

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

“Holding Forth The Word of Life”

Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXXIV

St. Louis, MO • March 8, 2022

Issue No. 3

BMAA Ukrainian Crisis Relief Fund

As the war in Ukraine escalates, the need for relief support increases. To support fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, BMA Global Missions has set up the Ukrainian Crisis Relief Fund. Donations can be made online at bmamissions.org. From there choose “Give” and then “Designate My Offering.” On the next screen, you will need to click “Show All” and select “Ukrainian Relief” from the list to designate your offering. You may also mail donations to BMA Missions Ukrainian Relief, P.O. Box 878, Conway, Ark. 72033.

Continue praying for churches and pastors as they minister in their communities during this horrific crisis. Pray for men who have joined the army, including Pastor Yuri (Church to All Nations in Lutsk), a former army captain who rejoined the army to fight for his country. Pray for his wife and four children.

New Enrollment Method for the National Meeting

By Grant Barnett, Chairman • BMAA Enrollment
and Finance Committee

In an effort to streamline the enrollment process, our committee recently met with the Coordinating Council and began asking hard questions. After much discussion, it was determined that certain changes could save us both time and money, as well as speed up registration lines at the meeting. This year, for the first time, there will be no pre-registration, no letter to fill out and send in and no online registration. You will simply elect messengers within your church and come to the meeting.

When you come to the registration table, tell us the name of your church and the number of messengers and visitors. If you have any “minute funds,” we can collect that at the registration table or you can send it by mail to BMA America LLC,

P.O. Box 1188, Conway, Ark. 72033.

If you are a church or know of a church petitioning to join the BMA of America, please fill out the online form found at bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you in Springfield!

**See the Schedule for the
National Meeting in
Springfield on Page 8!**

BPH Trustees

Announce Executive Director Nominee

The Trustees of Baptist Publishing House have unanimously selected Jordan Tew as the nominee for executive director of the Baptist Publishing House. Bro. Tew has served as assistant to the Executive Director since 2019. He is a graduate of BMA Seminary (BAR, MAR) and has served in church ministry for over 15 years. He has been involved in every aspect of the Publishing House’s operations and ministry for the last two years and during that time, the Publishing House has thrived. He has a strong devotion to the authority of the Bible and fully endorses the Doctrinal Statement of the BMAA. His desire is to see every local church strengthened in the areas of discipleship and Bible teaching. Jordan Tew will be presented to the association at the national meeting in Springfield, MO.

Date Correction!

In the February issue of the *Missouri Missionary Baptist* we posted incorrect dates for the **Missions Symposium** and the **BMA of MO Mid-Year Business Meeting**. Please note that the **Correct Dates ARE:**

Symposium - May 20, 2022

Mid-Year - May 21, 2022

Both meetings will take place at Bethel Baptist Church, Lonedell, MO Watch for details later.

Garwood Calling!!!!

Welcome to Spring from Camp Garwood! With Spring comes **activity**. With activity comes **projects**.

It’s not too soon for you to decide. “I want to help get camp ready!” We are asking groups to adopt buildings again this year. You can find a list on the Camp Garwood FB page. Or you can message me for the latest information. If you adopt a building you are committing to cleaning it up and making any minor repairs needed.

There is another point of interest for Springtime. Everyone 18 or older who is staying at camp is required to go through the adult screening process. You can find the link on the BMA of MO web page. bmamissouri.org **Note:** We will not be monitoring the adult screening for the “Renewal Weekend with all adult men attending, but it will take place at all the rest.

It’s also time to think about being a DEWr. A Garwood DEWr is anyone who gives 75\$ or more in a year. That’s just over a Dollar every week. \$1.44 to be exact. Last our DEWr’s raised just over \$5000. In the past DEWr’s have raised over \$10,000. Can you be a Garwood DEWr this year?

• **March 25-26th Renewal Weekend** This weekend is planned and led by Bro. Ben Kingston. Originally designed for pastors is now available for church men. The Renewal weekend is always a blessing.

• **April 8-9th Spring Retreat.** We are planning several activities for this retreat. Most of the regular camp recreational activities will be available. Including Paintball and Train rides. Along with Spiritual Growth sessions.

• **May 6-7th Men’s Retreat.** The annual Brotherhood Spring Mens retreat is always a great weekend. We are planning the 2nd annual Camp Garwood Cornhole Classic. Get your team ready and come belly up to the crawfish table. (There will be other food available for the weaker stomachs). But, Be sure to watch the others lose all self respect as they dig in with elbows up.

• **July 8-9th GMA retreat** The GMA retreat is sponsored by the MO State GMA and organized by Sis Lisa Cox. All ladies are invited whether you have a WMA or GMA program.

• **July 25-29th Camp Week** Our camp theme “*Forward in Faith*” from 2 Peter 1:5-8. We are looking forward to a great week! Please begin right now praying for camp. I’m asking you to put camp on your personal prayer list and your church prayer list. We are expecting to see God use camp in a mighty way in 2022.

• **Aug 12-13th DEWr weekend** Are you a DEWr? This weekend is planned especially for you!

I’ve already asked. But please make Camp Garwood common words spoken in your prayers. “*I know whom I have believed in and I’m persuaded that HE is able!*” Food cost. Fuel costs. Sickness concerns. Structure preparation. Service preparations. Camp workers.

The saying goes, “Desperate times call for desperate measures.” These desperate times call for desperate prayers. Plead with our God to move in our midst.

We’ll see you at Camp!

