

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

“Holding Forth The Word of Life”

Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXXIII

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Issue No. 12

Invitation for Churches to Join us for World Missions Day • February 28, 2021

BMA Missions invites churches to join us for World Missions Day on Sunday February 28, 2021. This year's theme represents the very essence of our global mandate to **Go-Disciple-Plant-Repeat**. It is the purpose for which we exist.

We pray that each church will use this time not only as a reminder of our purpose but also as an opportunity to give to the Jerry Kidd Missions Offering.

Funds given during World Missions Day are used to support over 500 national ChangeMaker missionaries who are making disciples and planting churches in over 71 countries.

Register your church today at www.bmamissions.org/worldmissionsday and receive free promotional materials and a free polo for your pastor!

World Mission Offering is now “Jerry D. Kidd” Missions Offering

Jerry Kidd has been serving the BMA for 62 years. First as a pastor, then as missionary, church planter, assistant director of international missions, director of international missions, and director of missionary care.

Known as “Pastor of Missionaries,” his pioneering spirit and faithfulness to share the gospel to indigenous people has created a legacy of multiplying disciples and churches worldwide. With Sue, his wife and ministry partner, by his side, he continues working to change lives and point people to Jesus.

With this legacy of humble service in mind, BMA Missions Executive Director John David Smith announced on October 28 that **the annual World Missions Day offering is now the Jerry D. Kidd Missions Offering.**

Smith presented a combat helmet to Kidd, explaining that, “This combat helmet, to countless men and women serving in world missions who have found life-saving protection in a raging battle and encouragement to fight on in a foxhole with Jerry Kidd, symbolizes his faithful life-long ministry of sharing the sufferings of fellow soldiers.”

World Missions Day 2021 is February 28, and BMA Missions invites BMA churches and their congregations to celebrate this emphasis day by showing the World Missions Day video, praying for global missions, and giving to the Jerry D. Kidd Missions Offering.



Sue & Jerry Kidd

Next Time It Will Be Different

The First Time Jesus Came

He came veiled in the form of a child.

A star marked His arrival.

Wise men brought Him gifts.

There was no room for Him.

Only a few attended His arrival.

The Next Time Jesus Comes

He will be recognized by all.

Heaven will be lit by His glory.

He will bring rewards for His own.

The world won't be able to contain His glory.

Every eye shall see Him.

He will come as Sovereign King and

Lord of all.

— John F. MacArthur Jr.

**You Are Invited to
A Drive-Thru Nativity at
Ozark Heights Baptist
Church (Hwy. 21 South of Potosi)
December 12th - 13th
from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

God's Christmas Gift

by Jeff Swart,
President • BMAA

• Via Baptist Trumpet

There is a word that we hear more often beginning the week of Thanksgiving up until Christmas Day than at any other time of the year — the word “gift.”

At this time of the year, we spend a lot of time searching for just the right gift for our friends and family at just the right price.

Have you ever wondered where the tradition of giving gifts at Christmas began?

It began with God, Who gave the world of humanity the very best gift ever given on the very first Christmas; and the gift that God gave to mankind was Himself. So the first Christmas gift was actually a person.

Of all the ways God could have chosen to communicate to human beings, He chose to become one of us. In Luke's Gospel, we read these words: “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11). The angel of the Lord stated that God sent us a “Savior.” Why a Savior? The following words answer that question:

“If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent an educator. If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist. If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist. If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer. But our greatest need was for forgiveness, so God sent us a Savior.”

God did not give us what we wanted on the first Christmas morning, but He did give us what we needed most of all!

I recently read about a man who received a Christmas gift 49 years ago, and still hadn't opened it yet. I call that dumb! Can you imagine if you gave me a gift for Christmas and I never opened it? Sometime later you might ask me, “How did you like the gift I gave you for Christmas?” I might reply, “I loved it! Unfortunately, I haven't had time to unwrap it, but I'm really grateful for the gift.” If that were the case, you'd think that I was ungrateful.

Many people are like that. God gave them a gift 2,020 years ago, and they still haven't unwrapped it. Year after year passes and they just never get around to opening God's gift.

Let me ask you, “What is the message of Christmas?” Let me try to summarize it to you in a short and succinct statement: “You matter to God.” That's it! You really do matter to God. In fact, you matter so much to God that He sent Jesus Christ to earth to let you know that you matter to Him (John 3:16; I John 3:16). That's the message of Christmas in a neat little package.

If you haven't opened God's Christmas gift, let me encourage you to do it this year.

The MAGIC
OF
Christmas
IS NOT IN THE PRESENTS
BUT IN
His presence



NEWS BRIEFS



Bates Creek Baptist Church, Potosi, has blessings to report. We were excited to have a Walk of Faith bonfire and Nerf game for the kids. It was a good fellowship and much needed. It was all outside, so it was safe and socially distanced. Our WMA ladies got together baskets and a couple of ladies delivered them in our community. Thank you, Sis. Fay and Sis. Gail! The baskets were simple baskets of family friendly activities such as cookie mixes and cookie cutters. Each basket was a little different but the message was the same. **“We are in your community. We love you and we would welcome you to come try our church.”** A seed has been planted. Pray with us that it starts to grow. We were also thankful to continue to host a community Trunk or Treat. This was held outside and there was a good crowd. It was nice to see some faces return and it was great to see new faces. We pray that our local community is starting to realize we are here and are a kid friendly church. Continue to pray for our church and community. We are lifting your church up in prayer as well.

Bryan Buckley, Pastor • Sara Buckley, Church Reporter

Landmark, DeSoto, reports “What a month, seems that so much has happened!” I’m glad the presidential elections are over. Whether or not they turned out the way we had hoped, it’s going to be a different mindset. We just need to pray continually for the one occupying the White House, now and after January 20, 2021. We’ve been hearing great sermons from our pastor, but on the twenty second, he was quarantined by his doctor, due to his family having Covid. So, Bro. Denver preached both services that day. I know that pastor’s are always glad to have someone they can call upon on the spur of the moment. And, if I do say so myself, I think Denver brought forth a very good message. We did not have services on the 15th, and we were also closed on a couple of Wednesday nights. Hopefully we are back on track now. Most of us who attend services regularly really miss it terribly when we can’t go to church for worship service. Sis. Glenda Perry has had a very hard time with an unknown illness, but finally got some relief and was able to attend church the 29th. Thanks for the prayers that were taken before the throne on her behalf. The 7th, we had a barbecue with pork steaks and brats, and hot dogs too, I believe. We were blessed to be able to sell many of them, but had a few left. It always brings out our neighbors around Landmark. We continue to have visitors and we praise the Lord for them. So far the Lord has blessed us as we’ve had no Covid cases in the church. We want the Burnett family to know that we extend our sympathy to them in the loss of Bro. Ken. Heaven surely looks a lot sweeter to them than before.

