

# The Missouri Missionary Baptist

“Holding Forth The Word of Life”

Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXXIII

St. Louis, MO • July 14, 2020

Issue No. 7

## Attention Church Treasurers:

The BMA of Missouri Loan Committee wants you to know that due to our Treasurer Bro. David Griggs' health issues, please send all offerings and loan payments until further notice to:

*BMA of Missouri Loan Committee  
% Dennis Baker  
5146 Darkmoor LN  
Imperial, MO 63052*

*Dennis Baker, President*

## Remember:

*Camp 2020 is Cancelled*

*But.... There is Maintenance that  
still needs to be done!*

*Contact Bro. Chris Polk to find out  
how you can help*

*Call: Mobile - 573-380-1975*

*or Home - 573-472-1038*

## A Great Invitation

*“Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”  
Matthew 11:28-30*

This invitation is GREAT because it is offered by the GREATEST GIVER - **Jesus Christ**, Who gave his life • to offer the GREATEST GIFT - **Salvation**, To meet

the GREATEST NEED - **Forgiveness, Peace, Strength**, To the GREATEST NUMBER - **All Who Believe (Come)**.

**Have YOU accepted this invitation?** Romans 3:23, “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” Romans 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 10:13, “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

## SMM to Expand “Reach and Vision”

By Dan Carson, Exec. Dir.

Student Ministry Matters of the BMA of Arkansas

**Editor’s Note:** The following article was sent to the MMB and other state publications across the BMA of America as a way to encourage all student ministry workers in our churches to connect with others who are involved in working with youth. In this way you can receive encouragement and ideas that will help you in your ministries.

Bro. Carson writes a weekly article for the *Baptist Trumpet* in Arkansas and I have printed one of those articles to give an idea of the kind of helpful information you can enjoy by connecting with Bro. Carson. See *Picking the Right Volunteers* on page 5.

**Calling all student ministry workers** — whether you are a full-time, part-time, bi-vocational or volunteer student ministry worker, we want to connect with you.

In 2016, when I took on the role of executive director for the BMA of Arkansas Youth Department, I wondered what God might have in store for us. Would we again focus on activities or would it be something else? I am so thankful for our state youth departments that offer camps and retreats for our students, but I knew we needed to become something a little different.

In 2018, we started to embrace the name Student Ministry Matters (SMM). It brings with it a double meaning:

- First, student ministry really does matter. The work we do with students is vital and important. It matters.
- Second, we want to focus in on those things that student ministry workers dealt with on a day-to-day basis, those matters of great concern for the worker who is feeling alone and isolated.

We have come to a place where we want to expand our reach and vision. Our heart is to see student ministry workers connected throughout all of our work, not just in Arkansas. Our desire is to partner with you and help you as you seek to impact the next generation for Jesus Christ.

We aren’t trying to sell literature or anything like that. We simply want to offer connection and community for those that have a heart for working with students.

What we do offer can be found in a variety of places on social media:

- **Facebook** — Our public Facebook page is [facebook.com/studentministrymatters](https://facebook.com/studentministrymatters). Our Facebook group is a closed group where we can discuss things and share ideas on working with students. It can be found at [facebook.com/groups/studentministry-matterscommunity](https://facebook.com/groups/studentministry-matterscommunity).

- **Instagram & Twitter** — We have an Instagram account that is [instagram.com/StudentMinistryMatters](https://instagram.com/StudentMinistryMatters), as well as a Twitter account at [twitter.com/BMA\\_ARYouthDept](https://twitter.com/BMA_ARYouthDept).

- **Website** — Probably the best place to connect with us is through our website, [www.StudentMinistryMatters.com](http://www.StudentMinistryMatters.com). You can add yourself to our email list and find out about our annual Student Ministry Workers Retreat.

In addition to connection, we want to help as you continue to grow in your knowledge of all things student ministry. Each week, we release the Student Ministry Matters podcast on Podbean,



Dan Carson

Apple Podcasts and Spotify to name just a few. Chris Vines (student pastor at Garrett Memorial Baptist Church at Hope and SOAR Conference visionary leader) and Micah Powell (pastor and speaker) serve as my co-hosts. These guys bring a great deal of experience and insight as we continue the conversation about student ministry each week. We currently have 25 episodes that cover a variety of things including church camp, conferences and discipleship. In addition, we cover some harder topics and have had the privilege to interview some great people.

Student ministry is so much harder when we try to do it alone. I pray that you will join us as we seek to network together and help each other along the way.

*(Dan is also the pastor of Family Ministries at Calvary Baptist Church at Fayetteville, Ark. He received his BA from Central Baptist College in Conway in 1995, and his Master of Arts in Religion from BMA Theological Seminary in Jacksonville in 1998. He is beginning his Doctor of Ministry studies at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary of Kansas City this fall. Dan and his wife, Temple have two college-age children. He can be reached at [info@studentministrymatters.com](mailto:info@studentministrymatters.com).)*



# NEWS BRIEFS



**Landmark Baptist Church, DeSoto**, had our first Wednesday night service June 3rd, which was held in the sanctuary due to social distancing. We had our first Sunday School in church June 14th. At this time all services are held in the sanctuary. June 14th, Bro. Benjamin Kingston preached for us in both services. Wednesday night, June 17th, Landmark voted to call Bro. Benjamin as a bi-vocational pastor. Sunday morning, the 21st, for lack of a preacher, no services were held. That evening Bro. Benjamin came up and met with those that wanted to come to have a question and answer session, which was well attended. Then on Sunday morning, the 28th, Bro. Benjamin brought the morning message, and **ACCEPTED THE PASTORATE OF THE CHURCH. PRAISE THE LORD!** July 19th will be his first Sunday as pastor. We believe this young man can help the church grow spiritually and numerically. We are very excited to say the least. Bro. Denver's oldest living sister passed away in Rector, Arkansas. We attended the funeral June 13th. She tested positive for Covid 19 after passing. We do not know if that was the cause of her death. But, the following week, two of her children tested positive. Although we all wore masks at the funeral, it was a little more lax at the graveside service. We were in fairly close contact with the son that tested positive, and due to that we were quarantined for two weeks following the funeral. Praise the Lord, we showed no signs or symptoms and we have been released. We are looking forward to finally attending church tonight, July 1st. That is why Denver was unavailable to preach when the church needed him. Until next month or the Lord's return, Benjamin Kingston, Pastor • Sharon Page, Reporter