Chris Polk • Camp Director • campgarwood@gmail.com
573-380-1975 • PO Box 271 • Matthews MO 63867



NEWS BRIEFS



Greetings from **Bates Creek!** Our youth group kicked off the month working each Wednesday night on a Valentine project to send to a local nursing home. The kids made some things and brought in items for goody bags for the residents. It was awesome to see them learning about sharing God's love for us with others. Thank you to Sis. Sharon for delivering these items. Our WMA was excited to be able to support the Darlene Carey National WMA project and our local project as well. Now we move on to new goals as a WMA. Our church is in desperate need of a bathroom remodel. It isn't just for looks. The flooring is rotting out. It might seem small to some but supplies these days are so expensive. Sis. Connie made a great visual board for us on how much things cost. Please join us in prayer that God will help provide for the situation. Finally, our church got to share in a little fun mystery event. We were excited to have Bro. and Sis. Meade join us for the fun! Bro. Jaxen, Sis. Makenzie, Bro. Stephen, and Sis. Carolyn all won best detective as they all figured out the mystery. It was a great night of fun and fellowship for everyone.

Bro. Bryan Buckley, pastor • Sis. Sara Buckley, Reporter

Excited Greetings from **Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church!** Sickness and Satan have been busy trying to bring us down at Mt. Olive but we are Overcomers!! In spite of the stumbling blocks we have encountered we are still Going, Planning, and Reaching out to our Community! The Ladies in our WMA are enjoying their Study in the Book of Ruth. The Lord is using them to reach out to the Community showing them that Jesus is at Mt. Olive and that we are available to help those in need. Some of our Ladies are going to attend the Missouri State WMA Meeting March 5, 2022, and the National W.M.A. meeting April 19, 2022. We have been having Singing Practices, and Outreach Events at different times during the week, also our mid-week Bible Study on Wednesday evenings at 7pm, and Wonderful, Challenging Messages from our Pastor at our Sunday Morning Services. We attended the Fifth Sunday Singing at Ohlman on January 30, 2022. We always enjoy the time of Song Worship and Fellowship with our Sister Churches. We had our Valentine Banquet on February 12 @ 6pm. It was a wonderful time of Fellowship and fun! We had some Visitors who attended the Banquet who had attended a Sunday Morning Service in the past and we are Praying that they visit again soon! We had our Event Planning Meeting and made a Monthly Event Plan for the rest of the year. These events are planned as an outreach to invite Visitors to join us for Fun and Fellowship! Some of our Members are planning to represent Mt. Olive at the National Meeting of the BMAA at Springfield in April. Our Pastor and his Wife are excited to have the opportunity to meet more of the BMA People by attending Local and National Association Meetings, etc. Thank You for your Prayers! We are excited about what God is doing at Mt. Olive, and we are going to Keep on Keeping on for Jesus!

Larry Nash, Pastor • Deiatre Gillam, Reporter

It is with a sad heart that I report from **Landmark, DeSoto** this month as we lost Bro. David Griggs on the 10th of February. It was sudden and unexpected, and we are recovering from the shock, but he will live on forever in our hearts. We rejoice in the fact that we know where he is, and that he is rejoicing in being with his Savior, whole in mind and body. He was witty, intelligent and as you all know he had a beautiful singing voice with which God blessed him and he used it to glorify God. We thank God for allowing him to be a part of Landmark for the last 18 months or so. We miss his presence greatly. We have had sickness among quite a few of our members this month.

Sis. Marguerite Truelove has been in and out of the hospital and nursing home and we were so happy to be able to see her in church Sunday morning. Sis. Laura Fincher has a problem with her leg, Sis. Debbie Steinbach has a problem staying upright and has fallen several times. Bro. Earl is still awaiting surgery that they keep putting off for some reason. Sis. Glenda Perry has been quite ill, but able to be in church off and on. Sis. Cathey Rudloff had Covid, as well as Bro. Kenny Price. So, so many and I know that I have missed some. It doesn't help our attendance that we keep having bad weather when we want to be in church and cannot. And you know in most of our churches we have those that are depressed or suffer from anxiety. Those illnesses are as real as the others. We are as you are, I'm sure, praying for those wonderful people in the Ukraine. That situation lies very heavy on our hearts. Until next month or the Lord Returns,

Benjamin Kingston, Pastor
Sharon Page, Church Clerk

We are thankful to our Lord for His watch care over us, as we continue to serve at **Ozark Heights.** We have had a great month as we come together to praise our Lord and Savior. We always want to tell our shut-ins that you are continually missed and if there are ever any needs please remember to reach out to your brothers and sisters in Christ. Bro. Brian continues to provide strong spiritual messages on Sunday morning and we continue to see those come to the Lord in salvation followed by Baptism. The church continues to grow; not only in number but also in spiritual strength, as we study our doctrinal statements in Sunday evening Bible study. We are so thankful February has passed and March is upon us. We are looking forward to spring and the beauty and refreshment it brings to our eyes and our spirits. We did

have to call off Brotherhood and postpone WMA because of snow/ice but with the hard work of our men on Saturday February 26th we were able to have services Sunday the 27th. We had received a couple inches of sleet and rain which made it impossible to plow. But under the leadership of Bro Butch Wilkerson the men came out salted, scraped and shoveled the lot clear and with God's help of sunshine we had a perfectly dry parking lot and sidewalks for church on Sunday Not to say there were no consequences of strained backs and sore muscles. We thank you all for your hard work and effort to give us opportunity to worship. Also giving the opportunity Sunday morning for Bro. Brian to baptize Bro. Brian Williams. Extending the hand of fellowship following service. Brotherhood will continue on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of March at 7 p.m. WMA will be on the 3rd Thursday at 7 p.m. Please come and join us if you have opportunity. **Sunday Services:** Sunday School 10:00 a.m.; Worship Service 11:00 am; Sunday Evening Bible Study 6:00 p.m. **Wednesday Evening:** Bible Study and Roots to Wings Youth Group 7:00 p.m. We will have Youth Sunday March 27th and encourage any youth in the area come join us. We were able to have Talent night February 27th with songs, praise and great fellowship following. We were delighted to have Bro Leonard Compton join us on our Talent Night. Until next month we will lift the names of our sick and shut-ins before the Lord, looking forward to seeing them possibly joining us again in the future. As well as, asking God to Bless each of our sister churches in their efforts to take the Word to a lost and dying world. Remember we can't save them but we can cast the seed for the Master.