Until next month or the Lord’s Return,
Benjamin Kingston, Pastor • Sharon Page, Reporter

Greetings from **First Baptist Church, Potosi**. Covid hit many families again this past month; Thanksgiving dinners were not celebrated as in the past. However, as Christians, we must put aside the thoughts of the world and continue on positively showing our Christian spirit. The FBC KIDS have been working hard on our Christmas program “Out of the Box.” DIY advent bags were delivered to church families with children. Covid has kept some from being able to attend regular services. We are still maintaining our 8:00 and 10:00 services including live video of the service for those who cannot attend. Two families joined and we had another baptism. We are preparing for the Christmas season remembering to put Christ above all things. Hopefully, God will end this pandemic, but until then we must follow his guidance and tell others of Christ. Please pray for us as we pray for you.
Jim Ainley, Pastor • Deborah Rauhut, Reporter

Abundant Life in Christ, Charleston, reports that COVID has wrought havoc on our ministry, as it no doubt has on others’ as well. The last three weeks of November we were shut down due to First Lady testing positive, and then Pastor and the kids being quarantined for an additional 14 days beyond the ten days they were quarantined with her. The last two Sundays we were able to set up a Zoom Sunday School class. Attendance has been low and unpredictable as others have also at various times been quarantined and/or choosing to stay away from services. Again, we’re sure our situation is not unique. First Lady fully recovered from COVID. We continue doing all we can in the situation in which we all find ourselves.

Rodney Dunlap, Pastor

Greetings from **Ozark Heights Baptist Church, Potosi!** We hope all had a great Thanksgiving in these trying times! We are excited to Announce that **we will be having a Drive through Nativity at our church on the 12th and 13th of December from 6 to 8 p.m.!** The hope and prayer is that the Lord will use this to remind people that Christ had come and has freely offered them salvation! The Lord has kept Numbers 6.24 on my heart! It says *“the Lord bless thee, and keep thee.”* It is in His strength that we can last, not our own!
Brian Kingston, Pastor

God is continuing to bless us at **Bethany Baptist Church, St. Louis**, even in the midst of many setbacks like most of our churches are experiencing. Attendance has fluctuated almost every week as the Virus, accidents, and other things affect most of our members. Bro. Jim Parks had some complications as the result of eye surgery, Sis. Ella Beeler fell and broke her leg in a joint that had been replaced, various ones have had setbacks with the Virus and

other family incidents, but God is helping us cope and some healing is taking place each week. We look forward to seeing many of our folks back in services soon! It was a joy to have Bro. Juan Fernandez and his family visit with us a few weeks ago as he shared his heart about what God is leading him to do to minister to the Hispanic population around our area. He also brought a short, but inspiring message from God’s Word. They have been back visiting with us a few times and we are enjoying getting to know this family. Pray for them and our church as we seek God’s will in helping them in their ministry.
Jim Hoffmann, Pastor

Greetings from **Lindsay Lane Baptist Church, in Florissant**. We pray that everyone had a blessed thanksgiving. During these troublesome times surely we can be thankful for God’s promises! Bro. Brian and Dawn took a couple weeks vacation and spent some time in Branson. They had a great time zip lining, throwing axes, yes Dawn did quite well we were told! Bro. Doug Brand and his wife were with us the first Sunday. He brought a great message regarding the “baggage” we carry around. The second Sunday Bro. Jeff Richards and his wife were with us. His message was the unexpected conversation of Jesus and the woman at the well. We thank God for those men willing to step up to fill in when needed. Our prayers go out to Lily Dunigan in the recent passing of her friend, Alex. Sis. Rachel Leslie is going thru some medical issues. Sis. Shelia Parrish recently fell and broke her shoulder then fell again and hurt her back and is currently in rehab. Sis. Janet Jenkins is battling the covid virus. The church recently observed the Lord’s supper. Our thanksgiving luncheon was cancelled due to restrictions put on us by St. Louis county. Praise God we are still able to gather to Worship and fellowship. We pray for all who have been hit with this virus. Wear your masks people! Our young folks are busy practicing for the Christmas program. Continue to pray one for another.

Brian Meade, Pastor • Kathy Chapman, Reporter.

Grandview Baptist in Springfield is still reaping results of special meetings in October with Bro. Jeff Swart. Since that time into November we have baptized four and welcomed seven new members in addition to those. We enjoyed a special Tuesday Thanksgiving service for Mid Week prior to Thanksgiving Day. Afterwards we enjoyed a dessert fellowship with “store bought” items cautiously served by two of our ladies. Covid times are challenging but God is greater.

Gary Longstaff, Pastor

• Continued on Page 4 •

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FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS • November 2020

General Fund:

Checking Account:

Balance October 31, 2020		\$	34,109.40
November Receipts:			
Missions:	\$	3,288.87	
Loan Corp. Ins.	\$	<u>2,154.29</u>	
Total Income:	\$	5,443.16	\$ <u>5,443.16</u>
Total Available			\$ 39,552.56
Disbursements:			
Director, Salary	\$	450.00	
Trainer, Salary	\$	600.00	
Secretary, Salary	\$	200.00	
New Bank Checks	\$	<u>27.50</u>	
Total Disbursements	\$	1,277.50	\$ <u>(1,277.50)</u>
Balance November 30, 2020:			\$ 38,275.06

Bank of America Savings Account:

Closed & added to Checking Account Income 11/22/2020

Investment in BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund:

Balance October 31, 2020:	\$	107,411.56
Interest:	\$	<u>0.00</u>
Balance November 30, 2020:	\$	107,411.56

Total of all Funds November 30, 2020: \$ 145,686.62

Announcement of Our Intention to Hold 2021 National BMA Meeting in Waxahachie, Texas

by *Jeff Swart, President*

We would all acknowledge that 2020 has been a year that we will never forget. Although we were not 100% positive at the time, cancelling the national meeting in 2020 turned out to be the correct decision. Now, it is time to consider the 2021 meeting and we are again facing a great unknown. So, after spending time praying and considering the various alternatives, we have decided to schedule the national meeting in 2021 practicing social distancing with no close contact of messengers.