**Ohlman Baptist Church, Bunker**, is back to having indoor services on Sundays (morning and evening) as well as Wednesday evening Bible study. Due to the new neighbor to the east of the church building installing a swimming pool but not installing a fence, we felt it best to install a privacy fence on that property line. A big thank you to Roberts Pallet Company for donating the material. Several church members pitched in and had it installed in a few days. This will also create a more safe area for the children and teens to play in once we resume the Wednesday night youth services. Speaking of which, after much discussion, it was decided that we would start that program back up on the first Wednesday of August. Wednesday, June 17th, Bro. Troy Sisk resigned as Pastor. We wish him and Sis. Patty well as they move back to Dexter, MO and seek God's will for their future. Father's Day, the men were given a new coffee mug and lots of cookies (some sugar free) provided by the ladies of the church. June 27th Bunker High School held their graduation ceremony. Our own Cheyenne Davis was one of the graduates and was honored with a reception celebration in the church fellowship hall afterwards. **Special prayer requests:** Pray for the members of Ohlman as we seek a pastor. Pray for the son-in-law of Gary and Glenda Morgeson who has been deployed to South Korea. Pray for Sis. Lorene Lanham whose health is failing and for her family as they will be making decisions about her future care. Janet Widger, Reporter

Hello from **Ozark Heights Missionary Baptist Church, Potosi**. We hope all is well! Even with all the chaos of 2020 the Lord is blessing his churches! We have started back with our WMA and Brotherhood this month along with our Wednesday night youth and children's programs! If you are interested in any of these things and would like more information please give a call or check out our Facebook page. We have continued to be blessed by our gatherings while going through our study on Acts, Hebrews and the Sermon on the Mount in Mat-

thew. Challenging us to be the church and Christians that we should be to bring Glory to our King! We are praying for all of our sister churches during this trying time that we may be patient and graceful with each other as believers at this time! May God bless you and have a great month! Brian Kingston, Pastor

Greetings from **Briar, Doniphan!** June was such a wonderfully blessed month! It was so great to see our brothers and sisters in Christ. We were very blessed with the turnout at the Prayer Breakfast. I don't know if you remember or not but our Prayer Breakfast was first called the Ladies Prayer Breakfast. Then we changed it because we had a couple of men coming. Well now the men have a full table! So if you would like to join us we meet usually on the 3rd Saturday of every month at 9:00 at a restaurant in either Doniphan or Poplar Bluff. We share some of the prayer request from our churches. Some months we give a hand-out to all the other patrons of the restaurant that in which we meet. It was good to have the Youth in Harvest back in session too. Black River was this month's host with Bro. Jimmy Walker, a missionary from the Philippines as the guest speaker. I heard several say how much they enjoyed the time with him and hearing about the work in the Philippines. I missed that service as I had a chance to go see my family in Clarksville, TN and spend some special time with 3 of my grandchildren on their birthdays. For July, Briar M.B.C. will be hosting the Youth in Harvest and we will be having Bro. Tyler Brantley as the guest speaker. The Brantleys are going to be going to Argentina as missionaries in August, I believe it is. On the last weekend in June we were able to attend an Associational Meeting at Zalma M.B.C. This was a make-up meeting from the month of March. It was very

nice seeing some more of our brothers and sisters in Christ. As always Bro. Fish did a great job coming up with the program. The 3rd Sunday Singing for July has been postponed again until August. It will be so good when we can get everything started back. Satan is just having a hay day in our Country right now, he thinks he is in control but we all know that just isn't so! I hope and pray everyone had a blessed and relaxed 4th of July celebration of the birthday of our great nation. May God continue to bless us all! Continue to pray for our country, our leaders, our Pastor's and the churches without Pastor's. David Grubb, Pastor • Yvonne Hill, Reporter

Greetings once again from **Lindsey Lane, Baptist Church, Florissant**. It's been a learning curve the past few months for all of us as we embraced changes. Keeping our people safe and healthy has been our main concern. Pastor Brian has blessed us with daily devotional and very uplifting messages from God's Word. After having "church" on our phones for over a month we have been able to meet in the sanctuary now for three weeks. It was so wonderful to sing and share God's Word with others once again! During the "stay home" time we were blessed with an addition to the Coleman family in the safe arrival of their baby girl. God is always blessing even in drastic times! We are gradually getting back into our normal routine. We are so thankful for those who are faithful. We have several that are staying home and still contributing with prayers and tithes. Please continue to pray for Sister Val Dixon. I also ask that you keep Bro. David Griggs in your prayers as he is experiencing very difficult health issues. We continue to lift up our missionaries, LifeWord, and our country. Satan is still working as hard as he can to destroy as many lives as he can. Our task is to remain faithful, witness often, and trust in the hope that is secure! May God bless and keep you, may His countenance shine upon you! Brian Meade, Pastor • Kathy Chapman, Reporter

Greetings from **First Baptist Church, Potosi**. June was a full month of activity planning. Produce boxes have been delivered every Friday. We are continuing to have two church services inside the building. Celebrate Recovery Praise Band led the worship music the last Sunday and Bro. Kevin preached the message. God has brought him from atheist to powerful speaker for the lord. He is truly a blessing to our church. He and Pastor Jim make a great team in leading our church forward. FBC Club is preparing to begin Wednesday night adventures for July Summer Nights Program. Raven Porter does an excel-

• Continued on Page 4 •

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# STATE MISSIONS

## SEND MISSIONS OFFERINGS TO:

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

### FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS • June 2020

#### General Fund:

##### Checking Account:

Balance May 31, 2020		\$	42,016.52
June Receipts:			
Missions:	\$	3,202.10	
Total Income:	\$	3,202.10	\$ 3,202.10
Total Available		\$	45,218.62
Disbursements:			
Director, Salary	\$	650.00	
Domain Fee	\$	60.00	
Total Disbursements	\$	710.00	\$ (710.00)
<b>Balance June 30, 2020:</b>			<b>\$ 44,508.62</b>

##### Bank of America Savings Account:

Balance May 31, 2019		\$	1,101.20
Interest:	\$	.02	\$ .02
<b>Balance June 30, 2020:</b>			<b>\$ 1,101.22</b>

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

Balance May 31, 2020:		\$	106,342.54
Interest:		\$	530.26
<b>Balance June 30, 2020:</b>			<b>\$ 106,872.80</b>

**Total of all Funds June 30, 2020:** \$ 152,482.64

## Help Needed to Provide Everlasting Smiles

Friends, we need your help! Your church is invited to partner with us to provide Everlasting Smile Christmas Shoeboxes to missionaries in Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, and Nicaragua.

