

# The Missouri Baptist

"Holding Forth The Word of Life"

Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXXI

St. Louis, MO • December 9, 2008

Issue No. 11

## BMAA MISSIONS SYMPOSIUMS

### SEARCH AND RESCUE

January 6-7, 2009 - Calvary Baptist Church, Horn Lake, Mississippi

January 13-14 - Fellowship Baptist Church, Forney, Texas

#### Tuesday Evening:

7:00 Search and Rescue  
Praise and Worship  
Message by Dr. John David Smith

#### Wednesday Morning:

8:30 Music  
8:35 John Lindsey - Ghana  
9:15 Andrey and Laura Kanaykina - Ukraine  
10:00 Break  
10:25 Music  
10:35 China (video)  
11:00 Pavel Peychev (President of Uzbekistan Baptist Union)

#### Wednesday Afternoon:

1:30 Music  
1:35 Estuardo Marroquin - BMA Missionary in Mississippi  
Jorge Vasquez - BMA Missionary in Arkansas  
2:15 Merritt Youngdeer - New Mexico (video)  
2:30 Jacob Norman - Colorado  
3:00 Break (In Mississippi - Missionary Committee and WMA will meet at this time)  
3:25 Praise and Worship  
3:35 Bolivia (video)  
4:00 Rescue Team Members from BMMI/VSM/CHAPLAINCY  
4:45 Dinner Break

#### Wednesday Evening:

7:00 Praise and Worship (led by Lindel Black)  
Message by Brandon Cox at Forney, Texas Symposium  
Message by Jerry Jolly at Horn Lake, Mississippi Symposium

## The Shepherds and the Savior

Luke chapter 2 gives us the beautiful story of the birth of our Savior and it is an enjoyable passage to read and mediate upon as we contemplate all that was involved in Jesus' coming into the world.

It is interesting to note that God chose to announce the birth of

Jesus to some shepherds who were watching over their flocks on the night of the Saviour's birth (Luke 2:7-15). As the angel appeared to the shepherds and made the announcement they were afraid at first and then they were curious, and then when they saw the Christ-child they were full of joy.



Why did God choose to make the announcement to shepherds? Why did He not choose royalty, or close friends of Mary and Joseph, or someone else.

Could it be because Christ, the Good Shepherd (John 10:14), the Great Shepherd (Hebrews 13:20), and the Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4) had come at last to redeem His people and to show them the love that only a shepherd has for His Sheep?

The relationship between the shepherd and his sheep is a unique relationship and properly pictures our Lord's relationship to His people.

Sheep need a leader - Christ leads us.

Sheep need protection - Christ watches over us.

Sheep need assistance - Christ strengthens and helps us.

Sheep need special care - Christ knows our peculiar needs.

Sheep are completely dependent upon the shepherd - Christ knows we are helpless by ourselves.

As we celebrate the Birth of Jesus this year, may we take time to think about the Shepherds and Jesus and how much we need Him as our Shepherd throughout life and into eternity.

The shepherds to whom the announcement of Christ's birth was made were not great people of renown, but they were humble men who were doing what God wanted them to do. They came and saw The Shepherd and went on their way rejoicing.

May we rejoice in Christ and all He is to us and go on our way rejoicing and telling others about the Great Shepherd who gave His life for all men.

May you and your family have a blessed Christmas and an uplifting New Year for the glory and honor of God.

Your editor and His wife extend to each of you our greetings and prayers for God to be real to you this Christmas. Thank you for your love and support of this ministry.

May God use each of us to reach others with the Good News about THE SHEPHERD who loves each of us and gave His life for us that we might have everlasting life. No matter what happens in the days ahead, Our Living Shepherd is leading us and watching over us each day. Trust Him today.

## Two Missions Symposiums This Year

As you can see in the Missions Symposium Program above, there will be two BMAA of America Missions Symposiums this year in two different locations.

The Missions Symposium is always a highlight of the year as members of the BMAA gather to hear some of our great missionaries, meet the men and women who have re-

cently joined our Missions' team, and fellowship with one another. Of course our Directors will be present and you will have the opportunity to get better acquainted with them and the work of missions.

Please note the accommodations list for both locations on page 8 of this publication.

Also note that the National Missionary Committee and the

National WMA will have meetings at 3:00 p.m. in Mississippi.

Make plans now to attend and get informed and excited about what God is doing through BMAA Missions.

Also, do not forget to order your Fifty Days of Praying and Giving materials from the Missions Office and support this great work in January and February. Call 501-455-4977.

+++ NEWS BRIEFS +++

**Bethlehem, Doniphan,** has been having some very good services. The Lord is truly in our midst. November 2, the church voted to honor Bro. Clint Colburn with the title of Pastor Emeritus. November 26, Thanksgiving Eve, Bro. Jimmie Decker brought us a soul searching message based on the Great Commission. December 14 will be our Christmas meal.

Russell Chitwood, Pastor  
Janice Colburn, Reporter

**Friendship, Harviell,** has four teenage boys who are taking turns doing the devotionals on Wednesday Nights and are doing a real good job! For Pastors Appreciation, the youth gave a puppet skit and sang a song to the pastor that they had made up for him (Bro. Ernie Cate) and Sis. Becky put music to it. We think the Youth need to sing it at the 3rd Sunday Singing. We had our Thanksgiving dinner the 2nd of November and it was enjoyed by all. The Youth are working very hard getting ready for their Christmas Program - "The REAL story of the Night Before Christmas." We lost a dear church family member this past week, Bro. Claude Buffington Jr. Join us in prayer for this family in their time of loss.

Ernie Cate, Pastor  
Thelma Dunlap, Reporter

**Mt. Zion, Ellington,** is enjoying God's blessings. A fish fry with all the trimmings turned out really well. Bro. Albert is a good cook and our men do like to fish. We also had Pastor's Appreciation at this time with cake and love offerings. We do appreciate and love our pastor and his family. We followed up with our night service at 2:00 p.m. Getting together with friends and members was enjoyable fellowship. Bro. Emory is bringing messages from Revelation and each one is most enjoyable. We have two visitors that are coming regularly. They like to hear Bro. Emory. November 16 we were glad to have Bro. Melvin Meade in the evening service. He sang a

special. He sure has a beautiful voice. Sis. Diana, who regularly sings specials, also has a beautiful voice. We surprised Sis. Connie on her birthday with cake, ice cream, coffee and love offerings. She is special to us. Our Thanksgiving dinner will be on the 30<sup>th</sup> followed with Bro. Emory bringing a message at 2:00 p.m. Until next time - God's gift of Himself to us is a present we will always be unwrapping.

