

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

“Holding Forth The Word of Life”

Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXXIV

St. Louis, MO • March 9, 2021

Issue No. 3

Plan Now as we Look Forward!

by Ben Kingston, Missions Director, BMA of Missouri

Dear churches of Missouri:

As you know we have a missions symposium in May each year coupled with the Mid-year Association meeting on the following day.

May 14th and 15th will be this year's dates for the missions symposium on Friday and the Association meeting on Saturday.

The meetings will take place at New Testament Baptist Church in Sullivan. Bro. Josh Wright is the pastor and he has made some hotel recommendations that will be included in this article.

We are begging, yes, I said **begging** all our pastors and pastors wives and their respective church members to come.

We are in unprecedented times and many of our churches and church staffs are struggling and need encouragement and the Friday service has been prepared to meet this need

The first hour will be an overview of the missions efforts of the Missouri churches in the Philippines and in St. Louis with Bro. Juan giving a report. We will take a break with some refreshments and then Bro. Josh. Wright will share a special message of encouragement for our churches and pastors and their families.

This message will be born out of a heartfelt concern for where our churches and staffs are as a result of the pandemic and the daily struggles of life and ministry.

Pastor, please ask your people to prayerfully consider attending and churches, please ask your pastor to go with you.

Bro. Josh and I feel strongly that the need for encouragement is association wide.

Friday Missions Symposium:

6:00-6:40 pm 1st Session

6:40-7:00 pm Break

7:00-8:00 pm 2nd Session

Saturday we will have our **Mid-year State Association meeting** at New Testament at 9:00 a.m. The schedule for this business meeting and time of fellowship is under the direction of Moderator Jerry Adams.

Each church of the BMA of Missouri is allowed 3 messengers to represent them at this meeting and everyone is welcome to attend as our guests.

Meal provided after the meeting.

The hotels we would recommend and their addresses are:

A New Resource

by Steve Crawley, Exec. Director
Ministers Resource Services

Ministers Resource Services (MRS) is always looking for ways to bring value to our pastors and churches. MRS Insurance Services is a new resource available to our churches and pastors to help them navigate the often-complex world of employee benefits insurance.

MRS Insurance Services brings expertise to the table to help educate you on your options and help answer your questions. Whether your church provides coverage for employees today, is exploring options or has questions about individual coverage, we can help. Our goal is always to help you make the most informed decision possible.

What It Covers

The focus of MRS Insurance Services is employee benefits. This can include group insurance offered by the church or individual products purchased separately by employees. Coverages typically include Health (medical), Dental, Vision, Life

Budget Lodging

866 S. Outer Rd.

St Clair, MO 63077

(636) 629-1000

-and-

Comfort Inn

736 S. Service Rd.

Sullivan, MO 63080

(573) 468-7800

Jason Alexander, owner of the Budget Lodging said he would do this for our group: “reserve at budgetlodging.com and the hotel will donate 15% of your stay to the BMA missions fund. You “must” include “BMA” on your reservation.

We are very grateful for this kind gesture from Bro. Jason.

We look forward to seeing you on May 14th and 15th at New Testament Baptist Church in Sullivan, Missouri.

5 BIG Announcements About Camp Garwood!

Are you getting anxious about going to Camp Garwood again?

Are you wondering when and what will be happening there this year?

Do you want to know if you can do anything to help at Camp Garwood?

Then turn to Page 4 and read the 5 BIG Announcements Bro. Chris has made that will interest you!

and Disability. Voluntary or Supplemental products are also commonly seen and growing in popularity these days. They typically include Accident, Critical Illness, Hospital Indemnity and more.

Helping our churches and pastors manage their insurance risk is an important part of managing their overall financial risk. Simply said, insurance services are a natural expansion of the MRS portfolio. Knowing where to turn in the world of insurance can be confusing. As an already trusted partner, MRS makes it easy. Churches and pastors, just like other employers, have needs and questions about insurance coverage, yet they are often not seen by agents, often due to being “too small” and “non-profits.” Common questions from churches include:

- What are our options for health insurance?
- How are churches different than other employers for Insurance purposes?
- As an individual, what are my options for coverage?
- And many more...

For churches who may be exploring group coverage or who just don't know where to start, MRS Insurance Services is ready to help.

This is a service offering, not a product offering, meaning we can assist with whatever your benefits needs are. Whatever your situation or questions, we can help get you answers. MRS Insurance Services makes it easy to help you get the information you need no matter where you are. The service is simple, easy to access and is free of charge. Don't know where to start? Give us a call today. We're here to help!

How to Get Started

Follow these three steps to get more information today: contact us, get a quote and sign up! For questions, contact Mark Bradley, Director of MRS Insurance Services, at mbradley@bmaamerica.org or call him directly at (501) 499-4205.

Attention Men & Young Men

We are resuming the State Men's Retreat and you are invited to attend and enjoy the fellowship and games at Camp Garwood

April 30th and May 1st!

See details on Page 7

REVIVAL AT OHLMAN, BUNKER

April 25 through April 30

with Dr. C. R. Curtman as evangelist

7:00 p.m. with special singing each evening

Everyone is WELCOME



NEWS BRIEFS



Once again greetings from **Lindsay Lane Baptist Church, Florissant**. What a February! We had a great turnout for our Valentine Banquet despite the weather. The meal was superb and the fellowship grand. Praise God we had services both before the storm and the weekend after the storm week! To be quite honest, I hibernated from the 6th till the 19th! I admit, I am chicken when it comes to driving in snow and ice. We did cancel midweek services the 17th. But resumed the 24th. Bro. Mike's surgery was postponed till the 4th Of March. Please keep him in your prayers as he recovers. Our Pastor has been preaching on missions this month and why they are so important to the church and vice versa. We covet your prayers, as like many of our churches, we are experiencing changes. We don't always understand God's timing, but we accept His plans and ways. If you were able to see any of Bro. Polk's videos from Camp Garwood, I'm certain you had a few chuckles, especially the bobsled/canoe! God bless him and all of those involved with our state camp as well as those in the Meramec camp facility. Please keep Bro. Buddy Graham and Sis. June Schuertz in your prayers as they are having health issues. Spring is just around the corner! Before you know it Christmas will be here! May God bless!