Therefore, as of now, the BMA of America national meeting will be held Monday April 19 thru Wednesday April 21, 2021, at the Farley Street Baptist Church in Waxahachie, TX. The meeting will be conducted with the same format as the 2019 national meeting with the exception of the breakout sessions normally held on Tuesday morning. We will not be having the breakout sessions so as to comply with social distancing requirements. And, should the health department regulations change between now and the meeting, we will comply with all state and local regulations and may need to modify the format of the meeting.

In the January 2021 editions of our state papers, the hotel information and a draft of the schedule for the meeting will be printed. The hotels available will be the same as last year.

Please pray that we will be able to host the 2021 national meeting as there is a great need for all of us to be together as we conduct the Lord's business. Please pray for your officers and the national meeting production team as we plan a meeting that will glorify the Son and edify the messengers and guests of our churches.

From Our Missions Director...

A Page From My Heart

Dear churches,

Most people know what someone means when they refer to a person as having a 'Type A' personality: self-driven, goal-oriented, strong leader, etc. While I would never refer to myself this way, I have heard a ton of people try to push me into this mold. So, let me say quickly that I see myself more as a person who wants to affect change and accomplish goals for the Lord's kingdom. If that makes me an A-type personality, so be it! But, all this has been said to make a funny about the fact that my first two months as your director has been anything but earth-shaking and motivational!

We had an amazing start to it with a wonderful meeting with Juan Fernandez and both missions committees from the Missouri State and the Meramec associations. More to be said on this soon. Please pray for Juan and our Association as we prepare this project to present to the churches.

Then, November 9th I was quarantined until December 1st! The quarantine started with taking care of Dawn and Molly, and then Tony. As of this writing, God has spared me from contracting the virus, for which we are very thankful, since I am diabetic. Dawn, Molly, and Tony all had mild cases, for which we are also very grateful.

Thank you to all who prayed for me and my family. Bethel has been amazing in their support of their pastor during this time.

And lastly, you may have heard that my father-in-law Ken Burnett passed away November 22nd, so you can see it's been a difficult month. As of this writing, we do not have his arrangements settled yet.

A word of honor and memorial: Suffice it to say, Ken



Bro. Ben

is easily in the top three of the most influential men in my life. He had reached 90 years of age, and his death date was also his 68th wedding anniversary. He married Joan Hoff 68 years ago and it was clearly his best decision. God then blessed him with Debbie, Diane, Denise, and Dawn, who are definitely his greatest accomplishments. He loved, supported, and mentored His sons-in-law: Jerry Grodie (whom he is reunited with in heaven, and who was a faithful husband, father, and worker in Ken's heating and plumbing business), Gavin Hooks (who has

followed Ken's footsteps as a faithful and successful husband, father, and business owner), and myself.

Ken was most proud of his daughters and their accomplishments. He was a faithful child of God, church member, deacon, treasurer, business owner, school board president, St. Clair citizen, and that's just to name a few of his accomplishments. He was also very involved on all three levels of the BMA.

So, to come full circle, I am still studying our missions program and trying to prayerfully shape my approach on how to design, teach, and grow the missions effort in the BMAMO. Please pray with me in this effort.

Please Note:

Stacie sent out an e-mail to all our pastors, clerks, and/or missionary committeemen last week to ascertain the viability of holding a Missionary committee meeting via a conference call in December. So far, I have gotten all positive feedback but if you are the missionary committeeman of the church you attend and didn't get this e-mail, please contact us and get us your information so you can be part of this conference call.

We will discuss the meeting that was held with Bro. Juan and the motions that the special missions committee made regarding our support of him as a missionary in the St. Louis region. (I was asked by Bro. Claude Evans, our missionary committee chairman, to set up the conference call, and then he will conduct the meeting when it is arranged.)

Here are the best ways to communicate with me:

My Cell • (636) 629-2526

My E-mail • Bethelbaptistchurch@live.com

Bethel Church Office • (636) 629-2978

May the Lord bless you and His churches,

Bro. Ben

• NEWS From Page 2 •

Greetings from **Zion Baptist Church, St. Louis**. We are so thankful that we are still able to assemble together as a church. There is a limit in St. Louis County as to how many can meet together and thankfully, we do not exceed that limit. We feel blessed that the virus has not affected our people. Our hearts go out to those that have been hospitalized or quarantined at home. We feel deeply for the families that have lost loved ones to this virus. Our heartfelt prayer is with these families and their church families. Sis. Patricia Casey recently had surgery and she is doing well and has been back in services. Sis. Pam Callahan has been having some health issues and we are missing her not being able to come to church. The Baker's daughter, Brenda, is visiting from Connecticut. It is good having her with us at church. We appreciate Bro. Roy Callahan taping and putting each Sunday's message on Facebook. We pray the Lord's Word will go out and touch and change lives. We are looking forward to having our Holiday Dinner at Wesley Roger's in Arnold December 20. Zion sends Christmas greetings to all and pray for you to have a joyous holiday season and may the Lord bless in the New Year. Keep Zion in your prayers and we will be faithful to keep you in ours. Dennis Baker, Pastor • Norma Womble, Reporter

HELLO to all from **Oak Hill Baptist Church, Alton MO**. I apologize for not getting an article in last month's paper, time just got away from me. We hope and pray that everyone had a safe and blessed Thanksgiving. We have not had any services because of COVID-19 virus. It is growing at a rapid pace. I understand that you could be a carrier of the virus and not know or realize it. The majority of our members at Oak Hill are in the elderly age. Most of them are not in perfect health, and it could be very bad if they came down with the COVID-19 virus. We hope and pray that this coming Sunday, December 6th we will be able to have our preaching service. Until next month I hope I will have some good news to tell you but until then we will be praising and honoring our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. God Bless!!