Brian Kingston - Pastor • Gary Gilliam - Reporter

February 11th **Lindsay Lane, Florissant** held a wonderful Valentine's banquet. Great food, fellowship and lots of laughter. We are so glad to be able to get back together as the family of God! We want to extend our sympathy to the family of Bro. David Griggs in his recent home going. Our loss is Heavens gain. We also want to extend our sympathy to Sis. Mickey Henson in the passing of her brother. Bro. Brian and family recently were blessed to visit with his granny and folks. Our awana program is in full swing. Not as many youngsters as before but knowing these youngsters are learning about Jesus is a blessing! Our praise team is still leading us in morning worship. We thank God for each one that gives of their time and talents. February 27th we were blessed to have Bro, Juan Fernandez and family in our service as we observed world

• Continued on Page 4 •

The Missouri

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FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS • February 2022

General Fund:

Checking Account:

Balance January 31, 2022		\$	19,636.83
February Receipts:			
Missions:	\$	7,659.26	
Insurance, Garwood	\$	<u>3,000.00</u>	
Total Income:	\$	10,659.26	\$ <u>10,659.26</u>
Total Available			\$ 30,296.09
February Disbursements:			
Director, Salary	\$	450.00	
Secretary, Salary	\$	200.00	
Juan Fernandez/Support	\$	<u>2,333.33</u>	
Total Disbursements	\$	2,983.33	\$ <u>(2,983.33)</u>
Balance February 28, 2022:			\$ 27,312.76

Investment in BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund:

Balance January 31, 2022	\$	110,128.33
Interest:	\$	<u>0.00</u>
Balance February 28, 2022, 2020:	\$	110,128.33

Total of all Funds February 28, 2022: \$ 137,441.09

Traditions That Trap

By Dr. Tony Cleaver
726 Walnut Dr. • Killeen, Tex. 76549

As good as our traditions might be, sometimes they become a trap. I need to examine some of my own traditions that might trap me. I have traditions because of family, past experiences or denominational attachment. Some of these place God in a box of being a God of “then but not now.” Hezekiah (II Kings 18.5) showed great courage to put away a tradition that had been embedded in the soul of the nation for decades (Num. 21.4-9). I hope I have the courage to be like him in my walk with God.

There is great surprise and amazement in examining traditions. Some need to be kept. Some need to be abandoned. Let me share some traditions that I am wrestling with right now:

• **Time of worship service** — At one point in my life, I assumed God had commanded that we worship at 11 on Sunday morning. What a surprise when I went to a service at 8:15 a.m., then to Sunday School after that! Wow, I was awake.

• **Preacher attire** — As a young Christian, I assumed preachers were born in a black suit. They came straight from the factory dressed that way. I saw a preacher the other day without a tie. He probably did not get the memo. However, he preached a great sermon in the worship time. I also heard a superb sermon from a pastor in a pulpit robe. I saw a cowboy church preacher in boots and blue jeans, with a really big belt buckle. Mercy me — what a wide choice of preacher apparel!

• **Pews in the church house** — The first time I worshipped without pews was an uncomfortable experience for me. However, there is no requirement to sit in rows facing forward. Some congregations choose chairs for worship. They place them in a semi-circle. Making eye contact with other congregants is a good experience for me. This encourages me on to do the work of worship. I like both. I don’t have to have it one way or the other as my tradition.

• **Other music instruments** — This is a fact of my life — the piano and the organ have always been on certain sides of the auditorium. What challenged me last month was the orchestra in the service. It not only had drums, but it also had strings, brass, reeds and cymbals. I tapped my foot — only one foot — during worship! Worship music is at times acapella. The point here is the worship of God, not the instrument.

• **Liturgy** — Our kind of Christianity prides itself that we are not liturgical. What happened to me in a recent service was this — they received the offering just before the benediction! What were they thinking? I heard responsive readings and prayers. It touched my heart as we said aloud together the Model Prayer. Don’t tell anyone, but in my private devotions, I have begun to read aloud some of those readings in the back of the hymnbook.

• **Hymnbooks/screen hymns** — This is a tough call. I don’t read music so I don’t know what those little markings on the pages indicate. I know what I like to sing. I know my comfort zone in worship. There are others who are in worship with me who might enjoy some other music process. I think I might be open to some movement in this area. I know when I get to His presence I will sing, and sing with great gusto. Why shouldn’t I practice that now?

As I consider my walk with God, I’m simply “thinking out loud here” regarding a few traditions that might trap me. We all have them. I am looking at mine. If I need to abandon some of my traditions, let me be like Hezekiah!

Lord Jesus, call to my mind those traditions that trap. If I need to, may I smash that tradition! Set me free! May I find fresh worship with You and You alone. May I find that bonded link with You while it is today!

(Originally published in the June 18, 2008 issue of the Baptist Trumpet.)

Dear BMA of MO Churches:

Wow, we have two months in the book of 2022. The ole speed boat of life is barreling down the lake, that’s for sure.

We have been telling you about the Renewal Retreat for a couple of months, and now it’s decision time! I am asking all our pastors to prayerfully consider attending this special time. Please invite the men of your church also because this is for all the men of the association. This is a free event! Bro. Gavin Hooks will share in four sessions about the need of our churches and individuals to carry out ‘The Core Principle.’