Brian Meade, Pastor • Kathy Chapman, Reporter

Ohlman, Bunker, reports that due to weather we had to cancel a few services during the first two weeks of February, but boy did we end the month on a great note! The 28th, the men fixed breakfast which we enjoyed in lieu of Sunday School. The fellowship hall was pretty full as we enjoyed a huge breakfast.

Bro. Terry Sharpe filled the pulpit that morning. After feeding us from the Word, he asked moderator Larry May, Sr. to come forward. He then presented himself for membership on promise of a letter from his church in Conway, AR. He then stated he would accept the call as pastor. He plans to be on the field by April 1st. There was a full house with a lot of clapping and amens. Our good time didn't stop there. One of our Wednesday night kids who had been coming with her mother on Sundays felt the need to be saved. So after a couple of our ladies prayed with her, she made a profession of faith! Then her mother gave her testimony and they both presented themselves for baptism. It gets better! While we were shaking hands and welcoming Kendra and Lily Ritter, a young man was at the corner of the altar with his grandmother Doris Skaggs and Bro. Terry. He made a profession of faith and presented himself for baptism too. We welcome Jayton Skaggs to our family. We look forward to what the Lord has in store for March.

Terry Sharpe, Pastor • Janet Widger, Reporter

Hello from **Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church in Salem Missouri**. YES! We are "still here!" The last few years have been challenging but God is so Faithful!! In August 2020 we welcomed 2 new Members. Bro. Steve and Sis. Deiatre Gillam. We accepted Bro. Steve Gillam as a Licensed Deacon. He was ordained by Lower Doe Run Church in February 1993. The Pandemic and the Covid Virus have "hit home" with us too. Our Members who tested positive for the virus have recovered and are able to worship with us again. Bro. Orville and Sis. Pauline Swearengin have not been able to attend for a few months now due to some health issues. Sis. Norma Neeley's Mother, Sis. Sarah Asberry, is in long term care at Salem Memorial District Hospital. Please remember them in your Prayers. We also ask that you join us in Prayer as we continue our search for a Pastor. Come and see us at Mt. Olive! The Fellowship is sweet, the Prayers are being Prayed, and we are excited about what God is doing and going to do at Mt. Olive!! Deiatre Gillam, Reporter

Abundant Life in Christ, Charleston. The first Wednesday night in December we had three households depart from us, further lowering our already low attendance. However, we continue to have good services and have seen an upswing in visitors during the winter quarter. We were blessed to be able to do a Christmas

program in December and had several visitors come out for that. In both 2019 and 2020 we were unable to do our annual special days because of inclement weather, but this year we were able to do both: Dr. King Day Sunday and also Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. We had one of the most stirring Sanctity of Human Life Sundays we've ever had. February brought inclement weather that completely knocked us out of having in-person services for two solid weeks. However, we were able to meet for Zoom services. Every time we had a Zoom service we would have others from outside our congregation join us, and so we decided that we would intentionally continue to meet for Sunday night Bible study via Zoom (while still meeting in-person on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. For "us," we like being in our building better, but in making our decision we decided it's not about "us." It's about getting the Word to as many people as possible. On our first regularly scheduled Zoom service, we had two first-time visitors with us. One of those was an individual from Georgia who is in the process of moving to Charleston. If ever you would want to join us, Zoom "doors open" at 5:30 each Sunday evening with Bible Study beginning promptly at 6:00. A direct link to take you to our service should always be found on our Facebook page. We have our auditorium chairs ordered. We're hoping they might be in by early summer. During February we got enough of the canopy completed over our front porch that our front doors are now protected from the sun and we have been able to uncover and begin using them. The Sunday morning sunlight coming through the beveled glass is a welcomed addition to our sanctuary's atmosphere. Rodney Dunlap, Pastor

Greetings from **Briar Baptist Church, Doniphan**. February is a short month but this February took forever to go by! Because of the weather and a series of busted water pipes, 3 weeks without church can sure

seem like a lifetime. It was so wonderful to be back in church yesterday. We were able to have a new ministry start in the month of February. We have started a monthly food pantry for the Briar Community. God is blessing this and we are reaching out to new families in the community. Our Father is sure faithful to those who are faithful to Him. Please pray this ministry will continue to reach those in need. We have decided to continue with our Christmas Shoebox ministry this year also, and we will continue with our food boxes for the holidays too. This will be in addition to the monthly food boxes. The Prayer Breakfast will be in Poplar Bluff the 20th of March at 9:00 at Jimmy's Restaurant just off PP Hwy. Everyone is welcome to come and join us! Because of the weather in February we were unable to meet. We will be having the Third Sunday Singing March 21st from 2:00 to 3:30 but at the time of sending this letter we are not sure just where it will be held. If you are interested in going it will be posted on the Cane Creek Association web page on Facebook just as soon as we know. May God continue to bless us all! Continue to pray for our country, our leaders, our Pastor's and churches without Pastor's. David Grubb, Pastor • Yvonne Hill, Reporter

HAPPY SPRING to ALL, from **Bethel, Sikeston!** We don't have a lot of news for February as we had to miss a few services due to icy road conditions. But we are looking for better days to come. February 3rd we started having our Wednesday evening services again, and on the 7th, our Sunday School classes. We are so thankful to get back to full services again. The 7th, during the evening service, we had a Praise and Testimonial service which was a very God honoring and uplifting service. Wednesday evenings we are still studying about the Lukewarm Church in Revelation 3:13-19. The 21st during the morning service we observed the Lord's Supper. During the evening service Jacob Hale came forward and gave his testimony of being saved the week before at his Grandfather's funeral. He requested to be baptized and join the church, of course he was accepted and given a warm welcome. Praise God, we are so thankful for this young man's salvation! He was baptized the following Sunday evening. We had an awesome service and felt the presence of the Holy Spirit. He was given the hand of fellowship and hugs. God Bless and keep you all. Billy Davis, Pastor • Joan Wood, Reporter