Emory Shelton, Pastor  
Mary Marcher, Reporter

**Emmanuel, Sikeston,** reports that Pastor Mike Quillman is receiving chemo treatments every other week and is doing well. He surprised the congregation by attending the preaching service Sunday morning November 23. He and some of his family came walking in just as Bro. Billy was giving the welcome. It was a great service. There was a good attendance including five neighborhood firemen and policemen. Bro. Billy has been preaching a series of sermons on the Holy Spirit. Bro. and Sis. Quillman have been celebrating the birth of their eleventh grandchild, Payton, the son of their daughter Jessica. They also celebrated their thirty-eighth wedding anniversary Thanksgiving Day. Sis. Donna Davis is working with the children in their Christmas program. She is so willing to help out. We are thankful for her and Bro. Billy. Bro. Glynn and Sis. Margaret still need our prayers during her illness. We would not want to forget that the church enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving meal November 16th. We send "Seasons Greetings" to everyone and we are looking forward to a "Blessed New Year!"

Mike Quillman, Pastor  
Vi Maclin, Reporter

**Bethany, St. Louis,** is thankful and rejoicing in the Lord this holiday season! We are always so busy this time of the year with preparations for the season and all of the excitement and joy it brings! Bro. Hoff-

mann underwent another surgery a few weeks ago, and is doing much better! Please continue to pray that he will grow stronger and that there will be no complications during his recovery. We started our Thanksgiving celebration early with an evening service on Tuesday, which was very enjoyable. Sometimes it's a blessing to simply be reminded of our great blessings in life! We had our annual Christmas Dinner December 7, when we invited our families and friends to join us in celebrating the true meaning of this season, as well as enjoy some wonderful food and fellowship! We want to thank Sis. Mary Hoffmann for all of her preparation and hard work she has put into this. December 14th will be our Children's program, an event we sincerely look forward to! Thanks to Sis. Kathy Chapman and Sis. Debbie Johnston for helping our young people with this. In the morning service December 21st, Bro. Darrell Eye will be leading a group in presenting a Christmas Cantata portraying the birth of Christ and what that very first Christmas was like. We hope you will join us in praying for our men and women in the military service this season as they are away from their families and loved ones at this very special time of the year. We hope each of you have a wonderful Christmas and we pray that we all remember the reason for this season! Happy New Year, too!!

James Hoffmann, Pastor  
Megan Eye, Reporter

**Ozark Heights, Potosi,** sends greetings to all. November has been a very busy month. We had our Old Fashion Day and Harvest Dinner on the 2nd with a great crowd and good food served by our ladies. We had a great Fall Revival the 10th through 14th with Bro. Rodney Castleberry as our evangelist. He sure filled our church with the Holy Spirit and his talented and lovely wife Vickie presented a lovely special in song each night. Bro. Frank Stephens served a men's breakfast the

11th, which was enjoyed by many of our men and some from other churches. We also welcomed three additions to our church in November. The 9th we had Sis. Jessica Wright and her son Gavin join; with Bro. Sam Compton joining on the 16th. November 23rd Bro. Ron Eye came forward to acknowledge God had called him to the ministry. Bro. Brian presented him with a study Bible from the Church and words of encouragement as the Lord leads in his life. Bro. Brian and Sis. Dawn enjoyed a week's vacation and were missed by all; but Bro. Bob Dement presented the Wednesday evening study and Bro. Gary Gilliam filled the pulpit Sunday morning and evening. They did well. November 30th we held services at Georgian Gardens Care Facility and had a wonderful service with many in attendance. It was a very spiritual service and enjoyed by everyone. Bro. Ron provided a devotional which was surrounded by songs and special music. We were very proud of four year old Taden Eye who also helped lead in the service with several songs that took everyone back to days past when they were kids singing praise songs. Our youth team with Sis. Connie Evans, Sis. Geri Lawson and Bro. Ron Eye are busy with the Christmas program planning and practices. This will be presented December 21st. They are doing a great job. Our music team is working

with the choir to provide a Candlelight Christmas Cantata in the December 21st evening service. Until next month: Merry Christmas and God Bless!

Brian Meade, Pastor  
Georgie Brokaw, Reporter

**Landmark, DeSoto,** started off the month of November by having Bro. Tim Maxwell preach for us the evening of the 2nd. We were happy to have him and his family with us and the fellowship was good. Haven't we been blessed with the price of gasoline declining? We should thank God in all things, and I certainly thank Him for that. Seems we are filling up about every other day. We were privileged to cast our votes for a new president this year. Whether the election went the way we hoped or whether it didn't, we must remember to pray for our president and our country. We were happy to attend the celebration of Murell and Rosella Tutterow's 50th wedding anniversary and renewing of their vows. We wish them all the best. We've had some of our members in the hospital, some have had tests, and some have been undergoing one type of treatment or another. And, it is with heavy hearts that we tell you of losing Bro. Eldon Moses on the night of the 19th. We will miss him so much. But, we know that whatever problems he had here on earth are a thing of the past.

• See NEWS Page 4 •

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**DEADLINE for copy is the FIRST TUESDAY**

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**See the MMB online at [bmmissouri.org](http://bmmissouri.org)**

# STATE MISSIONS

## SEND MISSIONS OFFERINGS TO:

**Danny Kirk**  
BMA of Missouri Missions  
920 Lindsay Lane  
Florissant, MO 63031  
(314)921-2378 office • (314)837-8321home  
E-mail: [pastorkirk@mindspring.com](mailto:pastorkirk@mindspring.com)

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

## SEND REVOLVING LOAN FUND OFFERINGS TO:

**Leslie Earl Johnston**, Treasurer  
11710 Administration Dr. Suite 6  
St. Louis, MO 63146-3407

## CONTACT BRO. DUNLAP AT:

P.O. Box 195  
Charleston, MO 63834  
Phone: 573-683-7037  
[alicmission@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alicmission@sbcglobal.net)

## ✝ From Our Workers ✝

### From Our Director...

The other day I was watching a news commentator interview Rick Warren, pastor of the Saddleback Church in California. The commentator asked "Do you have to be a devout Christian to get the true meaning of the holiday?" Rick Warren answered, "Well I think so. I think you have to understand that Jesus Christ came for your greatest benefit." Pastor Warren was right ... to fully appreciate the birth of Jesus you must know that Jesus came to be your Savior.