You may ask, “What is the core principle?” Mark 12:29-31 KJV “*And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.*”

This is probably one of the most popular or most well-known scriptures in the Word of God. In his sessions, brother Gavin will bring out the connection between these verses, America’s founding, and the desperate need today of the Body of Christ to continue to carry out this principle, which is to be the core of all we do.

Please pray that many of our pastors and men attend, and please pray that we hear from God on this most vital issue. I have had several indicate that they are coming, and I am thrilled and excited. If you could, let us know when you get this paper how many are coming from your church, then we can make food arrangements.

I continue to hear great things from the churches that are taking the benchmark assessment. If you don’t get the result you were hoping for, please don’t lose heart! Remember: this is a twice a year endeavor so please attempt to assess your church every six months. If you have any questions, please

contact me. I would love to personally present Missouri missions to your church on a Wednesday night through the summer.

May the Lord richly bless you is my prayer.

Bro. Ben

PS: Please plan to attend our

**BMAMO
STATE
MISSION
SYMPOSIUM
at Bethel Missionary
Baptist Church in Lonedell on
May 20, 2022.
The program will be
in April’s paper.**

**PPS: The annual
mid-year
BMAMO
Business Meeting
will be the next day,**

**May 21, 2022
also at
Bethel, Lonedell.**

• **NEWS From Page 2** •

missions day. Before he brought the morning message we welcomed three new members. Prayers were answered as we welcomed Bro. Scott Dunnigan and Bro. George and Sis. Terri Kreig. We were on shouting ground for sure! As we remember our brothers and sisters in the Ukraine, also pray for our leaders and Mr. Putin that God Will touch his heart and that he will trust in Jesus as his personal savior! May God bless till we meet again.

Brian Meade, Pastor • Kathy Chapman, Reporter.

Hello from **Stony Point!** The Lord continues to bless in mighty ways. February 19th Bro. Claude conducted a prayer seminar with five church members where each participant spent quality and intentional time in prayer and communion with God. February 20th brought those precious words from one of our young men, Bro. Anthony Dontrich...."I have surrendered my life to my Lord Jesus Christ to spread the gospel by the preaching of His Word"... The church was overjoyed! We love Bro. Anthony and he knows he has the prayers and support of every member of Stony Point. Bro. Anthony delivered the first message laid on his heart by the Holy Spirit on Sunday, February 27th. Praise God! Of course, please pray for Bro. Anthony. If you would like to personally (or as a church body) send your messages of love and encouragement to him, please contact pastor Claude Evans and he will see that Bro. Anthony receives them.

Brother Claude Evans: 573-562-7036 • cbe34@hotmail.com • 13129 Old highway 8 East, Mineral Point, MO. 63660
Claude Evans, Pastor • David Hughes, Reporter

HELLO to all from **Oak Hill, Alton.** February 23rd, our Pastor

Bro. Edward and Sis. Theresa Casey celebrated 37 years of Marriage! We are liking the warmer temperatures that the Lord has been blessing us with. I think everyone is excited about warmer weather and enjoying being out in the Sun. It's almost time to change our clocks again. I know not everyone likes having to change their clocks and Spring forward but on the 12th, you need to or risk being late for Church the next day! After the time change, the next Sunday Spring is officially here. Until next month I hope I will have some more 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

February was hard on our Wednesday night youth program at **Ohlman, Bunker.** It seems that just about every Wednesday we had bad

weather and school was either cancelled or dismissed early. However, our Sunday morning services have been well attended. We are thankful for one of our men that keeps the parking area cleaned off as much as possible. Maintaining the church property is his ministry and he is very humble to take credit for it. Our WMA was challenged in October to raise \$1,000 for the National WMA Project (Darlene Carey Christian Academy) and with the support of our pastor and generous donations we not only met that challenge but we doubled it! This was a first for the WMA of Ohlman. Financially our church has been blessed, which allowed us to send a special offering for World Mission Day over and above our yearly support. On World Mission Sunday we also collected a special offering for the Ukraine relief fund. Our members are generous with their finances, especially when it comes to spreading the gospel to others. In closing, we received some bad news February 28th. Gary and Glenda Morgeson lost their house and contents to a fire. They were not home at the time but their son who lives close saw the smoke and then the flames and reported it. They live in a rural area north of Ellington, MO and they said that nine different fire agencies responded but could not save it. Bro. Terry Sharpe immediately contacted members to make arrangements for immediate financial assistance. Others in the community have already assisted too. This will be a long recovery process for them but we are thankful that they were not injured or worse and the church members of Ohlman will continue to stand by them with financial and emotional support. Keep them in your prayers. Other prayer requests are for Bro. Danny Skaggs and his family as his cancer has progressed. Also remember Sis. Lorene Lanham, mother of Juanita May.

Terry Sharpe, Pastor • Janet Widger, Reporter

Instead of Shutting the Door, Open the Bible

By **Gavin Roberts, BMAA Missionary** • (via mission: world News)

Utah is known for the "Greatest Snow on Earth." The state is home to some of the greatest skiing in the world. The southern part of the state boasts the "Mighty Five" national parks that attract tourists from around the globe. Within an hour's drive from where my family and I live you can see snowy mountains or red rock desert. It is a beautiful place!

Depending on where your data comes from, Utah is also the least reached state in the U.S. with the gospel, including a number of areas with significant populations with little to no evangelical presence. That is why my family and I packed up and headed west!

We minister in Morgan, Utah, an incredibly picturesque mountain town. Snowcapped mountains sit above the town on all sides while the Weber River runs through the valley floor and keeps everything green. Morgan is a town of roughly 5,000 residents and the largest city in Morgan County, which has a total population of around 13,000. Geographically, it is the smallest county in the state. My brother, Chase Roberts and I pastor Morgan Grace Church, the only evangelical church in the city of Morgan and one of only two in the county.

