world that we are experiencing right now, did you? However, should we be surprised? The disciples didn't understand what Jesus had told them until it had come to pass. The signs of the times are all around us, we better be prepared for His return is coming soon. We'd better be about our Father's business because the day of the Lord is drawing near. "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come." Matthew 24:42. We must remember we are God's people and we are responsible for carrying the message of HOPE to the lost! Let's take that serious as we serve Him in the National WMA!

We have followed along with the actions of the BMAA and kept the same officers for the coming year. We plan to keep the same theme for the coming year which is so relevant with the world's current situation, "Share the Vision." We need to be sharing the love of God and His truth more than ever with those around us. Our meeting place for 2021 will be the same in Waxahachie, TX. The Recommendation Committee voted to keep "Missionary Care" as our project for the coming year.

Ladies, just think what it must be like to be in a foreign county, far away from family and friends and possibly good medical care with this corona virus situation going on in the world. We need to support "Missionary Care" with great zeal! Please help keep this very worthy cause in our conversation with the ladies in our church groups. Make it real and personal by following the ministries of various missionaries and the struggles and the victories they experience in their ministries. The more they know,

Faithful Pastor's Wife Called Home



Robbie Maxine Robinson

Robbie Maxine Robinson of Ironton, Missouri passed away on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020 at The Baptist Home at the age of 90 years. She was born November 29, 1929 in Mount Levi, Arkansas the daughter of the late Samuel and Eva Merle (Warren) Barnett.

Easter Sunday, March 28, 1948 she was united in marriage to Maxnell Glen Robinson who preceded her in death May 4, 2004. To this union three children were born; Dr. Dennis Robinson and wife, Sheryl of Farmington, Missouri, Phyllis Speer (Paul deceased) of Coffeyville, Kansas and Rick Robinson and wife, Beverly of Culleoka, Tennessee. Robbie is also survived by her brother; Arlis Barnett of Huntley, Illinois, three sisters; Lola Cherry of Chaffee, Missouri, Emma Bohannon of St. Louis, Missouri, and Marilyn Sue Richards of Rock Island, Illinois, nine grandchildren, twelve great grandchildren, one great grandson, as well as a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

In addition to her parents and husband, Robbie was preceded in death by three brothers; James Barnett, Gerald Barnett and Charles Barnett.

Robbie was a homemaker who took great care of her family and a Pastor's wife. She was a member of Berean Missionary Baptist Church. She volunteered for Mercy Hospice in Festus prior to residing at The Baptist Home.

Private graveside services were held April 16, 2020 at Shepherd of the Hills Cemetery in Barnhart, Missouri. Pastor Alan Berry officiating.

Memorials may be made to The Baptist Home, 101 Riggs Scott Lane, Ironton, MO 63650.

the more they will be willing to give. A big "Thank You" to Bro. Jerry and Sis. Sue Kidd for all the visits they made to different states and meetings to help us promote this project and for all their hard work and the love they give in caring for our BMA missionaries all over the world. Remember Bro. Jerry and Sis. Sue in your prayers as they have recently experienced some difficulties and trials in their lives.

We did have one cause that was going to be nominated at our meeting. It is the Darlene Carey Institute in the Philippines. We are not going to be open for nominations for next year and the Darlene Carey Institute will be our project for 2021-2022.

This last weekend I packed away all my stuff I had ready for our meetings April 27 and 28th (how was it all going to fit in my car?) We have to look ahead and keep plugging on for the Lord. Stay in His Word and live it out before others. Remember His hope and share it with others for we are closer every day to His return. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11.

If you have questions or a need in your WMA or Women's Ministry with which we can help, please let me know. Keep informed by checking the website or Facebook page regularly. Jodi Rhea • National WMA President • jodigrhea@live.com

Lahmann Family Missionaries 5-3-20

Thankful for a day of family time, church online with our Mexican Water church family and children's online Sunday school class. Please pray for the many families affected by the virus on the Navajo Reservation.

Justification By Faith Illustrated

Romans 4:1-25

by Dennis Baker

Justification in both the Old and New Testaments has always been by faith and grace. No one has ever been justified by works or keeping the law. The text provides three principles illustrating the spiritual experience of believers today is similar to that of Old Testament believers Abraham and David.