In the book of Luke we read: *Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people."* (Luke 2:10) The angel delivered good news when he proclaimed the birth of the Savior. It is a message that we love to dwell on during the Christmas season. Yet we must be careful in our responsibility to share the whole counsel of God's Word for the good news of the Savior's birth is only a part of the Bible's message. Jesus would say this about Himself: *"Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword"* (Matthew 10:34) Jesus warns that His coming would also bring division and judgment.

The "good tidings of great joy" is only good news to those who hope to find a solution to their personal sinful nature. The good news that a Savior is born is bad news for the devil and the crowd that will follow him. The birth of a Savior foreshad-

owed the victory of Jesus on the cross. To follow after Satan and be a participant in the works of darkness means certain defeat.

Christmas is also "bad news" for those who cling solely to

from the devil and we become his followers if we cling to it.

The good news only becomes the good news when we realize that without the Savior, we are condemned already in our sins. It is good news when we know that forgiveness is available, real change is possible, and eternal life is given to those who repent! Then, and only then, can we rejoice with the angels and in their glad tidings.

Missionary Jamie Jones and his family will be moving to Smithville, Missouri, this month and will soon begin the work of deputation. Pray for them as they travel among the churches of the BMAA seeking financial support and partners.

I want to thank the churches of the BMA of MO for your generous Christmas gift. Carolyn and I wish you a very Merry Christmas and are praying for a great new year for your church.

Bro. Danny

### From Bro. Dunlap...

Greetings from Abundant Life in Christ Missionary Baptist Mission and our mother church, Bethel in Sikeston.

... and the blessings just keep coming. During November we set a new morning worship record attendance of 36, bettering our record of 32 set in October. These again were all our own people. We have around 50 people who call us their church on some level now. We also set a new monthly average attendance of 25 for morning worship. Our Wednesday night average was 18.

The biggest blessing of the

month was the baptism of Simone. Simone was saved in October, and followed her Lord in baptism the first Sunday in November.

During the month, we contracted half page ads in both the Charleston and East Prairie papers advertising our child protection policy. We had a headline that read "23 Reasons We Have a Child Protection Policy." We then had pictures of our 22 kids and a blank picture frame with the caption "Your Child." We've received very good feedback from these ads ...and hopefully discouraged any predators who thought we might be an easy target to infiltrate.

Within our family, November was a month of restructuring. Doing the math, we realized the phase out of support from the state association would amount to a loss of \$3900 over the next year, and then, of course, \$7200 thereafter when it is completely phased out next October. We also had to be realistic, knowing there was no way our Internet business could absorb that much, even if I worked it full-time plus.

The end result is Deb has gone back into the workforce, working part-time. Her working puts the plug in the boat, so to speak. In the meantime, I will begin in a few weeks liquidating a huge percentage of our business as I look for a long term position that will pay enough we can eventually put Deb back into the home full-time. We don't see her out of the workforce tomorrow, but we're hoping it can happen before it's time for the kids to be home schooled.

I want to stress a couple of things. One is that the messengers of the state association were entirely within their rights to cut our support. The BMA of Missouri was never obligated to begin supporting this mission, nor was it obligated to continue supporting it. The second is that I do not worry about us paying our bills. We don't yet have all the particulars worked out, but we don't worry about the particulars coming together. I just ask that you pray I would have the wisdom to choose the

most optimal employment for us and for this mission.

As I close I ask you to not only thank God for what He has done and is doing here, but pray that His Spirit might continue to work in lives. He is dealing with so many-folks who need to be saved, folks who need to be baptized, folks who need to take steps of obedience - and we know that only supernatural conviction will drive them to a supernatural God to make supernatural changes.

For the souls,  
*Rodney, Deb, Zee, Rachel  
and Eli Dunlap*

## Open Doors In Island Nations

by *Ralph Izard, M.D.*  
Baptist Medical Missions  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dr. Fil Tabayoyong has been in the United States for about three weeks and is scheduled to return to Cambodia November 25, 2008. Bro. Doyle Moore and Dr. Fil have made initial visits to several Pacific Ocean nations. Although the exact number has yet to be precisely determined, the Pacific Ocean contains an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 islands.

The islands are divided into three divisions, Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia.

The BMMI has already scheduled a trip to Manado, Indonesia November 8-18, 2009 and plans are being made to visit New Guinea next year. Also, the BMMI has invitations to visit with the Ministry of Health in other island nations this year.

The Baptist Medical Missions International (BMMI) invites you to be part of supporting the work of the Pacific Ocean Missionaries by being part of a BMMI team, by your financial support of the BMMI or by financially supporting someone in your church who feels the Lord is leading them to work in this area of the world.

If you need more information, please call Doris Dickey at the Mission Office (501-455-4977).

Your prayers, offerings, and participating will help others hear the Gospel message.

### FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS • November 2008

General Fund		
Balance October 31, 2008		\$ 17,092.59
November Receipts:	\$ 3,037.58	<u>3,037.58</u>
Total Available		\$ 20,130.17
November Disbursements:	\$ (3,745.95)	<u>-3,745.95</u>
Balance November 30, 2008:		\$ 16,384.22
Certificate of Deposit:	\$ 63,651.25	
Certificate of Deposit:	\$ 22,142.86	
ING Direct Savings:	\$ <u>40,131.86</u>	
Total:	\$ 125,925.97	

• **NEWS From Page 2** •  
 Praise the Lord! We are just happy to have had him in our lives and a part of Landmark for many years. We want to extend our sympathy to the Widger family in the loss of their father, and Bro. Bowerman and family in the loss of his sister, Fern. It is good to know that these good people are now in the arms of our Savior. We are happy to let you know that Sis. Maxine Robinson joined the membership of Landmark and we are very pleased to have her. She has been a good friend of many of us for many years. We celebrated Thanksgiving at church the last Sunday of the month, with good fellowship and good food. We hope that each of you had a good Thanksgiving, too.  
 Wayne Gibson, Pastor  
 Sharon Page, Reporter

**Bethel, Sikeston,** reports that God gave us many blessings in the month of November as He continued to send many visitors to our services. We have been very blessed in our Thursday night visitation as we have met many wonderful people that need our prayers. There are so many lost folks right around our neighborhood that need Jesus! Please pray for us as we continue our visitation to seek out the lost in our hometown. We had the privilege of listening to Bro. Rodney Dunlap the first Wednesday night of this month, as he preached for us during Bro. Jerry's absence. He brought a wonderful message. We had a special service the 9th to recognize our members that are veterans and to give honor to all the veterans's in this country that gave of themselves to protect our Country's freedom. We are so thankful for all of You Veteran's out there! Bro. Jerry Kidd brought Dr. Phil, a missionary from Cambodia, to our morning service the 23rd. We were so blessed to get to hear his testimony of how he came to be saved and now is a missionary in Cambodia. When listening to someone like this we just realize more and more how much God has blessed America! We have so much to be thankful

for!! Our Youth are working on a program for the Youth In The Harvest that will be at Bethel December 20th. We look forward to seeing you here... Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year to you all! May God richly bless you in the coming year!  
 Jerry Adams, Pastor  
 Joan Wood, Reporter