While evangelical churches are few, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) thrives. Utah is the home of the Mormon Church. Many in our BMA family know Mormons from their missionary uniforms. You've likely had Mormon missionaries visit your home. Growing up in rural Arkansas, this was about the extent of my knowledge of the LDS church. So how does one minister to Mormons? How do we share the gospel with LDS friends?

It is not uncommon for folks in Utah to only know Christians from the South as the people who eat fried food, drink sweet tea and slam the door in their faces while they're on their two-year mission with the church. Instead of politely telling missionaries you are a Christian and do not wish to hear

their spiel, I would ask that you prayerfully consider a different approach — invite them in. Offer them something to drink. Listen to them. Talk with them. Ask them questions. Love them. They are real people just like you.

Our Mormon friends are professional evangelists. We have found that they are generally open to religious conversations. However, debating is often not the best approach. Instead of attacking the LDS faith, ask questions that cause both parties in the conversation to think critically about their faith. When people have only known one faith from birth, they may never have looked at God in a different light.

So ask good questions like, "Who do you think the Bible tells us that Jesus is?" or "What is the authority for how we are to live our lives and receive forgiveness of our sins?" Questions like these allow them to share their beliefs and allow you to share your own. Encourage

your Mormon friends to read the Bible. Let God do what God does. He speaks through His Word. He brings life through His Word. God saves sinful people in need of His grace! Just like those of you reading this article.

Ministering to Mormons is about listening and loving. It is something that happens via relationships that take time. We are all broken people, so instead of shutting them out, open the door and open your ears. Win a hearing. Love them. Jesus said in John 6:63 (ESV), "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life." Listen intently. Show grace. God's Word brings life. Trust God to do what He has promised to do — build His church.

Pray for Utah! Pray for us. Listen to the next Mormon missionaries you meet. Love them. Maybe God will call some of you reading this to be a part of what He is doing in Utah.

Editor's Note: You can sign up to receive these mission:world News articles by visiting bmamissions.org/missionworldnews.

Only God is Truly Faithful

by **Vickie Arruda, via Lifeword**

God is always true to His promises. He can never draw back from His promises of blessing or of judgment. Since He cannot lie, He remains totally steadfast to what He has spoken:

• "Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations" (Deut. 7:9 ESV).

• "I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations. For I said, 'Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.' The heavens praise your wonders, O Lord..." (Psa. 89:1-5).

• "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mer-

• See **FAITHFUL Page 5** •

Misión Bautista “Belen” STL MO

“I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase” ... 1 Cor 3:6 (kjv)

Home Bible Study:

Baby Isaac is here! Our friends Nahum and Ermelinda’s baby Isaac was born on 2/27 at 9:25 p.m. in the St. Mary’s Hospital in Richmond’s Heights, MO. He is 6 lbs7 oz. and 19 inches long. Very healthy and strong baby. He arrived 3 weeks early surprisingly for his parents and all of us. I met him 30 minutes after his birth and stayed almost until 2:00 am.

Bible Study in Misión Bautista Belen: Sunday 9:00 am starting this 3/6 is called Discovery Bible Group. We are promoting it on Facebook page “Misión Bautista Hispana” and with our many contacts we have made since 3/2021 We are hoping to practice hospitality and offering coffee and doughnuts those who arrive early... in our community we are known for always arriving late, so some encouragement here. We promote this event through our FB page so if you have a chance to hit like and share that will help to spread the word and this unity to share will be a blessing to others who don’t know about Jesus.

Evangelism:

We are so happy that spring is around the corner, also we are so thankful for this opportunity to say thank you for keeping me and my family in your prayers. We continue reaching out to Hispanic families and individuals in this area of Missouri, Harvest is plenty! Continue praying for more laborers. It is a privilege to bring you an update on how God is leading us. Bible contacts, every Saturday from 9:00 to 11:00 am we are partnering with local business owner where Hispanic spend time shopping and hanging out to connect and offer time to hand out a Bible and go over the basics of the gospel. This has been a huge learning curve about our community. Many of the people contacted don’t have interest nor have heard about passages like John 3:16. Harvest is plenty!

Prayer:

Prayer Network: Follow us @Belenprayernetwork every day 12:00 pm. We read a passage of Scripture and pray for Salvation for each one of our contacts and special prayer request for health and wisdom while life happens. Wednesday at 7:00 pm in Florissant we continue recording a lesson of discipleship on Facebook live.

- Prayer walks: Every day from 2:00 to 2:45 pm we walk in neighborhoods seeking for open doors to share the gospel and pray for people in need.

Special Training this Month!

Aligning every believer with the mission of Jesus. The Multiplication Workshop a Missional Challenge by Dr. David DeVries. I pray and hope you have had the privilege of going through this amazing, effective practical tool for you and your ministry. I was able to join this training a second time last week in Conway Arkansas. Bro. Larry Barker, Elvis Garcia and Eli did an awesome job training us with real life experience and this amazing workbook.

Applying the WIN acronym:

What are we doing WELL?
What do I need to IMPROVE
and finally
What is Next?

I was able to redefine our Vision and core Values as well adjust our ministry timeline. In the last couple weeks, we have lost contact with two families who were already planning to join our church plant and becoming as significant part of the core team. We celebrated 18 worship services, then they stopped coming and communicating...well God knows we did the best to equip them with the gospel. Now is time to go back to the basics: **Prayer, Evangelism and Bible Study.** We are excited to start a Discovery Bible Study this coming Sunday. If you have not gone through this workshop, I highly recommend it. It will encourage, will energize and help you define better your purpose and reason to serve the Lord Jesus.

“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation”
2 Corinthians 5:18

Dios le bendiga! God bless you.