Principle One, justification is by faith and not works, Vs. 1-8. "Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness", V. 3. At the age of seventy-five God promised Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation, Genesis 12:2-3. Later in life, Abraham raised a question to God concerning his promise, "what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless," Genesis 15:2. God confirmed His promise by assuring Abraham that his seed would be like the stars. Abraham simply took God's Word at face value and believed God. Abraham believed in his heart that God had told him the truth. Abraham's faith was never something that he could boast about or for which he could receive praise, he simply believed God would accomplish what He had promised.

Quoting from Psalm 32:1-2 in verse 8, David's song of confession of sin, Paul illustrates that God forgives sin and imputes righteousness without works. Today, believers can be assured that once they are justified by faith, our record contains Christ's perfect righteous and our record can never again contain our sins. Christians do sin, and these sins need to be forgiven if we are to have fellowship with God, but these sins are not held against us. God does keep a record of our works, so that He might reward us when Jesus comes, but he is not keeping a record of our sins.

Principle Two, justification is by grace and not the law, Vs. 9-17. Abraham was declared righteous fourteen years before he was circumcised. Circumcision had nothing to do with God declaring Abraham justified. Circumcision, as a sign, was evidence that Abraham belonged to God because he believed God's promises. Circumcision, as a seal was a reminder to Abraham that God had given the promise and that God would keep His promise. Today the believer experiences a spiritual circumcision of the heart and is sealed by the Holy Spirit, Ephesians 1:13. Circumcision did not add to Abraham's faith, it merely provided evidences of Abraham's faith. The fact that Abraham was justified by grace and not the law proves that salvation is available to all. God's promise is by faith, so that it might be guaranteed to all people who believe. If we could be saved by keeping the law, and not grace, there would be no guarantee that salvation would be available to all who believe.

Principle Three, justification is by resurrection power and not human effort, Vs. 18-25. God's delay in sending Abraham and Sarah a son was to permit their natural strength to decline. It would seem impossible for a ninety-nine-year-old man and an eighty-nine-year-old woman to have a child. From the reproductive point of view, both of them were dead. Abraham did not walk by sight but by faith. Abraham believed God's promises. **Application**, God waits until the sinner is "dead" or not strong enough to do anything to please God for salvation. When Abraham admitted that he was "dead" God's power went to work on the body. It is when the lost sinner confesses that he is spiritually dead and unable to help himself that God can save him. The Gospel "is the power of God unto salvation" because of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. The resurrection of Christ is proof that God accepted Christ's sacrifice and we can be justified without God violating His own

Dear Churches and Association:

Well, we have been through and are still going through an unprecedented time for our churches, state, nation, and world - our first pandemic in the last 100 years.

As you know, I like to stay on the positive side, and there are definitely a few positives that we can take from this trial through which we are going.

One is personal. I can't speak for you, but I have thoroughly enjoyed the at-home time with my family and the greater focus this has brought to my personal relationship with Christ.

One of the breakthroughs that I want to share with you I will also be sharing with Bethel for our May 3rd message. I have applied the Ephesians 3:10-18 passage quite literally for about 28 years now, where I pray the armor on piece by piece with a prayer of faith. I see this as a command from scripture, and an act of discipline and discipleship in the area of spiritual warfare. However, I have always struggled with total comprehension as to the meaning and significance of each piece.

This week on my walk, I started asking God for a greater understanding, and I have changed my approach to praying on this suit of armor. I no longer just pray each piece by name, but I include in my prayer the phrase that connects each piece with what I believe to be the main significance of that piece.

Now a disclaimer: I have never claimed scholarly abilities or single ownership of an interpretation of a passage, so I offer this as a possible meaning and application of this passage.

What does the **helmet of salvation** mean to and for us? **Security** - salvation is forever and makes us secure in Christ. If we are not careful, we struggle daily with our security and significance. This is futile, and an exercise in folly. If we know Christ, He is our only source of significance and security.

The **breastplate of righteousness** is **our focus**. We are called to be holy, to separate ourselves from the world. This is our 'being,' not our 'doing' side of our life.

Dr. Gavin Hooks uses an illustration of the garden. There were two trees: one they could eat of, and the other they could not. Every time Adam and Eve walked by the tree of life and there was fruit on it, this was God saying, "I love you." Every time Adam and Eve walked by the tree of knowledge of good and evil and did not eat the fruit, they were saying to God "we love you!" So, when we focus on righteousness and say no to the world, we are saying to God, "we love you!"