**First, Matthews,** sends greetings. We hope everyone had a most thankful Thanksgiving as you took time to remember what this holiday is about. A report on the radio recently stated that a group of grade school kids were asked why we gave thanks at Thanksgiving, and the majority of them didn't have a clue. Some said, "To thank the Indians for their help." But one little girl stood up and said, "Isn't it to be thankful to God for seeing the pilgrims through that hard year in the new land?" We hope all our kids in the BMA would have that answer too. And now here we are preparing for the greatest Holiday ever, the birth of our dear Savior. We pray that all remember this and teach this to our young people. November has been another busy month for us here in Matthews. We still do not have a Pastor but trust God and know that the right person is being prepared for us. While we wait we are truly blessed to have two fine men who are doing a great job of filling in. God is good and he shows himself in the molding of these men, Bro. Chris Polk and Bro. Lucas Polk. As far as what's happening here in Matthews. AWANA is going strong and staying steady in our attendance. GMA's are ever busy. We were honored to be asked by the Washington County District WMA to come to talk about the Girl's Missionary Auxiliary and to perform a couple of our sticks presentations. We all enjoyed the time and fellowship and thank the ladies for inviting us. The youth group of Matthews invited Dr. Fil Tabayoyong from Cambodia to come and speak to us. He accepted the invitation and came on Saturday the 22nd. What a wonderful testimony

he has. God is doing wonderful works in the Asian countries. Please keep him and the other men and women who are in countries that are not always safe for a Christian to be in, in your prayers. We enjoyed preparing the banquet and visiting with him and Bro. Jerry Kidd who came alone for the ride. We were happy to have Bro. Ron Crowder and his wife Beth with us on the 23rd. His sermon was well received, and we wish them good things in whatever they do. The church helped the GMA's fill two Christmas boxes for our family service men: Derek Brown stationed in Afghanistan and Michael Sander in Iraq. Please remember these young men in your prayers. Bro. Gary Brown lost his Mother this month, please remember him and his family as they deal with this loss. We are happy to say That Wayne Parker and Al Hill are both back in church after time spent in the hospital. We are glad to have them both back and praise God for their recovery. It is also good to see Sis. Vernell Adams back in church after her recent illness. We also had visitors this past Sunday, Bro and Sis Atwell's son Ron was here with his family. And Bro. and Sis. Eugene Adam's Son Brian and his new family were here. It was good to see them all. Once again please have us in your prayers as we wait on the Lord

By the GMA's of Matthews

**Stony Point, Mineral Point,** has great news! In the past few months we have seen four souls saved, one baptism and a new member by letter. The Lord is blessing us in so many ways. The Lord's church has been very busy. We hosted Heaven's Echoes in a Sunday evening service. We also had a full weekend of worship with our first annual Stony Point Community Fun Day. Well over 100 attended and enjoyed food, games, and fellowship. Several folks from the area expressed an interest in learning more about the Lord and about His church. The next day was our homecoming and it was a great day of worship and singing.

## Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee, Director • P.O. Box 2322 • Conway, Arkansas 72032  
 •Phone 501-450-9177 • WebSite: travisplumlee.com

### An Article For Kids To Read

Does your brother or sister drive you crazy? Do your parents make you mad sometimes? I know it is rough. You have this time off from school and your parents are actually still asking that you do some chores around the house. If that is not bad enough, they are actually insisting that you go visit relatives over the holidays that you really don't want to. Stop griping. So, your parents are making you read this stupid article out of this church newspaper. Things could be worse. Keep reading this article, because I am going to tell you exactly what to do to get your brother or sister to change their attitude towards you.

I just want to address your attitude over the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Your attitude will change for the better, and your life will go smoother when you stop fighting your family, and realize that deep down they are a blessing to you. God has blessed you with a family. No, they are not perfect. Neither are you. So, let's make the best of what we have been given by God to enjoy.

You may be saying, "Yow, but he doesn't know the family I live in." No, I don't. But I do know God. None of us have a perfect family. None of us get everything we want in life. But our life is not about us. It is about God. You will grow up and be a mature person when you realize that life does not revolve around you. Our lives should revolve around Jesus, and sharing the love that was given to us on Christmas when Jesus was born in a manger. See, God is love. And God so loved all of us in this world that He sent His only son into the world so that we would be able to live in heaven forever. Jesus died for us on the cross because He was perfect and none of us are. That is what we celebrate at Easter. The greatest gift you will ever receive is the gift of love from God given to us at Christmas in the birth of His son in Bethlehem. Now, the rest of your life you are suppose to share the love God gives us, with those people that God has given you to love. Your family.

**Problem # 1.** My parents are making me go to my grandparents house and I don't want to go. You may be saying, "These people don't understand me. They don't know how to play video games. They kind of look funny and smell funny. But the worst thing of all is that there isn't anything to do. It is boring!" I know you want to be in your own bedroom and have all your toys or games to play. But isn't that selfish? Can't you think about others sometimes? I know you can. I know deep down you really do love these people. Think about others rather than your self. You are going to have such a wonderful family in the future of your own; if you think about others rather than always thinking about yourself. You can find something to do. Go outside. Walk. Just listen to them talk. You might learn something.

**Problem # 2.** You might have to go to an aunt or uncle's house. You might have to go to a home where there are lots of people. Did you know that family should always come first? Do you realize that these are the people that love you the most and will

Stony Point recently hosted the Youth in Harvest and had a great turn out. It is always a blessing to see our young people worship in earnest. We are thankful for all that is happening here to bring honor and glory to Jesus. We know that without Him, we can do nothing.