Faithful Soldier Called Home

David Earl Griggs, age 70, of St. Louis, MO passed away Thursday, February 10, 2022. David was born September 29, 1951 in St. Louis, MO. Beloved son of the late John D. and Pearl M. Griggs (nee Smith). Dearest brother of Delmar (Vicki) Griggs and Darran (Christine) Griggs. Loving uncle of Christopher Drysdale, Eric Griggs,



David Earl Griggs

Elizabeth Griggs and John Griggs. Our dear cousin, pastor and friend of many.

David pastored Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church in Lemay, MO for 35 years. Outside his loving family David was a dear cousin, pastor and friend of many. His personality is revealed by some of the comments made by those who knew him best.

A friend said, “Bro. David was a very special person. When he came to Emmanuel, he became part of my family. He was a blessing to all that knew him. I have many fond memories of Bro. David. Always there when you needed him!”

A relative said, “Uncle David was one of the most influential people in my life. He introduced me to GOD, he embraced me as his own nephew. This man was, and still is, the most pure Soul I have ever met!”

And still another friend said, “An outstanding singer, minister, and wonderful personal friend. He was in my college choirs and especially on several European concert tours.”

The funeral service was at Lakewood Baptist Church, near Potosi, MO February 16, with Pastor Mike Jarvis officiating. Interment was at Lakewood Baptist Church Cemetery.

• FAITHFUL From Page 4 •

cies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘therefore I will hope in him’” (Lam. 3:22-24).

- “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it” (I Cor. 10:13).

- “Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it” (I Thess. 5:23-24).

Faithfulness — I count on this attribute of God’s character. He is faithful. He cannot lie. I love that I can trust Him! I may not always like what His Word, the Bible, has to say or understand it, but I can trust that He will be faithful to His promises and all He has said.

Because of my counseling ministry, I am very aware that many individuals live their lives disappointed to the point of being bitter because they have been exposed to the unfaithfulness of another. That could come in the form of a spouse, child, church leader/member, boss, friends, etc. Yet God warned of the following in His Word:

- “It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man” (Psa. 118:8).

- “Stop regarding man in whose nostrils is breath, for of

• SEE FAITHFUL Page 8 •

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

Ladies: Remember to check the WMA Page on Face Book and see what you need to do to be prepared for the National WMA Meeting in Springfield, Missouri in April. Exciting Things Are Planned!

2022 Ladies' Retreat • September 9-10, 2022

***Aviator Hotel and Suites • 6921 S. Lindbergh
St. Louis, MO 63125***

We will have the entire Grand Ballroom • 2 sections for meeting and 1 section for Silent Auction. We will have all meals in the Pre-function area (No need to leave the facility and be in traffic!) This will triple the size we had a previous locations (Drury & Quality). The area is out of the flow of the general public.

Sleeping Rooms will cost:

\$ 100 plus 15% Tax = Approximately \$115.00 The rooms are Queen Doubles and/or King Single with a pullout. There is a maximum of 4 people to a room. (Church Tax Exemption can be used if rooms are booked under church name, exemption letter shown, and paid for with a church check or credit card.)

We need to book a minimum of 20 rooms to have no charge on Meeting/Auction rooms.

The motel will block 30 rooms for our group. If all 30 are not used 30 days prior to the event, those not booked will go back into the computer for General Public use starting August 8, 2022.

Food and Beverages:

In addition to the 20 room minimum we also need to purchase \$3,000.00 minimum in food and beverages to not Pay Room(s) rental.

Meals will be catered in-house and tables will be set up in the Pre-function area. So, no having to carry food into the meeting room.

Friday - Supper: Baked Potato and Salad Bar - \$15.00 plus 7.8% Tax plus 20% Gratuity = \$19.41 a person

Saturday - Breakfast - Deluxe Continental \$10.00 Plus 7.8% Tax Plus 20% Gratuity = \$12.94 a person.

Saturday Lunch - Soup and Salad Bar \$15.00 Plus 7.8 Tax Plus 20% Gratuity = \$19.41 a person

Food cost for 3 meals = \$53.00 a person

We would need at least 60 paid registrations of \$60.00 (\$3,600) to cover the \$3,000. minimum which leaves \$600 to apply to other expenses.

If we have 100 paid registrations of \$60. we would \$5,300 for meals leaving \$700 toward other expenses. Bottom line, out of the \$60 fee, only \$7.00 will go to cover additional expenses.

For groups to sponsor all event beverages:

\$7.00 plus 7.8% Tax Plus 20% Gratuity = \$9.06 a person (100 people = \$906.) Bottled water is complimentary. This would be regular coffee, Decaf Coffee, cold tea, hot tea, and lemonade.

We will have to ask for special offerings for this. If we could get 10 Groups/persons to sponsor at \$100. a Group/person, This will more than cover it plus help meet the \$3,000 food and beverage minimum.

We will have to really sell that the \$60 fee will be necessary no matter which facility we used due to meeting room rental cost. Also, that the \$60 Fee includes all 3 meals.

All Fees must be paid by August 26, 2022. After that date the fee goes to \$70. Plus no refunds after August 26.

How about a small incentive gift for the 60th and 100th Paid Registration? I can donate that. It went over pretty good, how about officers contributing table centerpieces again and use those for attendance prizes?

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

The King's Secrets

Matthew 13:10-11

by Dennis Baker: Brotherhood President

The disciples of Jesus asked Him why He spoke to the multitude of people in parables. A parable is a story, or comparison, which is put alongside something to help make the lesson clear. The parables in chapter thirteen are not ordinary parables. Jesus called the parables in chapter thirteen "mysteries of the Kingdom of heaven." A "mystery" is a spiritual truth understood only by divine revelation. It is a "sacred secret" understood only by those "on the inside" who learn from the Lord and obey Him. The parables present a picture of the spiritual course of the "kingdom of heaven" in the present age.