Edward Casey, Pastor • Jennifer Williams, Reporter

The Package

by **Jared Kathcart, Pastor • North Lake • Smithville, MO**
Via Baptist Trumpet

Fifteen years ago, I made my first ever Amazon purchase — a blue Nalgene bottle and a Back to the Future 1-3 DVD set. I remember the moment as a major step into adulthood. The accessibility of online shopping, the convenience of postal delivery (to my college dorm, no less!) And the power of my debit card — it was magical. I waited over a week for that special delivery, checking my little mailbox for the slip of paper telling me that there was a package for me at the front desk.

These days, I get 5-10 Amazon deliveries a week, and half the time I see the box on my porch and don't have a memory or clue what Nikki or I ordered. It's sad, really. With the growth of convenience comes a lack of appreciation. We are spoiled, and our joy and efforts show it.

It's no wonder we've grown tired of a seemingly distant God. When He doesn't seem to deliver in "two days or less," there is no prime membership to fix our dissatisfaction. Even though, through His Spirit, He is more accessible than ever, we tend not to care. We want immediate action. We want immediate delivery. We want the "package" at our doorstep in two days or less.

Yet we are fools not to recognize the virtue of patience, not to see the beauty of the refining efforts of an expert blacksmith and not to see how faith and trust can bloom into flowers, even after a storm. We are fools not to know that hope can only exist if we have something to hope for — and we do; we hope for Christ's delivery and for His return. And in the meantime, we listen to the words of Paul from Romans 12:12 ESV: "*Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.*"

Friedman Addresses Post-COVID Ministry

By Paul Gauntt, Pastor • First •
Palmer, Texas Via Baptist Progress

During recent BMA of Texas meeting, Mitch Friedman, lead pastor of the Journey Bible Fellowship of Austin, addressed the complexities of reaching the unchurched, especially in the aftermath of COVID-19.

Friedman, who called himself a "cultural observer," cited the possibility that the church may not return to a pre-COVID type of ministry. The church will need to break from what he called "historical pride" and concentrate on adapting to the new normal in order to win the world to Christ.

Friedman explained that COVID has been like a pressure cooker to the church by causing it to come to terms with other avenues of ministry. "The year 2020 has been an amazing blessing in that it has helped us to understand our historical pride in comparison with our Christian faith," he said.

He drew a comparison to the yearning of Israel to return to the old ways in Egypt to the attitude of most churches today wishing we could return to pre-COVID days. "We must get a handle on the beautiful opportunities today to minister rather than to return to what we were before," he said, noting that it is time for the western church to awaken.

He reminded the group of one transforming factor in the church's outreach in 2020 is live-streaming services, and how the gospel message is becoming more widespread than anyone ever dreamed possible. "Rather than waiting until this (pandemic) is over so we can get back to the way things were, we need to understand that God has ordained every single moment for every single Christian," he said, citing Paul's message on Mars Hill where he preached about the "un-

From Our Camp Director

Happy Thanksgiving from camp! Due to our Covid quarantine we spent a long Thanksgiving weekend at camp with just our family. It was a great weekend. We missed our families but we enjoyed the time together. I was able to do a lot of small jobs around camp.

First I fixed the mower which had been broken since late summer. With the mower fixed I was able to mow and mulch. We cleaned pine needles off roofs and out of gutters. Worked on some doors. Cleaned up some trash. Cleaned up the shop. Winterized everything except the dining hall and Dorm 9.

I had to order the RV antifreeze so I'll go back this week and get that in the toilets.

While the guys went on a ride around the big square (train route). I cleared the leaves away from Dorm 2 and burned them.

A few years back dad and I were doing just that. Clearing away leaves from Dorm 2. Back then we used rakes (Now I use a backpack blower.) We had raked the leaves several feet away from the building of course standing in the leaves we were raking when we rolled out a couple Copperhead snakes. That'll make ya jump. A lot,

I mean a LOT of my memories involve those wiggly ropes. They camouflage so well. A known characteristic of the copperhead is they will lay still when danger approaches. Often they will not strike immediately. If on a trail the first hiker or two may step directly over the Copperhead and it not strike or move until the third or fourth hiker.

It's a lot how Satan operates. He is cunning, sometimes he attacks immediately. Other times he waits and makes you think your safe before he strikes. Like the Copperhead he is a master of disguise.

Like my Copperhead memories at camp, Satan is an active part of your life. During the Summer months I have to stay on guard. If your picking something off the ground don't use your fingers or toes. Always pick it up so if there is a snake under there he escapes away from you. After a while it becomes second nature to think there could be a snake. It's the same for the Christian, after a while it becomes second nature to think where's Satan?

Genesis 3:1-4 "*Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'' And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'*" But the serpent said to the woman, "*You will not surely die.*" ESV

Chris Polk • PO Box 271 • Matthews, MO 63867

known God" as inscribed on one of the altars. (Acts 17:24-26)

Friedman then posed the question as to how the New Testament Church would respond to the present world's situation. He mentioned the four world views that are common today, and what the church's response should be to them:

- **How did I get here?**
- **What's wrong?**
- **What can be done?**
- **What is my purpose here?**

One issue facing the church today, according to Friedman, is discipleship — the church must be disciplined! Then he had a word to pastors: "Not only does the church need a strong program of discipleship but, as pastors, we also need constant discipleship."

“Thank You” From the Editor

The Park View Baptist Church in Arnold has been unable to have services for quite a while due to loss of membership and lack of response from the community. Their last pastor was Bro. John Earl Brown. He and his wife, Joann, have watched over the property and maintained it for the last few years, but due to his declining health they decided it was time to close the church and dispose of the property. They sought counseling from other pastors and expressed their desire to give some of the pews and other furniture to other churches and to Camp Garwood and to give the proceeds from the sale of the property to the BMA of Missouri Association Loan Department with at least two special designations: 1. Give \$10,000 to the Missouri Missionary Baptist Paper and 2. Give \$10,000 to Camp Garwood with the remainder of the proceeds remaining in the Loan Department for future designated uses.