These shoeboxes are a great tool to help our missionaries meet and build relationships with people. Many people will come to a service that is providing a "gift from the States" that would otherwise not come to service.

This year, more than ever, we are excited to send the boxes. This will provide a great opportunity for our missionaries to connect and reconnect after a long time of quarantine. Many people in these countries have lost jobs, money is tight, and that means they don't have much food. The boxes will bring much joy to parents and children.

Packing a shoebox is a great way to help open doors to spread the gospel to people who may otherwise never attend a service. It seems like a simple thing for us, but to our missionaries, it is a vital tool for ministry.

The smile that a child finds when opening a shoebox is often for a moment, but the love of Jesus that they find through this ministry is the Everlasting Smile.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us or go to [bmamissions.org/christmas-shoeboxes](http://bmamissions.org/christmas-shoeboxes) for more information. We look forward to working with you to provide Everlasting Smiles.

\*PLEASE NOTE: We will not mail a packet to each church this year. Please forward this email to the person responsible for the Christmas Shoebox campaign in your church!

Thank you,

*Dr. Ralph Izard & Angela Rice*

[angela@bmamissions.org](mailto:angela@bmamissions.org) 501-455-4977

### From Our Missions Director...

October 10, 2020, We hope to be able to have our Baptist, Missionary Association of Missouri annual business meeting **at Zion Missionary Baptist Church which will start at 9:00 a.m.** Until then we need to be praying that all our churches will make plans to have three messengers attend this meeting to help make plans for the work we need to do in 2020-2021.

We need this time of planning, worshipping and fellowship to draw us closer as we face the year ahead determined to do our best for the Lord.

Among the business that day will be hearing the reports of our various departments, electing officers and other committee members, electing a new Missions Director, enjoying special singing and a special time of worship, and enjoying the opportunity to get to know each other better.

As you can see in the financial report for the month of June (above) our financial picture is good and from what various pastors are saying we are anxiously waiting to find the man the Lord has for us to plant a new church in Missouri and the surrounding area! Let's pray that we can announce plans to get started soon!

Please let nothing you can help interfere with your being present at this meeting. Zion Baptist Church is located at 3485 Baumgartner Rd, St. Louis, MO 63129.

### From Our Editor...

As we have started the last quarter of this associational year, we are somewhat disappointed in that we do not have anyone to nominate as a new editor, as we had hoped earlier this year. I have told the Publications Committee that I am willing to continue as editor at least for another year since no one else has applied. Let's pray that someone feels God leading them to this ministry during the next year!

I call your attention to the Third Quarter financial report

of the *Missouri Missionary Baptist* at the end of this page. It reveals the fact that we will be out of funds before July is over unless we get some Special Gifts soon!

**Please prayerfully consider giving a special offering to the MMB this month or lead your church to start supporting the paper on a regular basis.**

I realize many of our churches are having financial problems at this time and some may not be able to give any extra. But I encourage those who can to help us out.

We have many church reporters who are faithful to send their news reports each month and other pastors and leaders who contribute material for publication monthly or from time to time during the year and I appreciate all these who help in this way.

But if we do not have an increase in income we will not be able to publish the MMB for an extend amount of time.

The monthly average to

**Thus saith the Lord... ask for the old paths...**

**and walk therein... and ye shall find rest for your souls. BUT THEY SAID, WE WILL NOT.**

*...I will give this city into... Babylon by...*

*sword... famine... pestilence. Jer. 6:16, 32:28, 36*

**Ask for the old paths**

**Doctrinal Songs, Gospel Preaching, King James Bible**

keep this ministry going is nearly \$ 1,600 so you can see that we are needing help soon.

Thank you who are supporting this ministry with your finances, prayers, encouragement, comments and suggestions. I am truly grateful for each of you.

If you have any ideas that can help improve this ministry please let me know and let's work together to make it a project that will bring glory to God and strength and encouragement to each other.

May God bless each of our churches in the BMA of MO!!

### Third Quarter 2019-2020 Financial Report

#### Missouri Missionary Baptist Paper

##### April 1, 2020 - June 30, 2020

Balance: April 1, 2020	\$	2,756.90
Receipts:	\$	3,245.90
Total Available:	\$	5,317.53
Disbursements:	\$	(4,816.37)
Balance: June 30, 2020	\$	501.16

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

• **NEWS From Page 2** •

lent job as Director of Children's Ministry. Each week has a new activity: Amazing Grace Race, Books of the Bible Bingo, Water Balloon games, and ice cream social and crafts. New lessons in God's Word are taught with each adventure. Sunday, July 12th, we go back into full Sunday mode including Sunday School. First service begins at 8:00 a.m. (not 8:30 as it has been), Sunday School is at 9:00 a.m., and then a second service at 10:00 a.m. We are excited to get back to our Sunday School classes. Our graduates were honored June 14th; all were not present but we are so proud of the accomplishments of our students. Baccalaureate was held at our church this year with a community band (including our own Shane Pashia) opening with worship and the message was brought by Bro. Kevin Smith. The school gym was set up for kindergarten graduations, so it moved to the church, however, there is a lot of pressure in this day and time to keep it out of the school. Celebrate recovery is in operation again with restrictions in place. We are so thankful for the opportunity to worship God together. Please pray for us as we pray for you.

Jim Ainley, Pastor • Deborah Rauhut, Secretary

**Zion Baptist Church, St. Louis**, sends greetings to her Sister Churches. The first Sunday of July Zion met inside for both services. We have also resumed our Wednesday evening services. It is good to meet again to worship and fellowship together. Since meeting back together, we have had visitors. It has been good having Bro. and Sis. Allen Casey in our services. We appreciate Bro. Roy Callahan doing the camera work and putting the morning message on Zion's Facebook page. We are appreciative and thank God for being able to share the gospel with more than just our local congregation. It is wonderful how God's Word continued to be preached and heard by so many more through Facebook. The virus had doors closed, but God's Word continued to go forth. As churches start to resume their inside services we pray the Lord's blessings and protection on you. Please keep Zion in your prayers as we keep you in ours.