It was great to be in services at **Landmark Baptist Church, DeSoto**, for three out of four Sundays and one Wednesday night this month. We are finally back to the business of having all services again. They have also restarted having the Action meetings every other week. They come up with wonderful ideas for serving the community. We really appreciate all the brain-storming where they come up these ideas. We observed World Missions

• Continued on Page 4 •

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FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS • February 2021

General Fund:

Checking Account:

Balance January 31, 2021		\$	25,672.35
February Receipts:			
Missions:	\$	1,665.82	
Total Income:	\$	1,665.82	\$ 1,665.82
Total Available		\$	27,338.17
Disbursements:			
Director, Salary	\$	450.00	
Secretary, Salary	\$	200.00	
Total Disbursements	\$	650.00	\$ (650.00)
Balance February 28, 2021:		\$	26,688.17

Investment in BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund:

Balance January 31, 2021:	\$	107,953.03
Interest:	\$	0.00
Balance February 28, 2021:	\$	107,953.03

Total of all Funds February 28, 2021: \$ **134,641.20**

From Our Director...

A Page from My Heart

Most everything we own will outlive us. The question is: will our influence? I am wearing a dead man's shoes. I love the shoes, they are comfortable. But remembering the one I got them from is even more comforting. Jim is a good man. The reason I say this is because he is still as alive as Moses or Abraham. Yet, his time here on earth is done, as mine will be soon.

Dear Christian, what are you doing that will last? Will your influence outlast your possessions and your body? How can we make sure that our influence doesn't fade when our life does? The key is to not make our possessions our focus because they will be somebody else's soon enough. But to make our influence on our loved ones and those that we are called to love our focus.

Does Matthew 28:18-20 guide your life? Are you living each day, each moment for the Gospel's sake? Now you and I know that no one makes 100%, but is it our focus? You see, success is not what we are called to, but obedience is. Every time we fail is an opportunity to start again.

Recently, we as a people (Christianity) have been dealt a punch in the gut with the revelations of Ravi Zacharias and his moral failings. Many of us who were blessed, encouraged, and instructed by his teachings have struggled with how to answer people on the fallout. A friend of mine that we sharpen each other through text for the gospel's sake, asked me what I thought. This is my answer:

I do not believe that man's flesh negates the Spirit's instruction. Now, does it make it harder for mortal man to stomach it? Well certainly, but that gets us back to the "he who has no sin cast the first stone" discussion. Am I saying that it's no big deal? Absolutely not! It's about the worst-case scenario a Bible teacher could experience, as far as stumbling at the finish line. For those who do not want to believe the difficult truths that the Spirit taught through him, they now have their excuse! And for those of us who want to believe, we have our doubts because of the fragility of someone we thought was the Rock of Gibraltar!

Personally, I believe that everything he taught that is confirmed by the Word is still valid and usable; we just will probably have to leave his name out of it when we quote him, which most likely should be judgment enough. I can only imagine the pain, the grief, shame, doubt, and despair that his wife, children, family, friends, and associates are going through because every one of them knows the validity of the truths that he taught. They know the validity of scripture, and here their crown jewel teacher has marred all of that. Obviously, we can rise above this, but we're going to have to seek the Spirit's healing and navigation through this.

So again, dear Saint, I implore you be obedient to the Gospel and the righteousness that the Gospel demands, and one day soon you will hear your Master say, "well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into your rest." And maybe, just maybe your nephew or niece will gain a possession you once had and remember the influence of a loving uncle or aunt more than the possessions.

Please remember Bro.

BMA Hispanic Ministry in Saint Louis, MO

"BELEN"

Thankful!

We are so blessed to share our deepest gratitude for each one of the following that has happened here at "Belen" Hispanic Ministry Outreach:

Prayer Network:

40 days of prayer and evangelism now have been completed!!! We have been blessed by each of you who prays for us. We now have a specific person or family that pray for us each day of the week. If you would like to pray for us on a specific day please let us know!

Outreach:

Our Church Bethany members and Bro. and Sis. Hoffmann have spent a good amount of efforts and time to prepare the space for our coming Education Outreach, organizing the space, cleaning tables and chairs, installing a WIFI extender and more. We are so excited to be planning this outreach to our Hispanic friends in the area. My wife Hannah is coordinating this outreach, feel free to reach out to her If you'd like to participate once or twice a week with tutoring students, sharing your testimony, bring some snacks, etc.. You can reach her at (402) 969 0119. This outreach provides many opportunities to connect and meet more people in the area. A huge potential to develop a children's ministry. This outreach will start on 3/15 Monday and Wednesday from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Visit New Testament Church in Sullivan Mo.

We really enjoyed our visit with Brother Wright and his family an all of the amazing, loving, caring New Testament Baptist in Sullivan! We were Blessed to meet each one of them and enjoyed learning how God is moving and using the leadership in this church for carrying out the great commission and how they are praying for us and our ministry. Bro. Josh and his family made sure we were taken care of with presents for the girls a delicious dinner, wonderful fellowship, and prayer. We were blessed and are planning to visit any church that would like to meet us and hear ministry updates on how the Lord is leading this ministry. Feel free to contact me to schedule us. We have an open agenda starting this coming month of April. Thank you, Bro. Josh Wright and your lovely family, and congregation for such lovely ways to show Jesus to us.

From our family:

By God's grace we Celebrated our 7th Wedding anniversary, we enjoyed reading so many Facebook posts helping us make that date more and more important. We are praying that the Lord uses our wedding testimony to reach out the younger generation for discipleship and growth in the grace of the Lord Jesus for church. The church must grow, we are expecting our third baby in October of this year. Help us pray for my wife's health and a healthy baby, Yay!! Thank you, Jesus.

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." 2 Timothy 2:2.

Bro. Juan Fernandez & Family



Juan and his lovely family as they labor for souls.

A special thanks to all our churches for your prayers and support of the missions department of Missouri.