As editor, I want to express my appreciation to the Browns for maintaining the property over the years, at their own expense, and for wanting the proceeds to go back into the work of the State Association. I especially am thankful for the support designated for the Paper as our support has been very minimal over the last few years and this will allow us to “breathe easier” as we face the future and try to make improvements in our publication and distribution.

I am sorry to see one of our churches have to close, but am encouraged to see a lasting desire to continue to help our ministry in the BMA of Missouri.

I also thank the Meramec Association for a special offering (\$ 1,000.) in October.

Mary and I thank all who support this ministry and are praying that God will bless you for your support and encouragement over the years we have served our churches.

Introducing the Winter 2020 Baptist Expositor!

This winter we are studying the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew 5-7.

Purpose of the Sermon on the Mount

The Sermon on the Mount falls in line with the major theme of Matthew’s Gospel - The Kingdom of God. Through the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught what living under the authority of His kingdom should look like, and He alone fulfilled such righteous requirements. Throughout the lessons that follow, you will notice a distinct reference to “kingdom-dwellers.”

Unit Aim

An appropriate aim for this series of lessons entitled, **The Sermon on the Mount: Righteousness that Exceeds** is -- The Learners will acknowledge Christ as the Righteous King and understand that those living in God’s kingdom wisely build their lives upon the foundation of Christ’s teachings and possess a righteousness that exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees.

Lessons Included in this Quarter

Lesson 1: Begin with the End in Mind 4:23-5:2; 7:24-29

Lesson 3: Persecution, Salt, Light 5:11-16

Lesson 4: Unless 5:17-20

Lesson 5: “You Have Heard it Said” about Murder 5:21-26

Lesson 6: “You Have Heard it Said” about Adultery, Divorce, and Oaths 5:27-37

Lesson 7: “You Have Heard it Said” about Retaliation, Neighbors, and Enemies 5:38-48

Lesson 8: The Proper Practice of Righteousness 6:1-8, 16-18

Lesson 9: The Lord’s Prayer: Believers Speaking to their Father 6:9-15

Lesson 10: Lasting Treasures 6:19-24

Lesson 11: How to Combat Worry 6:25-34

World Missions Day 2021: Grateful for Your Giving

by Missions Executive Director John David Smith

I cannot recall a year like 2020. We have been thrust into uncharted waters but sustained by the simple truth that our God is in control. I have never been more thankful for your faithful partnership with BMA Missions.

The turbulence of 2020 has been a global experience, yet what an encouragement to hear how God has blessed in the midst of global chaos. Isn’t that just like God? Here is a glimpse of what we have seen around the world:

- Technology has allowed churches to share online, leading more people than ever to follow Christ.

- People have come to better understand that the church is truly a community of people not a building or location.

- Local congregations and communities have united to support one another, share in each other’s financial burdens, and take on personal responsibility in discipleship and small groups.

- Though travel has been stalled, virtual meeting capabilities enable us to connect with each other and with missionaries, church planters, and pastors.

- I am personally excited to share that I have had more conversations with missionary candidates this year than any I can remember.

Certainly the challenges are great yet we are seeing firsthand what we clearly see in Scripture: The gospel always advances in the midst of difficulty. For this reason I am asking your church to join in celebrating World Missions Day on February 28, 2021, our annual world missions giving campaign.

This year we are excited to announce the annual World Missions Day offering is being renamed The Jerry Kidd Offering, honoring the indelible legacy of this pioneering BMA missionary. When you give to The Jerry Kidd Offering on World Missions Day, your funds go to:

- North America church planting - providing stipends to multi-ethnic church planters in Canada and the U.S.

- U.S. missionaries - While most U.S. missionaries now raise their funds, others still receive stipends, and all U.S. missionaries benefit from support and training.

- ChangeMakers - Many countries have formed church associations, and we work with them as they send missionaries and plant churches. In other countries we partner with key leaders or ministries through stipends to meet specific needs and goals related to training or church planting.

In all cases, needed funds are opportunities to expand the gospel, make disciples, and plant churches. We partner (do things WITH people not FOR people) to create self-sustaining church planting movements. The need for the gospel has never been greater, and that is why our goal is to double the number of missionaries in the next ten years.

Whether on February 28 or another Sunday, we ask that you lead your church to take up an offering. Last year on World Missions Day, our churches gave \$400,000. I am praying we will beat that number this year. With your help we can do it!