Dennis Baker, Pastor • Norma Womble, Reporter

Greetings from **Lower Doe Run Baptist Church, Ellington**. Our prayer is "Jesus Come Quickly!" Then we wait and watch! As we watch and wait we do our best to get the gospel message out to as many as we can. Yes, it is for sure that we have a task to do while we wait. In the midst of confusion and chaos the message is still the same. Jesus said that He had come to seek and to save that which is lost. These words for two thousand years are still true and are still the same. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. God is Love! We were blessed with a visiting preacher, Donald Morris, the last Sunday in June and his message was "Living in Anticipation." Our attendance has fluctuated with some not able to attend. Continue to pray for our two deacons, Nick and Albert, and their wives. We send condolences to the families of Ronald and Leroy Rayfield as these brothers died within 2 weeks of each other. We continue to meet for Ladies' Bible Study weekly and enjoy studying the Bible together. Til we meet...

Melvin Meade, Pastor • Carolyn Meade, Reporter

**Bethesda, Baptist Church, Park Hills**, was happy to resume services May 10th. We gave the mothers present notebooks note pads and packs of toilet paper for mother's Day. We omitted Sunday School and evening services for the month of May. Starting in June we decided to continue worship services on Sunday mornings at 11:00 and to study our Sunday School lessons in our Sunday night services at 6:00 p.m. Bro. Alan Dane has continued to fill the pulpit while we are still searching for a pastor. Following the evening service June 14th the youth treated us to some ice cream. On Father's Day we gave

the fathers present pocket knives and measuring tapes. June 28th we enjoyed a fellowship after the morning service with pizza and ice cream. As a praise report the last tests for Bro. Alan Dane have shown that the chemo and radiation were effective and that the cancer appears to be gone! The doctors have advised him to not have surgery and just maintain having tests every three months to monitor the problem. Continue to keep him and Bethesda in your prayers!

Ashton Dane, Youth Reporter

Hello to all from **Oak Hill Missionary Baptist Church, Alton!** Thank the Lord we have been having regular church services since June 10th and are enjoying being with our brothers and sisters in Christ as we worship our Lord! July 5th the Lords family grew as Sis. Sonya Smith joined Oak Hill! Bro. Ed baptized her. She was saved earlier and decided she wanted to be a part of our fellowship. Until next month I hope I will have some more good news to share with you. Until then we will be praising and honoring our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Edward Casey, Pastor  
Jennifer Williams, Reporter

Summer Greetings from **Bethany Baptist Church, St. Louis!** We are enjoying having services once again. Bro. James Hoffmann has agreed to be our Interim Pastor again as Bro. Boatright and his wife Connie have taken some time off to travel now that both are retired. We restarted services the first Sunday in June with just a morning service at 10:45 each week. We are not having Sunday School but have purchased BMA Literature and are encouraging each member to take a book home and read a lesson each week. It is a rewarding study. Attendance is gradually increasing and we are enjoying the fellowship. We are still looking for a pastor and have just installed a new furnace and air condition unit in the parsonage replacing the original equipment from when

the parsonage was built in 1980. Bro. Earl Johnston has been in the hospital for two weeks, spending some of that time in intensive care, but he is showing good progress and is gaining strength every day and we hope to see him get to go home soon. Pray for him and Sis. Betty. Also, please pray for Sis. Eunice Compton as she is in the hospital with the Covid-Virus. She was taken from the nursing home a few days ago and tested positive so is now receiving treatment. She is very weak at this time. We are trusting God as we go from day to day and are looking forward to what He is going to do in our individual lives, our church, our communities, our country and around the world. We certainly need to pray for one another knowing God is in control of all things and He knows what tomorrow will bring. We know not what tomorrow holds, but we know WHO Holds Tomorrow!

James Hoffmann, Interim Pastor

Mary Hoffmann, Temporary Reporter

**Make sure you test positive for Faith. Keep distance from Doubt, and isolate from Fear. Trust God through it all.**

### *You Can Help*

Sadly, empty churches have become "the norm" over the last two months. Many churches have decided to take a break from Sunday School over the summer months. As a result, about 150 churches have not ordered Sunday School curriculum (25% less than usual). As you can imagine, this is setting up the Baptist Publishing House for a financially-tight quarter. We can certainly use your help!

We are asking that our churches prayerfully-consider sending an offering to offset the financial loss caused by reduced order numbers.

These are difficult times for all of our churches, individuals, and departments. If you are able to help in this way, it will be greatly appreciated. Not all are able to help financially, but everyone can do the most important thing--pray.

Please pray for the ministry of the Baptist Publishing House as we work hard to provide our churches, church plants, and mission churches with sound biblical curriculum.

**You may send a donation to:**

Baptist Publishing House  
P.O. Box 279  
Jacksonville, TX 75766

**You can also give via phone at 800-333-1442**

May God Bless Your Church,  
*Jordan Tew*, Assistant to the Executive Director

## Picking the Right Volunteers

by Dan Carson

As we look ahead to Fall, you may need to consider filling some spots on your volunteer student ministry team. COVID-19 may have pushed a few workers away due to medical concerns, while others may have simply faded away during this unusual time.

Whatever the reason, you don't want to tackle student ministry all by yourself. You may be the volunteer youth director at your church or the full-time student pastor, but neither title calls for us to do the work alone. We need others standing with us as we work with some of the difficulties that students encounter.

Perhaps one of the most important reasons to have additional support is to have both male and female adults working in your student ministry. It is never a good idea to be the only adult with a group if you are a male and have female students in your group. The same can be said for female student ministry workers and male students. In addition, it is always a good idea to have another adult with you to protect your reputation even if you have all male students and you're a male youth worker.

Hopefully, you see the need for additional support in your student ministry. Most of us believe that we need another set of hands when working with students. Where we struggle is knowing who to pull onto the team.