Ben Kingston

• **NEWS From Page 2** •

Day which honored Bro. Jerry Kidd. He has certainly been a lifetime missionary with Sis. Sue by his side. I used to love to read about their adventures in The Gleaner, especially where they cleared off a place in the jungle and made a landing strip for the airplane. Bro. Benjamin also had a great message encouraging each of us that are Christians to be missionaries where we are unless God calls us to be missionaries elsewhere. We've had some with health issues among us: Earl Denby, Murell Tutterrow, Cathy Rudloff, Debbie Conyers and Debbie Steinbach. I'm sure that I'm missing some, but hopefully they will forgive me. I love Landmark and everyone in it. She's not a member, but Tanya Tegeler has some serious issues with her leg and looks like it's going to be a lifetime problem. All of these people stand in the need of prayer and I know they would appreciate the prayers of those wonderful prayer warriors reading this paper. We are looking forward to the State WMA and Brotherhood meeting at Landmark on the 6th. It will be over and done with by the time you read this report and we will have some new officers ready to hit the ground running. Until next month or the Lord's Return! Benjamin Kingston, Pastor • Sharon Page, Reporter

Blessings from **Ozark Heights, Potosi!** We praise the Lord for the active cases of Covid in our county are down to one! We are blessed to almost be back to normal!! The Lord has been gracious to us. We are remodeling our basement so we can have a more comfortable and usable area for our after service meals and children's classes!!! On Sundays we are studying the books of wisdom and are learning the wisdom of Scripture and how it can bring us closer to God! If you are searching for a church home in our area we would love to have you come to one of our worship services!!! God Bless each of you. Brian Kingston, Pastor

Ready • Get Set • Go To Camp

5 BIG ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT CAMP

Following are a series of announcements made in the Camp Garwood Facebook group last week. After our trip to camp in the snow I had promised the group some big announcements in the following week. My family and I headed to camp for the big snow storm and had a great time. Playing in the snow beats working in it any day. You can see pictures from that trip on the Facebook page if you are interested. Now that winter is officially over we turn our thoughts to Spring. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at camp. As always we ask that you be praying for us, and all the folks that will be working to make camp possible this year.

Big Announcement #1

Camp has purchased this tractor! We have needed to make this upgrade for awhile. We were not really looking at this time but this opportunity came up and the committee and myself thought it was time. However, Now that we have it, we need to pay for it. We have the funds in the account but rather than wiping out the



The Camp's tractor

account we borrowed the money from the loan fund. We will get the old tractor ready to sell along with the implements that we don't need. We will designate all DEWr funds toward the tractor purchase this year. So with that being said, are you a DEWr? A DEWr is anyone who gives \$ 75 annually to camp. That's roughly .20 a day or \$1.50 a week. Will you be a Camp Garwood DEWr?

Camp week in years past cost around \$8000.00 we don't know yet what our food costs will be this year so we are planning for a \$10,000.00 week. And we know there will be some extra repair/replace costs to get camp ready. (Freezer, Slide, Archery, etc.)

The tractor loan is \$17,500.00. This may be too much info. I could simply say, HEY we need money! But I'd rather lay everything out for you.

Big Announcement #2

Not as "BIG" and NOT requesting money. But still huge in importance.

As Spring quickly approaches we are asking groups to adopt a dorm. This will involve a good cleaning, wiping down each bunk and making minor repairs as necessity and ability allows. (Lighting, Toilets, leaking sinks, gutters, painting, cleaning up leaves, etc).

Dorms 1-9, upper shower house, lower shower house, Dining Hall, Kitchen, Canteen and the Tabernacle are all currently available. There are other projects available if your group is larger and more energetic. Things like cleaning and treating woodwork, cleaning off the golf course, setting out tables and trash cans to name a few. There are also more involved projects, if interested just ask.

It's been awhile. I know everyone is excited to get back to camp. This is your opportunity to get some camp time and help us get ready.

This is getting long, but there's another reason we are asking groups to adopt a dorm. In the past someone would send a message. Hey, we cleaned this building. Then a couple weeks later someone else would say, We cleaned this building. One year the same building was "cleaned" three different times by three different people. Hopefully this way we get more accomplished with the same effort.

You can begin after Easter. That's when the water will be back on. Talk to your groups and let me know where you can help!

Big Announcement #3

Today's announcement is just a reminder that we have entered a new year. Everyone 18 and older will need to complete an adult screening form. The form can be found at bmamissouri.org

While ON THE WEB SITE out the camp rules and Child Protection policy. Make sure to get all this completed before coming to any overnight activities!



Resting before the "real" work starts!!

Big Announcement #4

Finally the fun announcements!! This years DEWr retreat is scheduled for August 13-14. This retreat is a fun weekend planned specially for our Camp Garwood DEWr's. A DEWr is anyone who gives \$75 annually to Camp Garwood. In the past we have ordered special T-shirts for DEWr's. We will not be doing that this year. While we don't have all the details worked out. We can promise a great weekend of Fun and Fellowship in one of the most peaceful valleys in the world.

We have moved this retreat to after camp. I hope this works out for everyone. We couldn't get an earlier date to work out.

Be a DEWr, Come to the retreat!

Big Announcement #5

The final and Biggest Big Announcement of all! I've been waiting all week to make this one! Tonight's announcement is about The Spring Retreat! April 9-10. You're ready to get back to camp, well mark your calendar. You guys do not want to miss this retreat! We will have great food, some exciting activities, and best of all Bro. Doug Mickan will be coming with his pals to lead our worship services and teach us about Jesus. It's been a while since Doug has been to camp. I'm super excited and truly hope you are too. We are planning a service on Friday night and a service on Saturday morning.

This year registration for camp will be done online only. We want to test the system with this retreat. Each CHURCH planning to attend the retreat should register by March 29th. The retreat registration form can be found on the bmamissouri.org website. The form can be found under the Camp Garwood tab as Camp Garwood Retreat. Click the Online Registration link.

We will have a donation jar set up in the dining hall. Any help in offsetting the retreat costs will be greatly appreciated.

As you can see from the pictures and words of this article we are: **Getting Ready** • **Getting Set** • and **Inviting YOU** to join us working and enjoying Camp Garwood this year!