Claude Evans, Pastor  
 David Hughes, Reporter

help you more than any of your friends ever will. Friends are great. But your family will be there for you if you are sick or something bad happens. If you get sick someday and wind up in the hospital, it will be your family that is there for you. Your family will give you money and food if you run into a bad time when you get out on your own someday. These people

• See **KIDS Page 5** •

## Moral Action Committee

P.O. Box 305 • Mantachie, MS 38855-0305  
Dr. John M. Adams, Interim Executive Director

### December, 2008 Article

I desire to provide you with as much Christian material and information as possible. The following are Moral Magazine Recommendations:

1. **American Family Association "Journal"**  
P.O. box 2440  
Tupelo, MS 38803  
1-662-844-5036  
Www.afajournal.org
2. **Focus On the Family "Citizen"**  
P.O. box 35500  
Colorado Springs, CO 80935  
1-800-A-FAMILY (232-6459)  
Www.citizenmagazine.com
3. **"Focus On The Family" with Dr. Dobson**  
8605 Explorer Drive  
Colorado Springs, CO 80920  
1-800-232-6459  
Www.focusonthefamily.com
4. **"Decision" Magazine**  
1 Billy Graham Parkway  
Charlotte, NC 28201  
1-877-247-2426  
Www.decisionmag.org

### Morality Web Site Links and Action Steps:

1. Wwww.ONENEWSNOW.COM
2. Wwww.afa.net (AFA Online)
3. Wwww.operationoutcry.org
4. Wwww.macbma.net (BMA online)
5. Wwww.citizenlink.com
6. Wwww.Alliancedefensefund.org
7. Wwww.TexasMoralAction.org
8. Wwww.heritageAlliance.com
9. Wwww.lifeway.com/twl (True Love Waits)
10. Wwww.cacbma.net (Christian Action Commission - MS)

### Morality Book Recommendations:

1. **"The Secret Seductress"/Breaking the Destructive Cycle of Pornography-** Dr. Mark Laaser  
Serendipity House, 2007  
Wwww.SerendipityHouse.com  
1-800-525-9563 cost approximately 7.99
2. **"The Culture Shift"** Dr. Albert Mohler, Jr.  
Multnomah Publishing  
Wwww.mpbooks.com Cost approximately 14.99
3. **"The Truth War" Fighting For Certainty In an Age of Deception** - Dr. John MacArthur  
Thomas Nelson Publishing cost approximately 22.99  
Wwww.thomasnelson.com
4. **"The ACLU versus America" Exposing the Agenda to Redefine Moral Values** - Alan Sears and Craig Osten  
Broadman Press cost approximately 14.99  
Wwww.broadmanholman.com
5. **"Rediscovering God in America" The Role of Faith in Our Nation's History** - Newt Gingrich  
Integrity House cost approximately 14.99  
Wwww.integritypublishers.com

These books would be great personal reading or gifts to your pastor, youth workers or Bible teachers.

### Morality Series.

January through April, 2009, I hope to write articles from a series that I prepared in sermon and writings entitled "Judeo-Christian Heritage" series. This is a thirteen-part series. They

are:

January, 2009 - **Abortion, The Great Issue**

February, 2009 - **Euthanasia, The Right to Die**

March, 2009 - **Pornography, A Moral Plague**

April, 2009 - **Homosexuality, The Real Problem**

### Highlighted Trustee of the Month:

Aaron Whitman is one of the Associate Pastors at Cornerstone Baptist Church, Swartz Creek, MI. He is married to Vicki and they have two children. He enjoys playing and watching softball, baseball, fishing, and reading. We are so glad to have Bro. Aaron on our trustee board. God bless, Bro. Aaron.

### Highlighted Churches that Support the MAC

Grace Temple, Arlington, TX  
New Heights, Oklahoma City, OK

Midway, First, Sumrall, MS  
Bethel, Forrest City, AR

### Merry Christmas!

Ms Adams and I wish each reader a very "Merry Christmas." Join us in repeating these wonderful words this season as we "keep Christ in Christmas"

### Our web site

[www.macbma.net](http://www.macbma.net)

Add this site to your "favorites" or as an icon on your computer screen. Watch for the action alerts.

## Gary Smith Ministries

Gary Smith is a full time evangelist (BMA) from Fulton, Mississippi. 2008 was a great year for his ministry as he conducted 35 revival meetings throughout Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, and Texas. He is grateful for God's blessings.

If you need more information or would like to schedule Bro. Smith for a revival meeting please contact him. His phone number is 662-322-6974; email: [garysmithministries@yahoo.com](mailto:garysmithministries@yahoo.com); home address: 9225 HWY 25 South, Fulton, MS 38843.

He is a member of Greenwood Baptist Church in Fulton and his pastor is Gary O'Neil. You may call him at 662-862-9074.

### • KIDS From Page 4 •

are the ones who love you the most and will miss you the most when you aren't around. And someday when you grow older, you will learn how much you really love your grandparents. You will miss them terribly someday when they go home to heaven. You will have all these memories of the food, the laughter, the little crazy things that happened at their house. Right now you think it is lame. But someday you will cling to these memories. Your grandparents love you so much. Love them back, and cherish your time with them. Life is short. They won't always be around.

**Problem # 3.** Now about those brothers and sisters. Yes, they were put on earth to drive you crazy. But they also are your family. When you are an adult, it is your brothers and sisters who will come to the hospital to see you. They will pray for you when one of your kids is sick. Your brother or sister will come over late at night to cry with you when you have some big problem some day. Try to not fight so much. If you would be kind to them, they might change. But even if they don't- you change! Being nice to someone always gets people to treat you differently. Work on understanding that your brother or sister is the person God put you close to. God in His wisdom, blessed you with this person. When my kids were little, they used to fuss and argue. But I always reminded them to love each other. Now, that they are young adults, they can't wait to see each other. They want to spend every holiday together. See - that is what family is about. It is about love. Other people will come and go in your life. But your family is your family forever. Ask Jesus to give you the love He has, so that you can share it with your family. If you learn that these are the most important people you will ever have in your life, you won't fight with them so much. And if your parents tell you that you are going as a family somewhere for the holidays- deal with it. You may not get to lay around and goof off playing games all the time. That's okay. Just say to yourself, "thank you God that I have a family." Help me oh Lord see all that I have been given by you." Either way, you are going to have to deal with this. You might as well have a good attitude about it, and it will go better for you. And look at the bright side. If you don't like spending holidays with family- then get excited. School will soon be back in session!

## New Web Site For Daniel Springs Camp

Daniel Springs Baptist Camp now has a new web site that has been developed over the past few months in cooperation with Bobby Hudgens and Larry Thompson. Bobby is the research and development officer for DiscipleGuide and Larry is a consultant for the Department who has been redesigning the entire web site for DiscipleGuide Church Resources.

Our new web site still has a couple of registration pages that are presently being worked on but should be finished by or shortly after the first of the year. We hope this will make camp registration easier and faster for the sponsors. We also plan to have the ability to pay on-line for your camp and registration fees. This is something new for us and so we may have to work out some of the bugs that usually happen in new ventures.