The **Girdle of truth** is **our guidance**. The only way we understand all of these truths is through the guidance of God's Word. Daily decisions are directed by God's Word in our lives.

The **Shoes of the Gospel of peace** is **our purpose**. This is the 'doing' side of our life. We are left here for one reason and one reason only: to bring Glory to God with the propagation

law or contradicting His own nature. The Key to salvation is "if we believe," v. 24.

Dr. Harry Ironside, who for 18 years was pastor of the Moody Church in Chicago, was on vacation visiting a Sunday school class. The teacher asked, "How were people saved in the Old Testament times?" One man replied, "By keeping the law." That's right," said the teacher. But Dr. Ironside interrupted: "My Bible says that by the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified." The teacher was

of the Gospel.

John McArthur says, "everything else that we can do here on earth towards God, we can do better in heaven." So our main reason to remain on earth is to share the Glorious Gospel of Christ.

The **shield of Faith** is **our practice**. All of these areas of Christian discipleship that the pieces of armor point to are only possible as we practice the faith that God has called us to. Faith that believes that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

The **sword of the Spirit** is **our power**. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

As you see, each piece of armor supports some other. As we put on the armor, it forces us to recognize that we are not of this world, we belong to Christ and are therefore secure in Him.

Out of gratitude, we focus on being righteous to show our love to Him. By being separate from this world, we are guided by God's Word. As we live out our purpose to share His gospel with a lost world, practicing our faith daily, we rely on the power of God's Word to change other's lives as He changes ours.

There's one last thing I want to share: isn't it amazing how many churches (including Bethel) have a greater web and internet presence because of this trial? Praise God for His local churches adapting and meeting the need in their communities.

a bit embarrassed, so he said, "Well, does somebody else have an idea?" Another student replied, "They were saved by bringing sacrifices to God." "Yes, that's right!" The teacher said and tried to go on with the lesson. But Dr. Ironside interrupted, "My Bible says that the blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sin." The unprepared teacher was sure the visitor knew more about the Bible than he did, so he said, "Well you tell us how people were saved in the Old Testament!" And Dr. Ironside explained that they were saved by faith-the same way people are saved today!"

The good news for the people of the world, all of whom are guilty before God because of their sin, is that God in His grace offered His Son as a sacrifice to pay the penalty of sin. Those who place their faith in Jesus Christ are counted as righteous and receive the gift of eternal life.

Bibliography: Wiersbe, Warren W., Be Right NT Commentary Romans. Colorado Springs, Co: David C. Cook, 1977.



EIM Director's Daughter Passes Away

Mitzi Lanette Goodwin age 52 of Warren, AR passed away Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at the John R. Williamson Hospice House in El Dorado, AR. She was born June 14, 1967 in Kalamazoo, MI a

special daughter of Rev. Rocky Goodwin, Warren, AR and the late Jeannette Cross Goodwin. Mitzi was an active in the Special Olympics and a silver medal winner in the International Special Olympics in 1983, She was a member of Calvary Baptist Church, was very active in putting together thousands of Shepherd's Bags for Evangelistic International Ministries, a huge fan of Southern Gospel Music who loved listening to Heaven's Echoes.

Surviving other than her father, are brothers Ken Goodwin and spouse Ladonna, Warren, AR and Mike Goodwin and spouse Ann, Magnolia, AR. Six nieces and nephews and 18 great-nieces and nephews.

A Graveside service was 10:00 a.m. Friday, April 24 at Oakland Cemetery. Burial was in Oakland Cemetery by Frazier's Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the Evangelistic International Ministries Shepherds Bag Ministry, P.O. Box 297, Magnolia, AR 71754.

Jerry & Sue Kidd's Son Passes Away

Jason Douglas "Jay" Kidd, 52, went to his heavenly home April 8, 2020. Born January 31, 1968, his parents are Jerry and Sue Hudson Kidd of Bryant, AR. Jay spent his first five years in Ft. Walton Beach, FL, and for the next eight years he lived in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, where he enjoyed playing soccer and flying with his dad to jungle mission stations.