10 Signs the Tribulation is NEAR

www.DavidJeremiah.org/charts

- 1 DECEPTION • Many will say “I am the Christ” (Matthew 24:5)
- 2 DISSENTION • Wars (Matthew 24:6-7)
- 3 DEVASTATION • Famines (Matthew 24:7)
- 4 DISEASE • Pestilences (Matthew 24:7)
- 5 DISASTERS • Earthquakes (Matthew 24:7)
- 6 DEATH • Hated for my name’s sake (Matthew 24:9)
- 7 DISLOYALTY • Betray, hate one another (Matthew 24:10)
- 8 DELUSION • False prophets (Matthew 24:11)
- 9 DEFECTION • Turn away from God & each other (Matthew 24:12)
- 10 DECLARATION • Gospel preached in all the world (Matthew 24:14)

Scripture Thoughts by Cleaver

Philemon 7 “For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother.”

Philemon was an encourager. He was the kind of Christian other disciples wanted to be around. He was busy with others, not himself. He was focused on others, not himself. Oh how we need more like him in our churches today!

The New Testament is replete with what we would call “men of encouragement.” Luke referenced Barnabas as “Son of Encouragement” in Acts 4.36. Luke also speaks of Barnabas encouraging the young church in Antioch (Acts 11.23).

Paul commented how Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus refreshed his spirit (1 Corinthians 16.17-18). They too were encouragers to the saints.

Dear Reader, as your fellow believers work with you, where do you think they would place you on an “encourager scale” of 1 to 10? A 10 would place you right up there with Philemon and those like him mentioned in the New Testament.

You do not want to be placed down the scale toward the area of 1, or 2, or 3. At this point on the scale, let’s just say you are not seen by others as an encourager. You do not refresh the hearts of your fellow saints. You have no love that

Gentleness Provides Opportunities

By Mike McEuen, Pastor • New Beginnings • Ferris, Texas

“And the servant of the Lord must not strive: but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient” (II Tim. 2:24).

Paul very strongly stated that the servant of the Lord must not be easily drawn into argument and debate. We must not argue or fight. We must be patient and gentle — teaching God’s Word in meekness. It is not enough just to expose error and refute it, we must also teach positive truths and thus help to establish each other in the faith.

We must be “gentle unto all men” and easy to talk to. We need to remain cool-headed when others would be drawn into a heated debate. We must know when to listen and how to speak with tact and courtesy. The best way to disarm an opponent is by treating him with dignity and respect.

Our number one ministry is to be “apt to teach.” We must carefully seek to instruct even those who oppose us. We are “workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (II Tim. 2:15).

Our ever-guiding purpose is not to win arguments but to win souls! We want to see deceived people brought to “repentance to the acknowledging of the truth” (II Tim. 2:25). Repentance is a change of mind. A person recognizes his error and accepts the truth. Understand that true repentance comes through the quiet conviction of the Holy Spirit. Repentance is always God’s work! It will never be gained with hard hitting attacks and impassioned arguments, but when truth is shared in meekness and in love.

This kind of ministry requires patience. We never allow ourselves to become irritable or defensive in dealing with others. We must be thick-skinned and must never allow ourselves to become easily offended by their ridicule, insults or their verbal abuse. We do not hold grudges or nurse resentment. We must be forgiving, “even as God, for Christ’s sake, hath forgiven you” (Ephesians 4:32). Jesus Christ wants every one of us to share the truths of God’s Word and to live Christ-like, obedient lives.

The more we allow Him to conform us to His ideal, the more He will be able to use us to win souls and encourage believers. When we are dedicated and faithful to our calling as the servants of the Lord our Lord’s kingdom cause is advanced and our King is glorified.

brings joy and encouragement to others. Review the conclusion of this letter (verse 25): “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.” Let that be your resource for encouraging behavior.

Dr. Tony Cleaver is a retired U.S. Army Chaplain and Director of Distance Learning for BMA Seminary.

You may contact him at jstmcleaver@embarqmail.com

Central Baptist College Names a Military Friendly School for the 12th Consecutive Year!

(Conway, AR – March 1, 2021) – Central Baptist College announced today that it has earned the 2021-2022 Military Friendly® School designation.

Institutions earning the Military Friendly® School designation were evaluated using both public data sources and responses from a proprietary survey. More than 1,200 schools participated in the 2021-2022 survey with 747 earning the designation.

The 2021-2022 Military Friendly® Schools list will be published in the May issue of G.I. Jobs magazine and can be found at www.militaryfriendly.com.

Methodology, criteria, and weightings were determined by Viqtory with input from the Military Friendly® Advisory Council of independent leaders in the higher education and military recruitment community. Final ratings were determined by combining the institution’s survey scores with the assessment of the institution’s ability to meet thresholds for Student Retention, Graduation, Job Placement, Loan Repayment, Persistence (Degree Advancement or Transfer) and Loan Default rates for all students and, specifically, for student veterans.

CBC President Terry Kimbrow said, “It is an honor to earn the Military Friendly® School designation for the 12th year in a row. Central Baptist College has a long tradition of working with students who serve or have served in the military. We are devoted to helping veteran students, and their families, realize their goal of obtaining their college degree. We will continue to do whatever it takes to honor their service to our country.”

Military Friendly®’s National Director of Military Partnerships, Kayla Lopez stated, “Military Friendly® is committed to transparency and providing consistent data driven standards in our designation process. This creates a competitive atmosphere that encourages colleges to consistently evolve and invest in their programs. Schools who achieve designation show true commitment and dedication in their efforts. Our standards assist schools by providing a benchmark that promotes positive educational outcomes, resources, and support services that better the educational landscape and provide opportunity for the Military Community.”

For more information about Central Baptist College’s student veteran programs, visit CBC’s website at cbc.edu/military or contact admissions@cbc.edu or 501-329-6873 to speak with a CBC Admissions staff member.

Jacksonville College is Seeking Applicants for President

Jacksonville College is a vibrant, faith-based, liberal arts institution. Founded in 1899, the college is located in Jacksonville, Texas and is affiliated with the BMA of Texas and the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.

The college is currently accepting applications for the office of president. Applicants must have an earned Doctorate degree, with Education or related disciplines preferred. This confident, well-spoken leader must be a conservative, growing Christian with deep experience in institutional development, fund raising and administration. Pastoral ministry-related experience is a plus.