We also hope to have the sponsor background check process refined so that it will not require as much work by the office staff to enter all the data necessary for the process to start.

There is also a photo gallery that features photos in a slide show format that many of the campers may enjoy looking at after the summer camp season has come to a close to help them relive those memories of a fantastic week at camp.

This web site address is [www.discipleguide.org](http://www.discipleguide.org). Just click on the "camp" tab. If you have suggestions for the web site that you think may be useful, just email that suggestion and we will take it into consideration as we complete the remodeling process.

## WMA & GMA NEWS

Send all WMA Offerings to:  
STATE WMA TREASURER:

Cathy J. Fox  
2142 Sunset Dr.  
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901

Articles for this column  
should be sent to EDITOR

Shelia Polk  
P.O. Box 259  
Matthews, MO 63867  
Phone 573-471-8885  
Email: sheliapolk@yahoo.com

Send all GMA Offerings to:  
STATE GMA TREASURER

Norma Womble  
4498 Cindy Lane  
Barnhart, MO 63012

### Washington County District WMA

The Washington County WMA met September 5th at Temple Missionary Baptist Church, Belgrade. It was decided that instead of having a yearly project, we would have quarterly projects.

The annual election of officers was held and the following were elected.

**President** - Connie Reifsteck  
**1st Vice President** - Norma Womble  
**2nd Vice President** - Janet Widger  
**Secretary/Treasurer** - Tracy Goede  
**Assistant Secretary/Treasurer** - Bea Evans  
**Youth Director** - Carolyn Meade  
**Assistant Youth Director** - Charlotte Magee  
**Historian** - LaDonna Baker  
**Reporter** - Sharon Page  
**Advisory Council** - Norma Womble, Mildred Cooper, Ruth Gibson

November 14th, the quarterly meeting was held at Zion Missionary Baptist Church, St. Louis, County. There were 4 churches represented. The GMA from 1st Baptist Church, Matthews, presented the program. They presented a skit, which was great. We appreciated very much the fact that they were willing to come such a great distance. There were about 7 girls and 2 GMA counsellors.

The project chosen for the next quarter is to go toward sending a district girl to the National GMA Retreat.

The theme for the National WMA Retreat to be held the last part of February 2009 is "A Merry Heart." The retreat is to be held in Branson.

The next meeting is to be held March 13, 2009, with the place to be announced later.

We had good food and fellowship following the meeting.

*Sharon Page, Reporter*

### Note of Thanks

There are not enough words to express our appreciation for all the cards, letters, calls and flowers given to us when Dad passed away. (See Obituary on Page 8.) The words of condolence and prayers offered on our behalf by many relatives and friends comforted us. The staff at Brookview Nursing Home in Maryland Heights, Missouri, were supportive in Dad's last days and cared for him as well as his family could.

Pastors Dennis Baker and Ray L. Schatz shared thoughts from their conversations with Dad and his desire that all should know how and when they could see him after death. Pallbearers Jim George, Fred Kuntz, Earl Widger, Carlos Burns, Gerald Harper and Ron Harper provided the traditional service that meant so much to Dad. Dad would also have entirely approved of the crisp precision of the full military honors at the grave site.

Our special "other Mother" Edith Callahan fed our bodies and held us to her heart in the days preceding the funeral. Thanks to cousins Sue and Gerald Harper for offering the hospitality of River of Life Church in Ellington, MO to provide a meal for the family on the day of visitation. Relatives, friends and neighbors

## 2009 NATIONAL WMA LADIES' RETREAT

**Keynote speaker - Mrs. Fran Hoover**

**Theme - "A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance..." Proverbs 15:13**

**Dates - February 27 and 28, 2009**  
**Registration 2:00 p.m. on February 27th**

**Place - Radisson Hotel Branson, Branson, MO**  
**Room Rate - \$79.00 plus taxes per night**  
**Hotel Reservations - 1-888-566-5290 or 1-417-335-5767 ext. 476**

**Retreat Registration \$75.00 payable to "National W.M.A."**  
**Mail to: Connie Reifsteck**  
**P.O. Box 190493, St. Louis, MO 63119**

**Share Time - Martha Langley**

**Silent Auction**  
**Everyone is encouraged to bring an item**

**Mrs. Fran Hoover - is a member of Lonesome Dove Missionary Baptist Church at Southlake, Texas. She is a wife, mother, real estate agent and cancer survivor. She is a gifted Bible teacher, and has a moving testimony about the goodness of God in her life, and will show us through God's Word that He is good and loving to each of us.**

**Bring Someone with you**

----- cut -----

**Make your check for \$75.00 payable to National W.M.A. and mail to:**  
**Mrs. Connie Reifsteck, P.O. Box 190493, St. Louis, MO 63119**

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# Registered \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Photocopy as needed for additional registrations) Registration deadline: February 13, 2009

as well as the ladies of Zion Baptist Church, St. Louis, MO, Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Salem, MO and Ohlman Baptist Church, Bunker, MO graciously fed the extended family after the funeral. Special thanks to Sheila, Cheryl, Lorraine and Juanita for going the extra mile to provide for us.

As always, Jeff and Dana McSpadden were gracious, caring and considerate of all our requests to honor Dad as he would have wanted.

We are most thankful for Dad's testimony of his salvation, and the assurance we will someday join him with our Heavenly Father.

The Family of Virgel Widger

### Walk for the World Contest

#### Contenders Listen Up!

by Diane Ward, National Walk for the World Coordinator

We encourage our churches to be aware that if you are a 2008 Walk for the World Contest winner it will be your responsibility to be prepared for the upcoming LifeWord overseas trip for two. One of those trips will be taken very soon after the first of the New Year.

The first LifeWord production team trip will be to Guatemala on February 21 - March 2, 2009. The second trip will be taken to Romania on September 14-22, 2009.

The church that raises the most money will have first choice of the two trips being offered. The church raising the most money per capita will automatically receive the second offered trip.

If your church has not turned in your Walk offerings yet please be reminded that the money must be in our LifeWord office by December 31, 2008, in order to qualify for the contest. That date is drawing near so make sure you get all the walker's money collected and sent in so we will receive it by the above mentioned date. We are most anxious to announce this year's winners!

## Report of Quarterly Meeting

by Danny Kirk

The December Quarterly Meeting of the Meramec Association was held at Bethel Baptist in Lonedell, Missouri, Saturday, December 6, 2008.

The following churches were represented: Springdale, Landmark, Bethel, Ozark Heights, Friendship, Charity, Lindsay Lane, and First Bourbon.