His family returned to the States when Jason was 13 to live in Little Rock. Jay was into sports and played soccer and baseball, but his greatest love was football. He was place kicker for Cloverdale Jr. High and McClellan High School. He graduated from the University of Arkansas in Little Rock with a degree in marketing.

Most of his adult life, Jason lived in Central and South America. Recently he found his favorite spot - Central Florida. He loved the ocean and jogging along the causeway near his home. His occupation was remodeling houses, for which he discovered he had a knack and enjoyed immensely!

Jay was predeceased by grandparents, Cecil & Corinne Kidd and Odus & Allie Hudson an aunt, Jo Ann Brown. Survived include his parents; sister, Juli Kidd; niece, Brittany Johnson; nephews, Brandon Johnson, Bradley (Katelyn) Ellis; great nephew, Jayden Ellis; aunt, Cindy Fulton (Dan); uncles Mike Hudson and Gilbert Brown; cousins and many friends. He is also survived by his fiancé, Dr. Melissa Gallardo of Trujillo, Peru, and her son, Alessandro, who considered Jason his "papa."

A family graveside service was April 25th, at Anderson Cemetery near Springhill, AR. Pastor Drew Cline officiated. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial gifts be given



Jason Douglas "Jay" Kidd

Spotlight on Missions

***Jesse & Rebecca Hales
BMA of America
Church Planter at
Anchor, Austin, TX***

A lot has happened these first 4 months of 2020! No, I'm not just talking about the world shutting down. We started our first small group Bible study in January with a total of 13 people. The group has grown close over these months and we are blessed to see people growing closer to God in discipleship. We have continued to reach out into the community through any open door we can find, trying to build as many personal relationships as possible in hopes that those will turn into changed eternities. We have had to change our methods as the world has changed, but I think the virus has actually opened more doors for us than closed.

A New Partnership

At the end of February our 6-month internship with Antioch Georgetown ended and we met with the leadership of both the BMA of Texas and the National BMA. They were excited to see what God has been doing. With that, they shared the same main concern we have had from the beginning which is our lack of another missionary family to partner with in this ministry. It's not impossible for one family to start a church on their own, but history and scripture show that it is much preferred to minister with a partner. We've been praying for such a partner since we first felt God leading us here.

The leadership of both associations agreed to continue to support us with the understanding that we would keep praying and actively seeking such a partner in ministry to Baptist Missionary Association, Attention: Missionary Care, P. O. Box 1188, Conway, AR 72033

A celebration of life service will be held in Little Rock when the Covid19 pandemic has ended.

AVAILABLE PREACHERS

The following names are listed as a service to our churches. The publishing of a preacher's availability 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.

Douglas Brand, a member of Fellowship Baptist Church in Potosi is available for pulpit supply or as the Lord leads (have experience with Music Ministry). Contact Mike Jarvis (573-854-9075) or Larry Lovvorn (417-766-4077) for references. Contact Doug at 573-315-0930 or 573-315-0931, email dbrand-ministries@gmail.com

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

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.

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.

try. They also asked if we would be willing to pray about the possibility of merging our ministry and partnering with Chris Mindi, another BMA church planter 9 miles away in Leander. Chris and I went through assessment together and moved to the same area at the same time with the same purpose to start a new church and see people saved and growing in God. We have both been praying for a long time, asking God to give us a ministry partner. As they asked if I would pray about it, they made sure I didn't feel any pressure from them to answer one way or another but simply pointed out from their observations that we seemed to be a great match for each other. I told them I would pray about it.

After having several meetings with Chris and Sarah and reaching out to several of our closest prayer warriors, we spent time waiting on God and praying for clear direction. After about a month and a half I felt that God had clearly knit my heart together with Chris' and made it clear that we were to join them in ministry.

We are all very excited to see what God is going to do with this new partnership. I'm sure as I have time and space in the future to share more with you about this, you too will see how incredible God is in the way He has brought us and fit us together. He never ceases to amaze me.

Although this will be a big change for us there are a lot of things that will not change. We have made a lot of great contacts here in Round Rock and fully plan to continue to grow those relationships. Nothing is changing about our support or how to send that in. Our dependence on your prayers certainly doesn't change either, nor does our commitment to starting a church to see people saved and growing in discipleship. What does change is now we have a partner and can do that much more effectively. Thank you, and we will do our best to keep in touch more regularly.