The parable of the Sower concerns the preaching to the Word of God. The field is the world, the seed is the Word of God, and the soils represents the diverse kinds of hearts, and the varied results represent the different responses to the preaching of the Word of God. It is important, in this present age, that the Word of God be preached! Romans 10:17, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Note that there was nothing wrong with the seed, but the soil was the problem.

The parable of the tares addresses the opposition of Satan to the sowing the Word of God. The parable pictures a man who sowed good seed in his field, but the enemy sowed tares among the wheat. It is interesting that as the wheat and tares begin to grow it is difficult to distinguish between them. When the servants ask the master if they should gather the tares, the master's response was, "let both grow together until the harvest." The parable reveals that in this present age good and evil coexist. Our task is not to pull up the false but plant the truth. In the end God will gather up the tares and burn them.

The parable of the mustard seed affirms that during this present age the number of people who inherit the kingdom will be small at first. But though it begins like the smallest of seeds the nucleus will enjoy growth completely out of proportion to its initial size. In the Old Testament, a tree large enough to support nesting birds was considered prosperous. The kingdom, though small in number at the beginning of the age, will ultimately be large and prosperous.

In the parable of leaven, the Kingdom of heaven is being compared to the dynamic of the character of yeast. When yeast is worked into dough, it expands by itself. Rather than being powered by outward armies and organizations, the Kingdom of God will grow by internal dynamic, the Holy Spirit. The parable of the mustard seed addresses the extent of the kingdom's growth while the parable of leaven addresses the power and process of growth.

The spiritual course of the Kingdom of Heaven in the present age has been determined. The Word of God is to be preached! Good and evil will co-exist, but our focus should be on the harvest! The Kingdom can support the large and prosperous growth! The internal dynamic of the kingdom is the Holy Spirit.

One Last Thing About Camp Garwood as Spring is Sprung!

Mark your calendars and encourage your church group to attend one of the many opportunities at Camp Garwood this Spring.

Moral Action Dr. John Adams, Director

Lewdness

Dr. John Adams,
Director Moral Action

I Thessalonians 4:1-8 – "Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to please God, so ye would abound more and more. For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication; that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor; not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God, that no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter; because that the Lord is the avenger of all such as we also have forewarned you and testified. For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit."

Lewdness is a life dominated by sexual lust; "fornication" (verse 3) is illicit sexual indulgence; "concupiscence" (verse 5) is passionate lust and implies a willful yielding to passions; "vessel" (verse 4) is the believer's body; to "defraud" (verse 6) is to take advantage of; "sanctification" (verses 3,4) and "holiness" (verse 7) come from the same word and mean consecration.

In Paul's day, living in the light of the second coming of Christ (I Thessalonians 3:13; 4:16-18) called for holy conduct. Pagan religion had made no moral demands on the young Christians at Thessalonica, but their new faith in Christ would. In many ancient nations, married women and their lovers were likely to be put to death by the husbands of the adulteresses; however, not much thought was given to the practice of adultery involving a married man and an unmarried woman. That attitude toward lewdness had to be stopped so Paul encouraged them to "abound more and more" in moral purity (I Thessalonians 4:1).

I. What the Will of God Is. I Thessalonians 4:3-6

Lewd living is contrary to the will of God as expressed in the Ten Commandments. "Thou shalt not commit adultery" (Exodus 20:14). Israel had a higher law than the nations about her. From the beginning, God's plan for man ruled out adultery (Genesis 2:24). To commit adultery is to debase the union which God made between a husband and his wife. Adultery does not respect the bond upon which the family is based, that relationship which is dearer than life to an honorable person.

God takes lewd living seriously (Leviticus 20:10-21). People may joke about infidelity, but it is no joke to God. It is a sin; therefore, we should rebuke it and not water down God's command concerning it. Christians are not altogether dependent upon the Law of Moses for instructions concerning sexual impurity, for Jesus elaborated upon the law (Matthew 5:27, 28). It is not only the married man who is guilty when an illicit act is committed; it is any man. It is sin when a married woman is involved, or when any other woman transgresses because the definition of adultery must involve a married person.

Jesus taught that the actual act of adultery need not be committed for guilt to be assessed. If a man only "looketh on a woman to lust after her," he has committed the sin in God's sight.

Jesus taught that God did not make a provision for divorce in the beginning, but intended an inseparable bond (Matthew

19:3-9). What an indictment that is of easy divorce, or of divorce for no real reason at all!

Our Lord recognized a whole generation as being wicked and adulterous (Matthew 16:4). He taught that those who repent should turn from the sin of adultery (John 8:3-11). He taught that sex sins derives from an evil heart (Matthew 15:19).

II. What the Bible States I Thessalonians 4:1-2

Sinful living despises the admonitions of the Scriptures. Jesus' admonition to pluck out the offending eye and to cut off the offending hand sounds rather drastic, but those who would be willing to take such drastic action for the sake of living for Jesus will probably not find it necessary to do so. When they are that determined to live right, they will find strength from the Lord to do so. His instructions there are equivalent to Paul's admonition to "mortify" (put to death) the sinful urges of the flesh which lead to sinful acts (Romans 8:13).

Paul advised Timothy that he should flee "youthful lusts" and follow after "righteousness, faith, charity, peace" (II Timothy 2:22). He could not do that and at the same time seek out places of worldly amusements, especially those which feature sinful allurements. Christians will find enough of Satan's traps in the ordinary pursuits of life without trespassing on his territory. Joseph had to flee from his master's wife while occupied in legitimate business. David should have fled from his housetop when he became tempted there to take another man's wife. In particular, the Word says to "flee fornication" (I Corinthians 6:18).