Bro. Ben Kingston introduced Bro. Randy Rayfield, a member of Bethel Baptist that has worked in the computer industry for a number of years. Bro. Randy is a co-designer of a computer software program that provides internet protection for families who are concerned with what their kids might see during internet searches. The program is called MoralTek and is different from many other protective programs in that it allows parents to create a "White List"...an approved list of sites that their children may visit. The software allows parents to monitor all sites visited and permits parents to set different profiles or lists for different children in the family. Bro. Randy has a desire to help families and churches address potential problems of the internet and is willing to come to your church and talk about this issue. You can go to [www.moraltek.com](http://www.moraltek.com) for more information or you may call Bro. Randy at 314-265-1830.

In the way of business, the missionary committeemen approved the adoption of the new bylaws for the association.

A positive report was received from both the missions department and the encampment committee.

Bro. Denver Page presented the final report from the Publications Department and a motion was approved to give all of the office equipment (computers, printers, etc.) to Bro. David Griggs in appreciation for his many years of service.

With a great deal of emotion and sadness, a motion was also approved to remove the Berean Baptist Church from our district fellowship due to their doctrinal stance on baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Friendship Baptist extended an invitation for the next quarterly meeting in March, 2009. The date of the meeting will be announced later.

Bethel Baptist Church was once again a wonderful host serving a delicious meal of chili, ham sandwiches, and baked potatoes.

It was a wonderful sight to see Bro. Ben Kingston doing a little walking, unaided, in the kitchen area. We praise God for Bro. Ben's recovery!

## The Myth of Separation of Church and State

by Joseph Harria, via [www.miniediton.net](http://www.miniediton.net)

Judge Roy Moore from Alabama became the most hated and most loved man of the hour a few years back. He is a man of integrity who has stood for a cause with a liberty granted him by this country's guiding document, the Constitution. Some say the issue is about the state endorsing, even promoting religion, while others say the real issue is about the interference of the federal government in a state government affair. In a sense, the issue is a combination of both, but is an issue that never in a million years should have been raised. First look at the first amendment to the Constitution and then consider some hard facts about this amendment. The wonderful thing about being an American is you do not have to be an attorney, judge or member of any elite group to learn how to read and interpret the constitution. Just read it, never saying what it doesn't say, with common sense as your guide, allowing it to speak as it's own independent authority. Any other approach will result in "messing" with the grand old document, pulling out "new and exciting truths" making it a living

# Meramec Banner

News of concern to the churches of one of the oldest local associations in the BMA of Missouri

## December Missions Report

Missions Director, Danny Kirk

Our attorney has completed the work on our constitution and bylaws. We will meet at our next quarterly meeting at Bethel Baptist on December 6 to discuss and hopefully approve of the new documents. The new bylaws provide simplification to what we do as an association and also bring us up-to-date with the not-for-profit statutes of the State of Missouri.

It is with sadness that I report that the Wildwood Baptist Church in Barnhart has disbanded. Some of the members have transferred their membership to Springdale Baptist in Fenton and they have given Springdale authority over the Wildwood property. Bro. Ben Kingston and I met with Bro. Bowerman to discuss the future of this property and how it might benefit our church planting efforts in the future. Let's

document, that would amaze the original writers. This season of the year is usually when God hating liberals repeat their mantra of "separation of church and state" as they bellyache about nativity scenes, angels and other Christian related objects, so now is a good time to be reminded of the truth of the freedom granted us in the first amendment, concerning the exercise of religion

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

**FACT # 1-** The phrase "wall of separation of church and state" appears nowhere in the constitution, and especially not in the first amendment.

**FACT # 2-** The amendment guarantees the free exercise of religion and freedom of speech.

• See **MYTH** Page 8 •

pray for the wisdom and leading of the Lord concerning the use of the property.

Bro. Jamie Jones and family will be moving to Smithville, Missouri this month. The Jones family has completed training in Northern Illinois, Texas, and in Colorado. As you can imagine, they have not spent much time in their own beds. I am afraid that this trend will continue for the next three months as they travel among the churches of the BMAA seeking prayerful and financial support during deputation.

In other news about the church plant, Lindsay Lane Baptist of Florissant will serve as the sponsoring church for the new church plant. Larry Barker, Operational Director of North American Missions has asked me to serve as a Coach/Mentor to the Jones family.

I want to remind our churches that whatever you had once budgeted for the Meramec Banner needs to be sent to the Missouri Missionary Baptist Paper to cover the cost of printing and mailing our Meramec Banner Page. This financial support is critical to keeping the Missouri Missionary Baptist solvent. Please have your church reporters send any news of revivals or church events to the paper to keep the churches in our district association informed.

Carolyn and I want to wish the Meramec Association a wonderful Merry Christmas and we are praying that God will use your church in a mighty way in the coming year.



### Meramec Landmark Baptist Association Financial Report • November 2008

Balance October 31, 2008		\$ 11,807.10
Receipts:		
Berean	\$ 158.77	
Bethel	400.00	
Cave Springs		
Central	50.00	
Charity	25.00	
Elmwood	286.00	
Emmanuel		
Fellowship	30.00	
First, Bourbon		
First, Potosi	624.87	
Friendship	250.00	
Grace Covenant		
Lakewood	250.00	
Landmark	91.78	
Lindsay Lane	100.00	
Lower Doe Run		
Moselle		
New Testament		
Oak Hill	44.53	
Ozark Heights	177.00	
Springdale	344.00	
Straightway	50.00	
Westview	50.00	
White Oak Grove	344.38	
Wildwood		
Total Receipts:	\$ 3,276.33	\$ 3,276.33
Total Available		\$ 15,083.43
Danny Kirk	1,050.00	
Director's Expenses	666.45	
Brotherhood Mutual	532.83	
BMA of MO (Partnership)	500.00	
Post Office	48.72	
Total Disbursements:	\$ 2,798.00	\$ 2,798.00
Balance November 30, 2008:		\$ 12,285.43

## Home at Last

Virgel Paul Widger

06/10/1922 - 11/21/2008

Funeral services for *Virgel Paul Widger* were held at McSpadden Funeral Home, Ellington, November 25, 2008, with Bro. Ray L. Schatz and Bro. Dennis Baker officiating. Music was pre-taped selections by the Widger family. Burial was in Polk Memorial Cemetery with full military honors.

Bro. Virgel, son of the late James and Myrtle (Ferguson) Widger, was born in the Dagonia Community of Reynolds County, MO June 10, 1922 and departed this life November 21, 2008 in Maryland Heights at the age of 86 years, 5 months and 11 days.