Lesson 12: What Nots and Do Whats 7:1-12

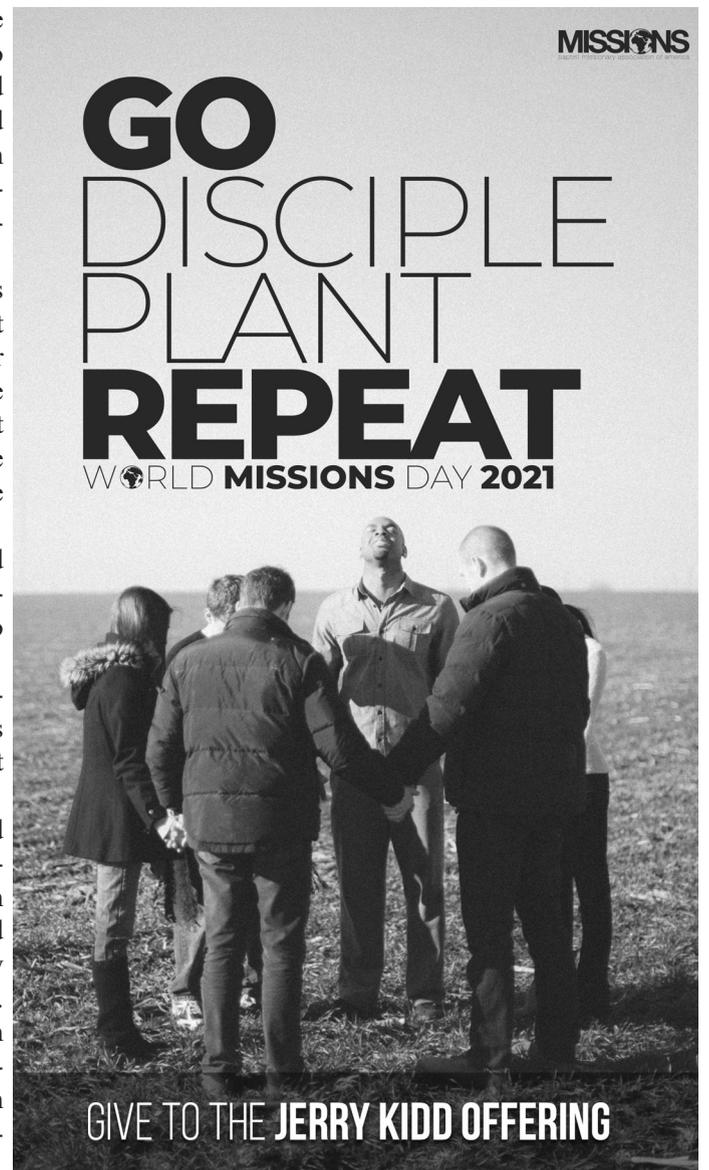
Lesson 13: Choose Wisely 7:13-29

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December 6, 2020
through
February 28, 2021**



WMA & GMA NEWS

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Crazy Christmas Schedules

By Amber Spencer

• via Baptist Herald

Do you feel like you are losing (or are just trying to find) the holiday spirit? Do you need some family bonding time? Boy, do I have your solution! Nothing brings out the Christmas spirit like combining the best of both your worlds — faith and family.

Check out my list below to see how you can change the

hustle and bustle of this time of year into fun and memorable family traditions. It truly can be the “Most Wonderful Time of the Year” when you schedule intentional time with people to focus on the true meaning of Christmas!

• **PJs, Pizza and Christmas Lights** — Snuggle up in your PJs, get in the car, order carry out pizza and drive around looking at Christmas lights!

• **Bake, Bless and Sing** — Make baked goods and deliver them to a neighbor or a friend’s house. Singing a carol or two for them upon delivery would make this act

even better!

• **Christmas Blessing Bags for the Homeless** — Create a blessing bag to hand out anytime your family sees someone who is homeless. Since we most often see this while we are in our car, we keep our Blessing Bags in our car, under the seats. Blessing bags could be a gallon size Ziploc bag full of helpful items (socks, snacks, Bible, etc). The best part? Have your kiddos write notes of encouragement or their favorite Bible verses on the note cards and place them inside a small Bible!

• **Secret Magi** — Secretly leave a gift for someone on their front porch. (If you want to make this more fun, ring the doorbell and run away before they catch the one who left them a gift!

• **Family Christmas Movie Night** — Plan one night a week for one kiddo to plan the meal, board game and Christmas movie! Want to add more fun — bake something together!

• **Adopt a Family** — Whether it’s through your church or school, adopt a family to buy gifts for as a family, then wrap them together!

• See **CRAZY** Page 7 •

Moral Action

Dr. John M. Adams, Executive Director

“If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful, he cannot deny himself. Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers. Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
I Timothy 2:12-15

Christian Women

Is the church behind the times in its attitudes toward women? A growing number answer, “yes”. They say we have restricted women. What should the Bible-believing Christian say about equal rights for women within the church? How should church leaders respond, and what should be the attitude of Christian women?

I. The World and Women’s Rights – a controversial issue.

The battle for women’s rights has touched virtually every aspect of our national life. Now it is touching the church, and it brings up a difficult question – are women underprivileged in the New Testament Church?

The tensions concerning the role of women in the church is great in some churches. As women remove the barriers to once-forbidden secular occupations, some liberal church leaders are upset because they believe the church is lagging far behind.

Critics argue that churches are steeped in prejudice and that it is high time they became enlightened. On the surface, arguments may seem convincing. Why should women not serve as pastors? Many church women equal or outstrip the men in spiritual gifts and abilities. The church, we are told, is missing out by not letting them use their talents.

Some theologians hold that the requirements for pastors outlined in I Timothy 3:1-7: *“This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach; not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; one that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) Not a novice, lest being lifted up*

with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.” Have been grossly misinterpreted – that they merely reflect cultural prejudices of Paul’s day. How should the Lord’s church respond to such pressure? What shall we say to sincere dedicated young women who truly want to serve the Lord?

II. God’s Word and Women’s Rights – A clear answer.

The Bible answers several basic misunderstandings. First, there is a basic error in understanding the scope and nature of the differences between the sexes. The Bible nowhere teaches that men are superior to women, but it does teach that they are different. In creating woman, God did not make a carbon copy of what He had already made. He fashioned a personality and spirit that would complement man and supply some qualities that man lacked.

Today’s tendency is to assume that except for physical differences, men and women come from the same mold. Therefore they are to be competitive. That is not God’s intent. God created male and female to work together, not to compete.

We commit a basic error when we try to sweep the differences under the rug. It may appear to succeed for a time, but in the end we violate something elemental in our inner structure. Let’s evaluate the Word of God on this subject. – I Timothy 2:12: *“But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.”* The New Testament makes clear that administration is a man’s calling. Early church leaders were called elders and deacons. Qualifications spelled out for both offices to be made of men.

I Timothy 2:13-15: *“For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.”* Paul gives two reasons why the woman cannot scripturally usurp authority over the man. First, woman was not created to be independent; second, the woman had been first to give place to sin.

The man’s office on the church and home is not just a badge of honor; it is a mantle of responsibility. Men make a mistake to think that their headship makes them far superior and women inferior. But God has set the guidelines for men and woman. Women matter as much as men to God, but we are called to different tasks.

In a “His” magazine interview, Elizabeth Elliott made an interesting point. “Positions of leadership in the church are not rewards of competence alone. They are not earned or assigned purely on the basis of ability. They are assigned sovereignly by God. Those who take positions of authority in

the church must be ordained of God.” Do not be misled by secular arguments that the Scriptures are influenced by cultural bias---for God’s Word is inspired and adaptable to all ages.