For consideration, please send a cover letter; a personal resume which includes family information, your history of work experience, your personal testimony of faith; contact information for three references to dpage@hillcrestbc.com.

Apply by April 10, 2021 for full consideration.

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

Interesting & Informative Trumpet Notes
by Jeff Herring, Executive Editor of The Baptist Trumpet

“Poorly Named” Equality Act Passes House

On Feb. 25, the U.S. House of Representatives passed, for the second time, a far-reaching gay and transgender rights proposal that opponents warn would have calamitous effects on freedom of religion and conscience, as well as protections for women, girls and unborn children. The Democratic-controlled House voted 224-206 for the Equality Act, HR 5, which would add “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” to the classifications protected in federal civil rights law. “Sexual orientation” includes homosexuality, bisexuality and pansexuality, while “gender identity” refers to the way a person perceives himself regardless of his biology at birth. Three Republicans voted with all the Democrats in support of the legislation. President Biden has endorsed the bill, but the measure will face difficulty in the Senate, where supporters will need 60 votes to overcome an expected filibuster.

The Equality Act would be the most pro-abortion bill ever passed by Congress. HR 5 would redefine the term “sex” to also include “pregnancy, childbirth or a related medical condition.” This language would roll back federal law that protects the consciences of pro-life nurses and physicians who object to participating in abortions because of their deeply held religious or moral beliefs. These conscience protections carry decades of bipartisan consensus — a consensus that no person should be compelled to participate in an act they believe to be gravely immoral. H.R. 5 would also jeopardize the long-standing Hyde Amendment that protects federal taxpayer dollars from funding abortion. There is nothing equalizing about forcing Americans to fund abortion through taxpayer dollars. (baptistpress.com)

New Movie “Roe v. Wade”

The long-awaited “Roe v. Wade” film, which tells the backstory behind the infamous U.S. Supreme Court abortion ruling, is coming out in April. On Feb. 26, the film premiered at Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Orlando, Florida with producer Nick Loeb and Academy Award-winning actor Jon Voight, The Federalist reports. In April, it will be available online through Amazon Prime and iTunes. The movie tells the true story of the lies and manipulations used to push abortion on America. It is a project of Loeb and Cathy Allyn.

The film follows key advocates in the abortion fight in the 1970s, including former abortionist Dr. Bernard Nathanson and Betty Friedan on the pro-abortion side and Dr. Mildred Jefferson, the first African American woman to graduate from Harvard Medical School, on the pro-life side. The film exposes the lies and manipulative tactics of abortion activists, people like McCorvey and Nathanson who later had a change of heart and dedicated pro-life advocates like Jefferson who fought valiantly to defend the right to life for babies in the womb.

To learn more or to get involved, visit RoevWadeMovie.com. (lifefews.com).

Stan & Donna Scroggins Back in The Philippines

After almost 11 months, we are finally back in Manila. Just before our departure date God threw us a curve — the 150-year ice and snowstorm. It closed down the airport in Tyler, Texas, so we had to rent a car and drive to Dallas to meet our flight to San Francisco. After spending the night in Dallas, we boarded the first leg of our trip.

We were put through the wringer here. After three hours of haggling, and begging, all to no avail, we were denied. Devastating! I was missing one little slip of paper which was a receipt for my visa stamp. (Don’t mention the fact that I had the visa stamped in my passport with the amount it cost written in.) Donna had hers, I couldn’t find mine. Now it was almost 11 p.m. and the flight had departed and we were stuck in a hotel on Saturday night to wait for the Philippine Consulate in San Francisco to open on Monday so we can see if things can be worked out before the next flight to the Philippines on Saturday, Feb. 24 — four days away! If not, we would have to abort as our visas were to expire March 2.

Between Philippine Airlines and our Visa lawyer in Manila, by Wednesday things got worked out and we are finally on the plane. And yes, we had to wear face mask and shields during the entire 14-hour flight to Manila.

We arrived in Manila at 4:30 a.m. and it took two hours to go through all the regulations and procedures — orientation lecture, temperature taking, Traze verification (so they can know you don’t break quarantine), pay for COVID-19 test, get hotel verification, get transportation to hotel verification, go through passport and immigration control (talk about being nervous), pick up luggage, go through customs, walk out of the airport and drive to our quarantine hotel.

We arrived at our home away from home for the next 10 days of quarantine. We can’t leave our room for 10 days until we receive our health clearance card. None of the hotel amenities are available. Food is brought to our room for each meal. On March 3, nurses from Detoxicare came to administer the COVID-19 test, then we waited for two more days for the results to come back. We made it back by the “skin of our teeth.”

There is a ministry here led by Catherine Torente called Christian Missionary Services. They have been coordinating missionary immigration issues all the way back to when the Moore’s were missionaries here. So, they picked up our passports to begin the visa renewal process.

Now Donna and I had to spend a week hanging out in our room, teaching our Bible College classes online and watching a lot of YouTube videos. We will look forward to reporting next month from our house in Talisay City on our island — Negros Occidental.

World Mission Day in the Philippines

This is the fourth year we have coordinated World Mission Day in the Philippines with the United States. Thanks to John Rey Vallejera (Pastor JoJo), this year’s event was a great success. Donna and I helped encourage student participation virtually, and on World Mission Day there were over 250 in attendance with over 26,000 pesos raised for missions (that’s over \$250, it just sounds more impressive in Philippine Peso).

Contact Numbers change

Now that we are back in the Philippines our mobile numbers go back to our Filipino numbers. You can text and call at these numbers — Donna: +63 908-894-6724/Stan: +63 908-894-6723. You can also contact us through email and Facebook Messenger: Donna, gojvcrusaders@msn.com/Stan, stanmusical@icloud.com.

Now Is Christ Risen!

I Corinthians 15:20

**“But now is Christ Risen
from the dead, and become
the firstfruits of them that
slept.”**

Christ is risen! Hallelujah!

Christ is risen from the dead.

Death no more shall have

dominion,

Since His precious blood

was shed.