This week, let's look at a few characteristics of a good volunteer for student ministry:

- They are a saved, baptized member of your church. You want your students to follow Jesus in belief and baptism and we can't hope to see students take those steps if we have adults in our groups who haven't done the same. In addition, I don't want a lost adult trying to teach my students about spiritual things. I can see where we might have college students in the area who are not members of our church, but have good standing in their home churches, work as volunteers. However, I can't think of many other exceptions to the church member rule.

- They truly care about students. While that may seem obvious, we can sometimes just give lip service to caring about things and people. You want adult volunteers who were already talking with students, even before you approached them about joining your team. And, let me say here that age doesn't matter; and that isn't just because I'm old. It is because of some women who impacted my daughter the most during her junior high/high school years were in their 50's and 60's. These women loved on my daughter, and she didn't think anything about them being older than her parents. They simply cared about students, and you could tell it from their actions and words.

- They should be students of the Word. While they don't have to be deep theologians, they do need to be growing in their understanding and knowledge of God's Word. You want your volunteers to be able to answer questions biblically if they are leading a small group or teaching a lesson. It can be damaging to relationships if you have to go in and correct much of what your volunteer has taught.

- They have a good reputation outside of the church. As we look at the requirements for pastors as outlined in I Timothy 3, we are reminded that reputation has a lot to do with our effectiveness in ministry. If your volunteer is an angel at church but a devil during the week, you need to disqualify that person. Your volunteer doesn't have to be perfect, but they need to be actively growing in their faith. Your students need someone to model. In addition, it also means that they are willing to undergo a criminal background check. If they are not, you need to move on to the next candidate.

Notice that I didn't say that they had to be young, cool or

## Lebanon on the Brink

(The Costa Family has been affiliated with the BMA for five decades beginning with Yousef, who pastored an Arabic-speaking church in Philadelphia and died in 1988. His son Charlie currently serves as Middle East coordinator, and his children make up generation number three: Bro. Charlie's daughter Rana, a cardiologist, coordinates Middle East medical clinics and his son Joe serves youth in the region. All of them were commissioned by the BMA, all are American citizens and all choose to serve in the Middle East.)



The Costa Family

It has been a while since I've written about the work we are doing here in the Middle East. Obviously COVID-19 has been center stage all over the world but lost in this melee was the economic disaster taking place in Lebanon.

For the last year, we have been competing with Venezuela for the honor of worst economy in the world. Here are the repercussions:

- At the time of this writing, the Lebanese currency has been devalued 400%.

- For the first time since World War One we see Lebanese families going hungry.

- A quarter of the population has gone below the poverty line in the last three months.

- The bread basket of the Middle East has turned into the beggar's pan of this region.

Then there's the resulting violence:

- Internal sectarian tensions are high. Lawlessness is increasing and we fear chaos.

- Many, including unbelievers, are talking about this being the signs of the end of the world.

In all of this doom and gloom there are bright spots of glowing testimonies. Sharing the love of Christ has touched many lives. Thanks to COVID -19, churches here were de-

## "We are STILL Waiting"

A 2020 Update on EIM's Shepherd's Bag Ministry

Rocky Goodwin, Director of Evangelistic International Ministries

I have always heard the quote, "God's timing is not our timing." Never has that been truer than today I think we would all say.

I wanted to update everyone about current news in EIM's Shepherd's Bag Ministry. In late 2019 after coming to the Philippines, it was funny to be a good volunteer. They need to have a heart for loving God, loving people and making disciples — other things can be learned.

What other characteristics are you looking for in a good adult volunteer in your student ministry? Visit our Facebook group at facebook.com/groups/studentministry-matterscommunity to share with others.

pleting 16,000 Shepherd's Bags for the Philippines, we were diligently working hard on getting all the red tape of our paperwork cleared to ship there. As you all know, the COVID-19 pandemic began to unfold across the Pacific before it did in America so our shipment to the Philippines had to be delayed. We are still unable to ship at this time but are praying that God would soon open the door in His timing. Additionally we still have 1,000 Shepherd's Bags for Mexico that was going to be trucked there but again we're still waiting since they have closed the border due to the pandemic. However we went ahead with plans for 2020 and ordered

played and ready to take care of people in need. So when the bad economy tanked, people were already being exposed to the message of salvation.

With the meager resources available, we have been able to help more than 400 families. We are trying to make this assistance with food packages sustainable for the next few months hoping that this difficulty will ease.

**What can the churches of the BMAA do at this time?**

1. Pray and pray hard.

2. Keep supporting your missionaries faithfully so they can continue to operate and function with minimal worry for their livelihood.

3. Give generously to the BMAA relief fund at <https://app.securegive.com/BMAMissions/main/donate/category>, PO Box 878, Conway, AR 72033, or call 501-455-4977.

4. Challenge other family members, relatives, and colleagues to join you in giving and praying.

The U.S. embassy in Beirut has arranged for several evacuation flights, but we have chosen to stay. Help us make this stay profitable for the kingdom.

supplies and have all the materials here in the warehouse to be assembled for 16,000 more Shepherd's Bags for Ghana. Honestly we are frustrated and even sometimes discouraged. These Shepherd's Bags and supplies are ready to be used to preach the Gospel to boys and girls overseas but we didn't create the situation and apparently God is allowing this to happen so we just bow to the fact that God is still in control and we'll just wait on Him and He will renew our strength. We'll mount up with wings as eagles, we shall run and not be weary we shall walk and not faint.

Pray for EIM that as we "wait" we would use this time wisely and stay faithful to the cause of Christ and be ready when He calls.

Thanks for your prayers.

Bro. Rocky

## 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

**Attention All Ladies:**

### **The 2020 Missouri Ladies Retreat has been CANCELLED!**

*Hopefully everyone knows this by now and has  
gotten over their disappointment.*

*Please pray for the 2021 Retreat and those who are  
making plans for it!*

### **2020 - 2021 Theme for the WMA of the BMAA "Share The Vision"**

As our National WMA President, Jodi Rhea, announced in her April 2020 letter, we have chosen to keep the same theme for the coming year. **"SHARE THE VISION"** is so relevant with the world's current situation. Throughout the years, the women of the BMA have kept the vision of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ to all people and nations before them in their various programs and projects. We want to keep that vision front and center during this most unusual year!