III. Christian Women and Women’s Rights – A consecrated attitude.

Christian satisfaction comes not from title or position but from faithfulness in service. Since apostolic times, women have found fulfillment in the church. We list such lovely Christian Women as “Phoebe” of Romans 16:1: “Commend unto you Phoebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea”, Mary, Martha, and the certain women of Luke 8. They found honor in faithful, effective service. Paul mentions Tryphena, Tryphosa, Persia, Eudias, and Syntyche as “fellow workers in the Lord”.

God has planned for women to teach where authority over men is not involved, to pray powerfully during church discussions, to witness to family and neighbors. The gifts and insights of women can help and encourage the Christian men in leadership roles.

The world has its ideas of who should lead the church. Those who do not understand Bible teachings will wave banners of new equality. They will minimize and rationalize. But the true Christian understands and knows that God’s way is best.

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

Worship of The Redeemer

Revelation 5:1-14
by Dennis Baker

The text finds John weeping because no one was found worthy to open the book with the seven seals. God's redemptive plan could not be completed until the scroll was opened. John was told not to weep because the redeemer that was worthy to open the seven seals was identified as the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, and the Lamb. Jacob gave the scepter to Judah and made it the tribe of kings. Saul was not God's man to establish a dynasty of kings but David of the tribe of Judah. Genesis 49:8-10, "*Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee. Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.*" The image of the Lion speaks of dignity, sovereignty, courage, and victory. Christ is the only one who can prove His Kingship as the "*Son of David.*" Matthew 1.

The Redeemer is the Root of David meaning that He brought David and David's line into existence. In humanity Jesus had His roots in David. Isaiah 11:1, "*And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:*" In deity Jesus Christ is the Root of David meaning that Christ is eternally present as the "Ancient of Days."

The Redeemer, as the Lamb, presents the person and work of Jesus Christ. The Lamb had been slain, had seven horns, and seven eyes. Seven represents perfection. The Lamb had perfect power (seven horns), perfect wisdom (seven eyes), and perfect presence (seven spirits). These are the attributes of God. The Lamb is God the Son Jesus Christ

Jesus is in heaven, not in a manger, on the cross, or in the tomb. Christ is in the midst of the throne surrounded by believers. We do not worship a babe in a manger or a corpse on a cross. We worship the living, reigning Lamb of God who is in the midst of all the redeemed in heaven.

The Lion is about to defeat Satan. The prince of this world is judged. John 16:11, "*Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.*" Satan's sentence has been passed; a judgment summons has been issued; execution is about to be put forth. John 12:31, "*Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.*"

After Jesus takes the scroll containing the title deed to the earth the redeemed worship Christ the Lamb. The Golden vials are the prayers of the redeemed. The prayers of the saints that have been prayed for centuries are about to be answered. Luke 18:7-8, "*And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?*"

The redeemed begin the worship service by singing a Song. Revelation 5:9-10: **The song was a worship hymn,** "*Thou art worthy.*" **The song has a gospel message,** "*...for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood...*" **The song was a missionary song** "*...out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.*" **The song was devotional for it announced the position of the believer in Christ** "*And hast made us unto our God kings and priests...*" And finally, **the song is a prophetic hymn** "*we shall reign on the earth.*"

Gifts Without Cost

C. Swindoll, Growing Strong

Some gifts you can give this Christmas are beyond monetary value: Mend a quarrel, dismiss suspicion, tell someone, "I love you." Give something away, anonymously. Forgive someone who has treated you wrong. Turn away wrath with a soft answer. Visit someone in a nursing home. Apologize if you were wrong. Be especially kind to someone with whom you work.

Give as God gave to you in Christ, without obligation, or announcement, or reservation, or hypocrisy.

The worship service continues with an outburst of praise by the angels and every creature in the universe directed to the Redeemer because of His sacrificial death on the cross. When He was on earth He deliberately laid aside "*power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.*" Revelation 5:12.

He was born and died in weakness, but He is the recipient of all power. He was poor and yet He owns all the riches of heaven and earth. Men laughed at Him, yet He is the very wisdom of God. On earth, He hungered, thirsted, and became weary but He possesses all strength. His kingship was mocked while on earth in heaven He receives all glory and honor.

The worship service ended with a loud "Amen."

When the Lamb took the scroll from the Father's hand, God's eternal plan of redemption was being fulfilled and creation would be set free from the bondage of sin and death. The breaking of the seals will put in motion His coming to earth and establishing His kingdom.

As you shared in this worship service did you find yourself saying "**Amen?**"

You may believe in Christ as the Creator, but have you trusted Him as your Redeemer?

Can This Be Christmas?

M.R. DeHaan, M.D. • Founder, Radio Bible Class

What's all this hectic rush and worry?
Where go these crowds who run and curry?
Why all the lights; the Christmas trees?
The jolly "fat man," tell me please!

Why, don't you know? This is the day
For parties and for fun and play;
Why this is Christmas!

So this is Christmas, do you say?
But where is Christ this Christmas day?
Has He been lost among the throng?
His voice drowned out by empty song?

No. He's not here; you'll find Him where
Some humble soul now kneels in prayer,
Who knows the Christ of Christmas!

But see the many aimless thousands
Who gather on this Christmas Day,
Whose hearts have never yet been opened,
Or said to Him, "Come in to stay."

In countless homes the candles burning,
In countless hearts expectant yearning
For gifts and presents, food and fun,
And laughter till the day is done.

But not a tear of grief or sorrow
For Him so poor He had to borrow
A crib, a colt, a boat, a bed
Where He could lay His weary head.

I'm tired of all this empty celebration,
Of feasting, drinking, recreation;
I'll go instead to Calvary.

And there I'll kneel with those who know
The meaning of that manger low,
And find the Christ; this Christmas.

I leap by faith across the years
To that great day when He appears
The second time, to rule and reign,
To end all sorrow, death, and pain.

In endless bliss we then shall dwell
With Him who saved our souls from hell,
And worship Christ; not Christmas!

• CRAZY From Page 6 •

• **Christmas Gift for Jesus** — Encourage your people to think of one gift they could give Jesus for Christmas. Whether it's forgiving someone, reading their Bible each day or praying more, it should be a gift of sacrifice. Talk about your gift on Christmas morning.