Now the rock-hewn tomb is

flooded

With celestial life and light,

Since the living Lord has

triumphed

Over death and sin’s dark

night.

Hear the headline news from

heaven.

Ye who tarry at the tomb;

“Christ is risen as He told you

Seek Him not amid death’s

gloom.

“Go and tell His sad disciples

That their Master lives once

more;

He will greet them some glad

morning

On their Galilean shore.”

Yes, the living, loving Savior,

Now in heaven exalted high,

Died and rose, the mighty

Victor,

That mankind need never die.

Now He is our Intercessor

At the throne of God above,

Where all the saints of all the

ages

Sing of His redeeming love.

Though He lives in light

supernal,

Still He deigns to dwell with

me:

Christ, my omnipresent Savior,

Mine for all eternity

But until that hallowed

moment,

When He calls me to His side,

Let me live to love and serve

Him,

Christ, my Master and my

Guide.

Albert Simso Reitz

**If Christ did not rise
from the dead, then:**

**1. Our preaching is in
vain.**

2. Our faith is vain.

3. We are false witnesses.

4. We are still in our sins.

I Corinthians 15:13-17

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

Contrasts Between Adam & Christ

Romans 5:12-21

by Dennis Baker

The repetition of the word "one" points out a contrast in our identification with Adam and Christ. The phrase "much more" means that in Christ the believer gains much more than we ever lost in Adam.

By one man, Adam; all of humanity came under the consequences of sin, death. Is it fair for God to condemn all of humanity because of the disobedience of one man? The answer is found in the logic that Adam is the head of the human race. Each of us is racially connected to Adam, therefore: his sin affects all of mankind. We need to accept the fact that Adam's one act of disobedience made all of us sinners. Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

In contrast Christ, by His obedience on the cross, brought in righteousness and justification. Christ not only undid all the damage of Adam's sin, but He accomplished "much more" by providing a way for mankind to be forgiven of sin. II Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

Universal condemnation or death for all of humanity was the result of Adam's sin, but because of Christ's obedience, grace flourishes so that all humanity can experience an abundant spiritual life. Jesus gives eternal life abundantly to all who trust Him. Adam's sin resulted in condemnation for all humanity, whereas Christ's substitutionary death made possible life-giving justification to all who believe. Sin can never exceed the grace provided by God, sin loses its threat when compared to the super abounding grace of God.

The contrast between Adam and Christ shows that Adam was tested in the garden, surrounded by beauty and love; Jesus was tempted in the wilderness and He died on a cruel cross surrounded by hatred and ugliness. Adam became a sinner and was cast out of the garden, but Jesus Christ turned to the thief and said, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." Luke 23:43 The one sin of Adam resulted in all of humanity being condemned; the one act of obedience of Christ, death on the cross, made it possible for the sinners to be forgiven. By condemning all of humanity through one man (Adam), God is able to save humanity through one Man (Jesus Christ).

The Character of Rugged Men

by Thomas Balzamo

There are certain traits we think of when we think of rugged men. While there are many, I've boiled it down to three that I think specifically characterize rugged masculinity.

1. Avoid making excuses (Have a teachable spirit)

People have been making excuses for their behavior since the beginning when Adam blamed God for giving him a wife that fell into sin and then blamed his wife for tempting him into it too. (Genesis 3:12) A logic problem seems to exist among those that make excuses- the existence of excuses and teachability in the same mind at the same time. These things seem contradictory to each other. A wise man hears truth, learns it, and changes his ways.

Proverbs 9:9 "Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning."

A foolish man however, can't learn because as long as excuses exists he sees no need to learn the thing. So long as he does not need the information, he will not apply it. And

excuse-making says, "I'm already doing everything right, my problems aren't my fault, so I don't need this information."

Proverbs 12:1 "Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish." (read: stupid)

Some of the most common excuses are, "It's my situation," or "It's others' fault" or "It's God's fault". So long as a man makes these excuses for poor behavior or habits, he is not being honest. Worse, it makes him look weak.

2.) Ignore inaccurate affirmations (Have a humble spirit)

Similar to making excuses, is that of making inaccurate personal affirmations. While excuses say, "My character problems are the fault of something else," inaccurate personal affirmations say, "What character problems? No problems here."

Some common replies in this scenario are "I already do the right things but they're not effective", to which I say, "Is it possible that maybe you're not really doing the right things?" Maybe there really is a character problem and you're not tending to it because it hurts to much to admit that your worldview is flawed.

Romans 12:16b says, "Be not wise in your own conceits." In other words, I must not affirm things about myself that are not accurate. Naturally, we tend to do that (Jeremiah 17:9).

To be Christian men, we must have a source outside ourselves, wiser than ourselves to mentor us. Primarily, this is the Scriptures, so we must study them and see how they desire to change us. Secondly, this may be a personal mentor who is already at a level of Christian maturity that you'd like to be at yourself. A peer (one already like you) can't logically serve as mentor. So study the Scriptures regarding virtue and character, and find a wise mentor to help keep you accountable and moving forward. All of this keeps us from becoming "Know-it-

Announcement
FOR ALL Men
OLD & YOUNG

**We are planning to resume the
Missouri State Brotherhood Retreat**

**Friday April 30, 2021 & Saturday May 1, 2021
at Camp Garwood**

Program

Friday Evening 7:30 P.M.
Supper
Devotional and Fellowship

Saturday 7:30 A.M.
Breakfast
Fellowship-Corn Hole & Ladder Jacks
Lunch
Dismissal

**We encourage the men and young men
from both the BMA of Missouri
and the Meramec Association
to come and enjoy a great time of fellowship
with the Lord and each other.**

Bring your friends who do not attend church.
There is no cost for those attending, but an offering will be taken to help with expenses.

Lodging is available in the
Camp Garwood dorms.
Bring personal items, sheets, blankets,
sleeping bag, and pillow.

**We encourage you to practice Covid-19
guidelines of social distancing
and wearing a mask!**

Questions: contact Dennis Baker
314-471-8665,
email bsafety4332@gmail.com

alls."