My friend Paul Gauntt, recently posed the following on Facebook, and gave me permission to share it with you. "PANDEMIC RIOTING IN THE STREETS, CHURCHES CLOSED, SCHOOLS CLOSED, MURDER HORNETS, EFFORT TO DISMANTLE POLICE, ...AND NOT SAHARAN DUST! USUALLY WHEN A HALF-DOZEN ISSUES ARISE LIKE THIS -- ALL AT THE SAME TIME, - IT LEADS ME TO BELIEVE SOMEBODY'S TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING. MAYBE GOD HAS CHOSEN THE YEAR 2020 TO CLEAR OUR VISION. JUST A THOUGHT."

As we navigate the next few months of uncertainty in our nation, let us continue to put our trust in Jesus Christ and rely on Him for all of our needs. He knows the future and He will supply what we need. With all of the chaos around us, let us realize even more the importance of our need to **"SHARE THE VISION."**

At our women's Ministry Conference at the National BMA meeting in April of 2021, our breakout sessions will be looking at **"SHARE THE VISION"** in several different ways.

- Share the Vision through Women's Ministries
- Share the Vision through Gospel Music
- Share the Vision through the Written Word
- Share the Vision through Community Outreach

I challenge each of you to **"SHARE THE VISION"** wherever God leads you. Let's all try to be obedient to the vision God has given us of sharing what Christ has done for us.

Sabrina Clayton will be our keynote speaker for the 2021 Women's Ministry Conference and I look forward to seeing many of you in Waxahachie, Texas, April 19 - 20, 2021.

If you have never been to one of our conferences, I urge you to attend this one. We have had approximately 200 women at each of the last two conference and the blessings have been tremendous!

*Brenda Hornaday, 2nd Vice President  
bhornaday@hughes.net*

## **CBC Announces 2020 Alpha Chi Inductees**

June 25, 2020) **Central Baptist College** is pleased to announce students who were recently inducted into the **Alpha Chi National Honor society.**

Alpha Chi is a national, interdisciplinary organization that recognizes excellence, character, and service. Over 300 institutions across the nation hold Alpha Chi charters. In order to be inducted, students must be invited, have junior or senior status, have completed a minimum of 30 semester hours at their home institution, and have a grade point average (GPA) in the top 10% of GPA's in the institution. **The 2020 Alpha Chi inductees are as follows:**

**Holly Allen** is a senior, Kinesiology & Health Sciences major from Cabot, Arkansas. Her campus activities include being a member of the CBC Lady Mustangs Basketball Team where she was named Third Team All-Conference by the American Midwest Conference. In the community she is involved in the Real Life Youth Ministry at NLC.

**Kathy Baker** is a senior, Psychology major from Conway, Arkansas. Kathy is a 2019-2020 recipient of the A.J. and Ethel Pumphrey Stephens Scholarship.

**Angela Brantley** is a senior, Psychology major from El Dorado, Arkansas.

**Terri Brown** is a senior, General Studies and Leadership & Ministry double major from Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

**Bobby (Trey) Burroughs** is a senior, Bible major from Mount Vernon, Arkansas. In the community, Trey is involved in his church where he is an 11th grade small group leader and a member of the praise band.

**Carrie Collins** is a Psychology major from Clinton, Arkansas. In the community she teaches youth at Mt. Zion General Baptist Church in Bee Branch, Arkansas and teaches adult education for GED preparation through Birch Tree. Carrie was named the Recovery Champion of the Year for 2019 from the Clinton Branch of Birch Tree.

**Josh Dison** is a senior, Bible major from Conway, Arkansas. His campus activities include Student Orientation Staff, the CBC Band, and Student Activities Board. In the community, Josh attends Calvary Missionary Baptist Church and is an Eagle Scout.

**Zach Ferrell** is a senior, Bible major from Sulphur Springs, Texas. His campus activities include Student Orientation Staff, the CBC Disc Golf Team, the Chapel Worship Team, Choir, President's Leadership Council member, and the

Minister's Association. In the community, Zach leads worship at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church.

**Kathleen Fly** is a senior, English major from Mammelle, Arkansas. Her campus activities include the Tower Times, CBC's newspaper.

**Abigail Lowery** is a senior, Communications major with an emphasis in Journalism, from Conway, Arkansas. Her campus activities include the CBC Choir and journalism staff.

**Mark Ricker** is a senior, Communications major from Conway, Arkansas.

**Gabe Spriggs** is a senior, Psychology & Counseling major from Conway, AR. His campus activities include Student Orientation Staff and leading a campus discipleship group. In the community, Gabe is involved in the Chi Alpha Campus Ministry.

**Jonathan Wilson** is a Management Information Systems major from Sherwood, Arkansas.

**The Central Baptist College administration, faculty, and staff congratulate all of these students on their academic achievements!**

CBC is a four-year, private, liberal arts college owned and operated by the Baptist Missionary Association of Arkansas. CBC offers approximately 40 baccalaureate degree programs, 16 athletic teams that compete in the AMC conference of the NAIA, and 6 fine arts performance groups. For more information visit [cbc.edu](http://cbc.edu) or call 501-329-6872.

## **Faithful Servant Called Home**

GLENDA NATHALEE NEWMAN, age 98, of Sikeston, died Friday, June 5, 2020, at the Delta South Nursing Center in Sikeston.

Born August 21, 1922, at Peach Orchard, MO, to the late Adolphus Holtzhouser and Delores Nelson Holtzhouser Stafford, she had lived in Sikeston the past few years. As a pastor's wife, she moved with her husband as he served congregations in Kennett, Poplar Bluff and Matthews. She was a member of the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Sikeston.

December 2, 1939, she married William Herschell Newman, who preceded her in death on September 2, 2006.

Surviving are her son, Ronald Lee Newman of Conway, AR; a number of grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren; as well as several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by her daughters, Carolyn Kay Campbell and Deborah Delores Barker; two grandchildren, Darla Kay Campbell and William George Campbell and her two brothers, Harold Holtzhouser and Kenneth Holtzhouser.

Visitation was from 4:00 p.m. until time for the service at



**Glenda Newman**  
08/21/1922 - 06/05/2020

6:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 9, 2020, at the McMikle Funeral Home in Sikeston. Rev. Jerry Adams and Rev. Billy Davis, officiated.

Private interment was Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at the Missouri State Veterans Cemetery at Bloomfield.