• **The Gift of Words** — Challenge your kiddos to give the gift of words to someone this Christmas! Write a letter or a special message inside a Christmas card, then mail it!

• **Pay it Forward** — Pay for something for a stranger. It could be something as small as a coffee or as much as groceries — you decide!

• **The Best Story Ever Told** — Read the best Christmas story — the story of Jesus' birth from Luke 2:1-20. Then spend a few minutes talking about the true meaning of Christmas.

• **Celebrate!** — On Christmas morning, before opening the gifts, sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus. (You can even make a birthday cake to celebrate it further!)

The Innkeeper's Tale • You'd Be A Believer Too!!

by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson • Joyful Heat Renewal Ministries

They think I'm some kind of cruel, heartless landlord. Someone must have told them that. But they're wrong, just plain wrong, and it's time to set the record straight, once and for all.

People say I'm an innkeeper. I suppose you'd call it an inn. To us it's just a big house. My grandfather, Joshua ben-Yahoudi, built it back when his trading business was at a peak. And he built it big enough to fit all fourteen kids.

Well, a few years ago, the missus and I were just rattling around in that big house--kids grown up and all--and we were thinking, maybe we could take in a few travelers. Rachel has always been mighty good in the kitchen, so we just let out word that we'd take people in, and they started to come. Every night we'd have a person or two, sometimes more. People would always come back when they came to town again, intent on another bowl of Rachel's lamb stew.

Then came that blankety-blank census the governor thought up. Taxation, pure and simple! People from all over the province flooded into town that week. Filled us clean up. Rachel and I slept in the main room where we always do, and we started putting guests in the other three rooms. They kept coming. Then we doubled up two or three families to a room. They kept coming. Finally, when we had filled the main room with four families plus Rachel and me, we started turning people away.

I must have gotten in and out of bed ten times that night, stumbling over bodies to get to the door. "No more room, sorry folks. No more room. Come back in the morning. We have a couple of families leaving then." They'd mutter something and head back to their party, and sleep somewhere next to a house under the shelter of a blanket. I just couldn't make any more room. That's the honest truth.

But I did make room for one more couple. Joseph was a burly man with big arms and strong hands, down from Nazareth, I think he said. He wouldn't take "no" for an answer. I would say, "No, I'm sorry," and he'd tell me about his "little Mary." Well, when I saw "little Mary" she wasn't very little. She was just about as pregnant as a woman can get, and awfully pale. While Joseph was pleading, I saw her grab her tummy in pain, and I knew I couldn't let her have that baby outside in the wind and sleet.

The barn. That would just have to do, I told myself, and led them and their donkey out back. Now it was pretty crowded, so I shooed several animals into the pen outside to make room in one dry corner. Joseph said, "We sure are grateful, sir." Then with a serious look, he asked me, "Do you know where I can find a midwife in these parts? We might need her tomorrow or the next day."

That man didn't know much about having babies, it was plain enough to see. I ran to Aunt Sarah's house and pounded on the door until her husband came. "One of the travelers is having a baby," I told him. "I'll wait while Aunt Sarah gets dressed." I stopped a moment to catch my breath. "And tell her to hurry."

By the time we got back to the barn, Joseph had "little Mary" settled on some soft, clean hay, wrapped up in a blanket, wiping the perspiration off her brow, and was speaking softly to her as she fought the waves of pain. Aunt Sarah sent me to get my Rachel, and then pushed Joseph and me out of the barn. "This ain't no place for men," she said.

We waited just outside in the shelter of the barn for hours, it seemed like. Well, all of a sudden, we hear a little cry. "You've got a baby boy," Aunt Sarah was saying as we peeped around the corner. She hands the young-un to Rachel, and she wraps it up in those swaddling bands she had saved. Cute little thing,

I tell you.

Well, Joseph goes over to Mary and gives her a big hug, and a kiss on the cheek, and Rachel hands Mary the baby, and then comes over to me and takes my hand. "Remember when our Joshua was born?" she whispers.

The lantern was blowing almost out, the cattle were lowing softly, and baby Jesus was asleep in his mother's arms. That's how I left them as I walked Aunt Sarah home. Chilly wind, though the sleet had stopped.

By the time I got back, Rachel was in bed, and I was about ready to put out the light, step over sleeping bodies, and get under the warm covers, when I heard some murmuring out by the barn.

I'd better check, I told myself. When I peeped in, I saw shepherds. Raggedy, smelly old shepherds were kneeling down on the filthy barn floor as if they were praying. The oldest one was saying something to Joseph about angels and the Messiah. And the rest of them just knelt there with their heads bowed, some with tears running down their faces.

I coughed out loud, and Joseph looked up. I was almost ready to run those thieving shepherds off, when Joseph motioned to me with his hand. "It's okay," he whispered. "They've come to see the Christ-baby."

The Christ-baby? The Messiah? That was when I knelt, too. And watched, and prayed, and listened to the old shepherd recount his story of angels and heavenly glory, and the sign of a holy baby, wrapped in swaddling bands, to be found in a stable-manger.

My Lord, it was my stable where the Christ-baby was born. My manger he rested in. My straw, my lamp, my wife Rachel assisting at his birth.

The shepherds left after a while. Some of them leaned over and kissed the sleeping Christ-child before they de-

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, MO is available for pulpit supply or as the Lord leads. He also has experience in music ministry. Contact him at (573) 315-0930, (573) 315-0931 or 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

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.

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.

I Corinthians 13 • Christmas Version

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights, and shiny balls; but do not have love, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals, and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime; but do not have love, I'm just another cook.

If I work at a soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home, and give all that I have to charity; but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels, and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties, and sing in the choir's cantata; but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse. Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love does not envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens. Love does not yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love does not give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who cannot. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never fails.

Toys will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust; but giving the gift of love will endure.

Source: Unknown

parted. I know I did.

I'll always be glad I made room in the barn for that family-- that holy family. You see, I'm not some mean inn-keeper. I was there. I saw him. And, you know, years later that boy came back to Bethlehem, this time telling about the Kingdom of God. Oh, I believe in him, I tell you. I was there. And, mark my words, if you'd seen what I've seen, you'd be a believer, too.