3.) Reject Complaining (Have a grateful spirit)

1 Thessalonians 5:18 teaches us that God's will is for us to give thanks in everything. How is this possible? As Christian men, we must frequently acknowledge that even on our worst days, we are better off than if we got what we really deserve. What we deserve is an eternity in Hell from which God has spared us by His grace through personal faith in Jesus Christ for salvation. If this doesn't make sense to you, read this.

Philippians 2:14 teaches us to "do all things without murmurings..." (complaints). It is pride that tells us "I deserve better than this." It is envy that says "Everyone else has this but I don't... and I should!" Neither of those, are wise or attractive traits in Christian men. Neither of those make you look competent, confident, or wise. Gratitude however, changes you. It keeps you from complaining. It makes you seem, well, like a man!

These three things: avoiding excuses, ignoring inaccurate personal affirmations, and rejecting complaining lay a good foundation on which you can begin to undo poor habits of character and replace them with good and godly ones.

While these things are for men and women alike, it is these traits that specifically form the picture rugged masculinity- the strong, soft-spoken, confident, competent, gracious man.

Moral Action

Baptist Missionary Association of America

Dr. John M. Adams, Director

P.O. Box 305 • Mantachie, MS 38855 • 6662-231-3863 • www.macbma • Email - fbcjdmaj@yahoo.com

Should We Still Pray For Our Political Leaders?

Our Heavenly Father hasn't promised that every political leader will become pure and righteous if we pray, but He still commands us to pray for our leaders and those of other nations as well. The Bible says, "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men. For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." (I Timothy 2:1-2).

You might say the world is still rocked by conflicts and corruption and lawlessness but let me ask you a question. How much worse would the world be if God's people didn't pray? What if we simply gave up and allowed the devil to carry on his schemes without interference? We may never know what impact our prayers are having – but God is still at work in response to the prayers of Christians. "I've never witnessed such intense hatred and vitriol in Washington D.C. The disdain between the Democratic and Republican parties has plunged to new depths. The drive to rule is tearing our country apart." Lloyd Ogilvie

I. "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." (Ephesians 6:18)

Pray for our leaders, for wisdom and guidance in the days to come. Pray for both parties, that they will put aside their animosity and partisan politics for the sake of the unity of our great nation. Pray that the hostility will cease, and that peace-makers from both sides of the aisle will provide the courageous leadership so desperately needed.

When Benjamin Franklin emerged from the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia after helping forge the U.S. Constitution, he was asked what sort of government the delegates had created. His reply was, "A republic, if you can keep it." Billy Graham

Our nation was born in a quest for religious liberty and founded on Christian moral and spiritual principles. John Adams, an original signer of the Declaration of Independence and our second president, wrote a profound letter to the Massachusetts Militia in the fall of 1798, saying: "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

II. James 5:16 – "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

I Timothy 2:1-2 – "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men. For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

The Pastor's Easy Life

His job is something like a football in a big game; he is knocked on one side and then on the other. If he writes a post card; it is too short; if he writes a letter; it is too long; if he prints his messages; he is a spend-thrift.

If he attempts to safeguard the interest of the church, he is trying to run things; if he does not he is allowing things to go to the dogs.

If he attends extra meetings of the church he is an intruder; if he does not he is a shirker. If the attendance is slim, nobody likes him anyway; if he tries to help he is a pest. If he calls for the offerings all he thinks about is money; if the offering is not

What a difficult and different approach to governmental authority. Even if we disagree, we are to pray for those who rule the daily affairs of our lives.

The early church had been accused of action against the decrees of Caesar and having another king, Jesus Himself (Acts 17:7). Their enemies effectively accused them of dissatisfaction with the ruling parties. Paul encouraged these early believers to look to God as the One who had placed these men in authority.

Pray that they would have wisdom. This was Solomon's prayer as he ruled the nation of Israel - that he would have "an understanding mind to govern the people" (1 Kings 3:9). Pray that our leaders would have wisdom to know right and the strength to do it.

Pray that they would have discernment. This is the ability to know right from wrong; to know God's leading as opposed to the leading of the enemy (1 Kings 3:9). Pray that God would protect them from lies and deception.

Pray that they would be instruments of God. This was Paul's instruction in Romans 13:4; that rulers, authorities, and governing bodies were actually "servants of God." Pray that our leaders would lead a society marked by tranquility, godliness, and dignity.

Oh, how we need all Christian folk to rise up in prayer. God can and will hear us as we pray!

good he is to blame. If he is in a smiling mood he is frivolous; if he is serious he is a sore-head. If he seeks advice he is incompetent; if he does not he is bull-headed. If he mixes with the members he is too familiar if he does not he is too ritzy.

So, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; if others won't do it, the Pastor MUST!

AVAILABLE PREACHERS

The following names are listed as a service to our churches in keeping you informed as to preachers that are available. The publishing of a preacher's availability for preaching appointments or pastoral work should not be considered as a recommendation by the *Missouri Missionary Baptist*. Names are published at the request of the individual and will be published until a request is received to remove it.

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

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

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.

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.

Forgive Me When I Whine

Today upon a bus, I saw
A lovely maid with golden hair;
I envied her --- she seemed so gay ---
And Oh, I wished I ere so fair,
When suddenly she arose to leave
I saw her hobble down the aisle;
She had one foot and wore a crutch;
But as she passed, a smile.
Oh, god, forgive me when I whine
I have two feet -- the world is mine

And when I sopped to buy some sweets,
The lad who served me had such charm,
He seemed to radiate good cheer
His manner was so kind and warm.
I said "It's nice to deal with you.
Such courtesy I seldom find."
He turned and said, "Oh thank you, sir!"
And then I saw that he was blind.
Oh, God forgive me when I whine
I have two eyes -- the world is mine.

Then, when walking down the street
I saw a child with eyes of blue
He stood and watched the others play;
It seemed he knew not what to do.
I stopped a moment then I said,
"Why don't you join the others, dear?"
He looked ahead without a word
And then I knew, he could not hear.
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine
I have two ears -- the world is mine.

With feet to take me where I'd go
With eyes to see the sunset's glow,
With ears to hear that I should know:
I am blessed indeed -- the world is mine
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.