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

**Fellowship of the Local Church**

Ephesians 3:21 "Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end."

by Dennis Baker, President BMAMO Brotherhood

Dr. J.E. Cobb's Brief Studies in Christian Doctrine points out that the fellowship of the local church is based on three biblical principles, 1) fellowship in Christ, 2) fellowship in the ordinances, and 3) fellowship in Christian life.

The first step for membership in a church patterned after the Jerusalem church is salvation. Salvation comes about in the heart of the individual through preaching of the Word, the Holy Spirit applying the witness of the Word to the heart, which brings conviction of sin, which leads to repentance and faith. Romans 10:17 "One must become a member of the family of God through the new birth before he is spiritually prepared to be a member of the church of Christ." (Cobb, 176)

"When a person is saved, he should present himself to a church, make a confession of his faith in Christ, and express his desire to become a member of the church. Although a young believer is not to be expected to understand the full range of the doctrines of Christ, he should possess a teachable spirit in readiness to receive teaching by the church." (Cobb, 176).

Fellowship in the church is based on the two church ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is a ceremonial act which admits one into all the rights and privileges of a local church. Every person who desires to be a part of the local church must be baptized. (Cobb, 176) Since baptism is a picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, proper baptism must be immersion, I Corinthians 15:1. Neither baptism nor the Lord's Supper have the ability to save!

Scriptural baptism must be administered by a church patterned after the Jerusalem church established by Christ during His earthly ministry. The Lord's Supper is a local church ordinance and is to be observed in local church capacity. The local church should restrict the ordinance to those over whom they have oversight, 1 Corinthians 5:9-13.

"Those who advocate open communion weaken the importance of baptism and the influence of church discipline. (Cobb, 179) "The church as a local body, conducts regular business, calls pastors, authorizes baptism, and engages in other activities in which none but members participate. That fact does not question the salvation of those who are not members of that particular church. It simply recognizes the nature of the church as a local body and the Lord's Supper as a church ordinance." (Cobb, 180)

"The relationship that exists among the members of a church should be that of a family of faith, relating to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. A strong cord of spiritual sympathy and affection binds the members of a church to the other members. The Church Covenant is based upon Scripture, it provides a profitable guide for our Christian duties as members of the church." (Cobb, 180)

The local church can assist her members to discover their spiritual gifts, develop genuine communion with the Lord each day through private prayer and Bible reading, express their faith through personal witnessing, and strengthening family relationships.

Since the local church is composed of redeemed but imperfect members, occasions will arise when the body will need to exercise corrective counsel, Matthew 18:15-18.

"Ecclesiology is crucial to Baptist theology; it is what makes Baptists unique among other Christian groups." (Bry-

**Gambills Mark  
73rd  
Anniversary**

Gene and Arlyn (Mitchell) Gambill, of Greenbrier, AR, recently celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary. The couple first met shortly after Gene returned from service in WW II, but Arlyn didn't take too much notice of him then, regarding him as just one of the "older men." But their paths would continue to cross at church and romance began to blaze. They were married June 20, 1947 at Chambers Park Baptist Church in St. Louis, MO.

Gene and Arlyn worked in BMA churches for over 65 years. He served as an interstate missionary, state missionary for Arkansas and the director of missions for the BMA of Missouri. He also pastored churches in Missouri, Arizona, and Arkansas before retiring in 2015. They are presently active members of Immanuel Baptist Church in Greenbrier.

To honor this milestone the Gambills were joined by their three surviving children and their spouses -- Donna and BMA Minister Zane Clark of Benton, AR, Carol and Roger Haynes of Bono, AR, and Michael and Cindy Gambill of Greenbrier. The couple also has 9 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and 2 great-Great-Grandchildren.

The Gambill's address is 9 Smallwood, Greenbrier, AR 72058.

an, 1) The church exists to carry out the work of the Lord by the power of the Holy Spirit. When a person is saved, he should present himself to a church, make a confession of his faith in Christ, and express his desire to become a member of the church.

**Bibliography:**

Bryan, Philip R., **Baptist Alternatives to Contemporary Ecclesiology**, Jacksonville: BMA Seminary, 2005.

Cobb, J. E., **Baptist Church Manual**, Texarkana: Baptist Publishing House, 2006.

**From God's Word & My Heart**  
by Pastor Ben Kingston • Bethel Baptist Church • Lonedell, MO

**Dear Churches:**

Yesterday, I shared a pet peeve of mine with Bethel. It happened when I noticed an article by a 'more-spiritual-pastor-than-you,' entitled "A phrase I would take out of every pastors mouth."

I began to read, knowing I was going to be mad at the end of the article... and I was right! So here is my pet peeve: You say something not quite right, and no harm was intended, yet some brother or sister defending the Kingdom's honor goes ahead and assumes you just performed blasphemy and hammers you on your mis-speak.

Let me further illuminate! Way back in the day when I first started pastoring, I had gotten into the habit of saying "my church" when referring to Bethel. Now you and I both know that no one on earth has ownership of one of the Lord's churches, because only one person has bought and paid for through blood and resurrection His precious Church, and of course that one person is Jesus Christ. But it seemed like every time when I would mis-speak, some brother would hammer me and instruct me that "it's not your church, brother, it's the Lord's church."

I am not trying to run those men down because they were truly trying to guide a young preacher. I just would have loved the benefit of the doubt. It happened enough that I trained and corrected myself to say "the Lord's church that I pastor."

So, back to the article. I felt like this guy did the same thing. He took what has become a current common phrase and weaponized it against those that use it. What's the phrase? "Boy, I can't wait to get back to normal." Now, we all have said it! I certainly have and I have heard several church members and fellow pastors say it, and quite honestly was completely ignorant that I was offending heaven and earth every time I said it.

What was the point of the article? Well, he took umbrage with any pastor that would say that because of the weak and anemic nature (in this guy's opinion) of the health of the current churches. So the accusation was "Do you want to get back to normal where churches aren't reaching people, where churches aren't changing their communities with the gospel of Christ?"

Needless to say, that is not what I mean when I say I want to get back to normal. I think I speak for all of us that we simply mean a normality of schedule, a normality of seeing people we are used to seeing, worshipping how we want to and have been accustomed to.

Now that you know what frustrated me, let me tell you however that the message of the article was not lost on me nor did I feel that it was unfounded. I just didn't like the approach, because I do believe that we should very candidly and honestly evaluate our commission efforts and how effectively we as a church are accomplishing the great commission.