-With thanks to Rev. Glenn Fox and Dr. Chuck Swindoll for excerpts-

Read About How
To Become A
CAMP DEWR
on Page 1

73rd BMA of America National Meeting

April 18-20, 2022

University Plaza Hotel & Convention Center
333 S. John Q Hammons Parkway • Springfield, MO 65806

Monday, April 18

10:30 a.m. Baptist Publishing House Trustee Meeting - Room Kansas A
1:30 p.m. Seminary Trustee Meeting - Room Kansas A
3:00 p.m. Missions Advisory Committee - Room Kansas B

Monday, Evening April 18

6:00 p.m. Registration
7:00 p.m. **Opening Session**
Welcome - President
President's Message - Dr. Clif Johnson - 'PREACH the Word. Preach THE WORD'
Initial Associational Business

Tuesday, Morning, April 19

8:30 a.m. BMA Orientation for New Pastors and Churches - Room Kansas C
8:30 a.m. Registration for WMA Conference - Grandview Baptist Church 3208 Barnes Ave.
9:00 a.m. National WMA Conference - "Intentional" - Grandview Baptist Church
9:00 a.m. National Brotherhood Meeting - Room Arkansas C

Breakout Sessions

9:30 & 10:45 a.m. BMA Missions - Preaching the Word and the Mission of God - Room Colorado A
9:30 & 10:45 a.m. Lifeword - We Tell the Creation Story - Room Oklahoma
9:30 & 10:45 a.m. Minister's Resource Services - Pastor Your Family Well - Tim Brewer - Room Kansas A
9:30 & 10:45 a.m. Activate - Pray the Word as a Healthy Pastor - Room Kansas B
9:30 & 10:45 a.m. BMA Seminary - Get it Straight - Justin Powers - Room Illinois
9:30 & 10:45 a.m. Baptist Publishing House - Study the Word - Room Colorado B
9:30 & 10:45 a.m. Daniel Springs Camp - Keep the Word Central in Student Ministry - Room Arkansas B

Tuesday Afternoon, April 19

3:00 p.m. **Second Session**
Justin Peters - Preach the Sufficient Word
5:00 p.m. Seminary Dinner

Tuesday Evening, April 19

7:00 p.m. **Third Session**
Election of Officers - Business as needed
Annual Message - Richard Smith - Preach the Powerful Word

Wednesday Morning, April 20

8:30 a.m. **Fourth Session**
BMA Foundation
Moral Action Agency
Baptist Publishing House
Daniel Springs Encampment
Minister's resource Services
BMA Theological Seminary
Lifeword
Missions Department
Miscellaneous Business

Wednesday Afternoon, April 20

12:00 p.m. Missionary Ladies Luncheon - Location TB
12:00 p.m. We Are Free Luncheon - Location TBA
2:00 p.m. Legacy Missionaries
3:00 p.m. **Fifth Session**
Johnmichael Poulin - All the Word to All the World

Wednesday, Evening, April 20

7:00 p.m. **Sixth Session**
Missions Commissioning Service

Ministry Display Area

Monday, April 18

4:00pm - Opens
9:30pm - Closes

Tuesday, April 19

9:00am - Opens
9:30pm - Closes

Wednesday, April 20

9:00am - Opens
9:00pm - Closes

• FAITHFUL From Page 5 •

what account is he?" (Isa. 2:22).

My precious ones, He is faithful! There are only two possible choices when it comes to where we place our faith (trust). We will either have to choose God or man (ourselves or others). Our God is faithful! People, no matter how wonderful they are, will eventually let you down somewhere, somehow because we are only human and not divine like God.

Today, if you are harboring bitterness toward someone who

has been unfaithful intentionally or unintentionally to you, please dethrone them. They are not God. Then trust God, the faithful one, to help you learn how to forgive and let go of the bitterness. Reconcile if possible, and where that is not possible let go

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) 315-0931 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.

The Master's Builders Working Again

Rose Bittner- Reporter • February 24, 2022

A small group of Master's Builders met this week for two days at Anthony Drive Baptist Church in Ennis Texas. Pastor Matt Walker called the group because the church had the unique "problem" in that their youth department was growing too fast for the space they had to meet in! Praise God! The Builders were asked to tear down the walls and ceiling from 3 classrooms and a hallway to make one large youth meeting room. They also put up a door between the room and the hallway to the rest of the building. The Builders had so much help from the congregation on the first day that it made the task much easier to tear down and remove all of the debris. Special thanks to Bro. Korey McCrady, the Youth Pastor, and Chris Walker for their "nonstop" help on day one, and for all the other students and church members who showed up willing to help in any way they could. Special thanks to Ms. Vicki Woods for the delicious enchilada lunch that was prepared for us on day two.

It was an added blessing for The Builders to work on a building that was originally constructed by the Master's Builders in 1992. (Job #5 for the group). The Builders were so thankful to see photos of the original project and the original team from this job in 1992 from a memory book at the church!

The Master's Builders have had several changes to their spring schedule and the next project for the Builders is to work at Daniel Springs Camp in Gary, Texas, March 14th to March 25th. Afterwards, they are schedule to build a new sanctuary for Celebration Baptist Church, in Haskell, Arkansas in April. If you have questions about The Master's Builders ministry, would like to join, or if your church has building needs, please contact: •Eddie Sikes at 407-462-1675

• Mike Green at 972-935-3877 • David Axe at 903-918-0720
"Like" Us on Facebook at "The Master's Builders" to follow us and pray for us.

and move on. God has a plan for your life and His kingdom! He will never disappoint, and He calls all of us to accept that greatest gift of all — eternal life through His Son's death on the cross and that free gift of grace! — Vickie (vickie@purejoyinternational.org) is a Biblical Counselor, Founder and President of Pure Joy International (purejoyinternational.org).