Pastors and church members, there has never been a better time to effect change! Everyone has gone through massive change, so if your place of worship needs a 'new normal' to better achieve the commission, now is the time.

Remember, the message never changes, but the methods sometimes do. May the Lord bless you is my prayer.

**Third Quarter 2019-2020 Financial Report**

*Kenneth Gibson Seminary Student Grant Fund*  
October 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Balance: October 1, 2019	\$	12,021.43
Receipts:	\$	<u>0.00</u>
Total Available:	\$	12,021.43
Disbursements:	\$	<u>( 0.00)</u>
Balance: March 31, 2020	\$	12,021.43

## ***Pastor, How do You Make People Feel When You Talk to Them in the Foyer, etc.?***

by C. R. Curtman, via *ThatWeMayKnow.com*

A man said to me recently, “I love and respect our pastor, but I don’t think I’ve ever had a complete conversation with him during the years that I’ve been a member of our church. Every conversation with him has been interrupted by his noticing someone else with whom he apparently preferred to talk. There’s been times when, in mid sentence – sometimes his sentence, and sometimes my sentence – that he’s abruptly turned or walked away to engage in relative small talk with someone else.”

I felt sad when I heard this. I’ve known this man for years. In all the years I’ve known him I’d never heard him even remotely speak disparagingly of a pastor. He’s the kind of person, along with his wife that would be considered an “asset” to, and a “gem of a member” in, any church.

It’s just incomprehensible that otherwise seemingly spiritual, intelligent and sensitive men in ministry could act this way and be this rude and hurtful to members of their own congregation. But there are pastors, not many, but too many, who do act this way and are this rude and hurtful to members of their own flock. It may be because of some favoritism they have for, or that they want to curry with, other people. Who knows? Whatever the reason, this is wrong. It’s always wrong.

Years ago while visiting London, some Americans had the opportunity to meet some of England’s notables. One day they were able to talk at different times to the current Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli and to the previous Prime Minister, William Gladstone.

That night they were discussing their experiences. One man said, “When Mr. Gladstone was talking to me, I felt like I was talking to the most important man in the world.” Another man said, “When Mr. Disraeli was talking to me, he made me feel like he thought he was talking to the most important man in the world.” By the way, Gladstone was a Christian.

Disraeli was a Jew. Jesus said in Luke 16:8, “*for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.*” Sometimes the children of this world are not only wiser, but also a lot more considerate and kind than Christians.

Pastors should be among the most gentlemanly, considerate, sensitive people in their congregations. They need to make it their business to be friendly to everyone regardless of their age, financial or social status or how much they have personally in common with them. They shouldn’t think people don’t care or that they don’t notice how they treat them or other people. They do!

Don’t be one of those men who, while talking or listening to you, is the entire time obviously looking over your shoulder for someone more interesting to talk to. In this respect make sure you’re more like Benjamin Disraeli than you are like William Gladstone.

school book. This does three things:

a. It gives you a good reason to visit them, helping them not to feel uncomfortable when you arrive.

b. It gives you an opportunity to bless them. The sick and shut-in would love to be at church, but simply cannot be there. Those who have been unfaithful in church attendance will appreciate not being forgotten about or feeling a cold shoulder. They will be glad they still matter to you.

c. It opens doors to Gospel ministry. You will have opportunities to not only share the Gospel with the people you visit but you will be able to demonstrate the Gospel to the people you visit by showing God’s love for them.

4. Invite them to come with you to church Sunday morning. You may

## ***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.

**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 [dbrandministries@gmail.com](mailto:dbrandministries@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](mailto: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](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

*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.*

## ***Dr. Thomas, CBC Professor, BMA Minister, Called Home***

Dr. Jesse Thomas, 83 of Conway, AR passed away July 3. He was a member of East Side Baptist Church and had been a minister for 65 years, pastoring 12 churches in Arkansas and 1 in St. Louis, MO.

He earned an AA degree from Central Bible College, BSE degree in Biology from UCA, MSE degree in Biology from USC, MS in Biblical Studies from Covenant Theological Seminary and a Doctorate of Ministry from Drew University.

Dr. Thomas was a public school teacher for nine years before joining the faculty of Central Baptist College in 1969. He served as professor of Science and Bible at CBC for 46 years, chair of the Bible department for 21 years and also served as an assessment officer and vice president for Academic Affairs.

Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Betty McCoy Thomas; a brother, Clifton Thomas; two sons, Gary Wade Thomas and David Mark Thomas, a daughter, Julie Ann Thomas; seven grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

A graveside service was scheduled for July 8 at 10 a.m. at Crestlawn Memorial Park, with social distancing required. A memorial service is being planned for a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in his memory to the Jesse Thomas Endowed Scholarship at Central Baptist College, 1501 College Ave., Conway, AR 72034 or St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

even consider taking them to lunch afterward.

Some things are timeless like showing love, compassion, and concern for others. Any church can maintain a quarterly visitation ministry. Try it and let us know how it goes. If you do not have enough literature to distribute, you can order more on our website or call in an order.

We look forward to hearing from you!  
[baptistpublishinghouse@gmail.com](mailto:baptistpublishinghouse@gmail.com)  
PO Box 279 Jacksonville, Texas 75766

## ***Church Visitation:***

### ***It Wasn’t Broke, So Why Did We Fix It?***

by Jordan Tew, Baptist Publishing House

Some of you may remember when churches would make a priority of visiting their members or prospective members. Every church has people in it who are sick, shut-in, or have not been attending worship regularly. In days past, it was the norm for a group from the church to visit these people to check on them, pray with them, and encourage them in their walk with the Lord. However, in the last couple of decades, many churches have simply stopped doing this. Why? The Scriptures speak clearly of our need to watch over one another. Remember these words: “*And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*” (Hebrews 10:24-25).

There is, perhaps, no better avenue for a visitation ministry than the Sunday School class or Bible study group.

#### **Consider this quarterly visitation ministry plan**

1. On the first Sunday of each new quarter, take a look around you Sunday School class or small group, and determine who is not there. Put them on a list.

2. Round up some people from your class or group and plan to go visit them the next Saturday.

3. When you visit them, bring them their Sunday