At the age of 17, Virgel served in the Civilian Conservation Corp in Ellington for a few days, then transferred to the Bunker

Camp for 18 months before being sent to the states of Oregon and Washington to serve in fire zones. With two brothers already serving in the military, he was sent home to Ellington to help care for his family. This only lasted a short time as he was drafted to serve in the U. S. Army in March 1943. His basic training was at Camp Campbell, Kentucky.

In 1944 he was deployed to Chester, England, and sent with replacements for the Normandy Invasion troops, landing on Normandy Beach three days after the official invasion, serving from the Hedgerows of Normandy to the Bremen Enclave of Germany.

Even though his parents took him to church while growing up, he never made a profession of faith. One day, engaged in battle, Virgel came to the stark realization that death could occur at any time and that he would die and go to Hell unless he accepted Christ as his Savior. He prayed for his sins to be forgiven and that the Lord would save him. This testimony remained very firm to his death.

Virgel served in battle campaigns in Rhineland, Normandy, Central Europe and The Ardennes. He was awarded 4 bronze stars, received the Good Conduct Medal and the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Clusters. He also received a medal for service within the European Theater, The Army of Occupation Medal, Presidential Unit Citation with Oak Leaf Clusters and the World War II Victory Medal. He is entitled to the American Campaign Medal and the Bronze Star Medal.

He returned to the United States on a Liberty Ship going past the Statue of Liberty, then on to the family farm in November of 1945 with an honorable discharge from the Army.

November 19, 1949, He married Lucy Ester Harper in Pocahontas, AR. To this union 6 children were born. She preceded him in death January 6, 2002, after 52 years of marriage.

Virgel was preceded in death by his parents; parents-in-law Noah and Ludica Harper; brothers: Willis, Carl, Jack and infant

## 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 in three consecutive issues unless the editor is otherwise instructed.

**Denver Page**, a member of Landmark Baptist Church in DeSoto, is available for pulpit supply or service as the Lord leads. Phone 636-942-3503 or cell phone 314-283-7243. -9-

**Harry O. Holt**, a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Poplar Bluff, is available to be used as the Lord leads. Contact him at P.O. Box 72, Harviell, MO 63945; by telephone at 573-0989-6546; or by email at [harry77@semo.net](mailto:harry77@semo.net). -9-

**Rocky Houston**, a member of Kewanee Baptist Church is available for pulpit use. You may contact him at home - 573-748-5879, Cell - 314-971-9268, or through his pastor, Tom McCannless at 573-748-5220. -9-

## Area Accommodations for National Missions Symposiums

### Horn Lake, Mississippi

Comfort Inn and Suites (662-349-0100)

Holiday Inn (662-349-0444) Mention that you are with the

BMA of America for special rate of \$79.00.)

Drury Inn (662-349-6622)

Hilton Garden Inn (662-349-0277)

Fairfield Inn and Suites (662-349-6640)

Hampton Inn (662-349-8855)

Further information and directions may be obtained at [www.gocalvary.org](http://www.gocalvary.org) or by calling 662-393-3239.

### Forney, Texas

Holiday Inn Express in Terrell, Texas (972-563-7888)

(Mention that you are with the Baptist Missionary Association at a rate of \$74.99).

Comfort Suites in Mesquite, Texas - (180 and Beltline Road)

LaQuinta Hotel in Mesquite, Texas - (180 and Beltline Road)

A new Best Western in Forney, Texas may be ready for occupancy by then (972-552-1412).

Further information and directions may be obtained at [www.fellowshipforney.org](http://www.fellowshipforney.org) or by calling 972-564-9553.

### • MYTH From Page 7 •

**FACT # 3-** The amendment DOES NOT mention government or public property as an exception to the free exercise of religion. NO exceptions are mentioned, period.

**FACT # 4-** The guarantee of free exercise of religion means religious views CAN be expressed in the political arena.

**FACT # 5-** Government is to remain absolutely neutral in all matters pertaining to religion, not making laws for the promotion or prohibition of its exercise.

Did you notice fact # 5? Government should keep its nose out of religion. It can't be for or against religion. All rulings that forbid prayer, Bible clubs and such from government school property are illegal, or to use the big word of the day, unconstitutional, according to the first amendment. Rulings that forbid the expression of anything religious, whether on public or private property, are unconstitutional.

Notice also, the phrase "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion" is one of the most misunderstood phrases in the constitution. Most believe it is speaking of the establishment of a state church. The first amendment is not primarily for preempting government from establishing a state religion, as most think. Look at the amendment again. The word "respecting" means "in regard to" or "pertaining to" an establishment or institution of religion. The first part of the amendment simply means that "congress shall make no law (for or against) pertaining to any religious organization, institution or establishment." The instituting of a state endorsed church or denomination would be automatically prohibited on these grounds alone.

The first amendment is all about freedom OF religion, not freedom FROM religion. The idea that government, politics and society should be free FROM religion is a hatched up notion of God hating liberals via the ACLU, PAW and numerous other freedom destroying institutions. Not only does the amendment PREVENT government from interfering in expression of religion, it calls for protection of the rights of individuals as they practice the free exercise thereof. The ACLU should be protecting, not prohibiting free exercise. Note also, the word "exercise" means to act upon, not simply give mental ascent to a creed or set of beliefs. We are not only allowed freedom of belief, but the freedom to live out and express those beliefs. This means the Boy Scouts of America have a constitutional right to reject homosexual leaders, thereby exercising or practicing their belief. It means parents have a right to home school or send their children to a Christian school if they so desire.

Religion that cannot be practiced in daily life is useless. Don't believe the liberal lie of the left. Religion and free expression of it is not illegal. It is not only legal, but guaranteed by government. Thank God. Let freedom ring.

Thousands of pages of American history would have to be burned to delete all references to God and religion among the documents of the founding fathers of this country.

twin Billy; sisters: Melba Kuntz, Shirley Black and infant twin Betty; and "sister of the heart" Elizabeth Blunkall Tefler.

He is survived by sons: Van Widger of Affton, and Rodric (Laveen) Widger of Springfield; daughters: Connie (Larry) Reifsteck of St. Louis, Janet Widger of Richmond Heights, Tracy (Arthur) Goede of Bonne Terre, and MaryBeth (David) Zehner of Bridgeton; grandchildren: Adam (Christie) Widger of Florence, AL, Megan Widger of Springfield, Amanda (Ryan) Sherwood of Overland, and Justin Widger of Springfield; and one great granddaughter, Grace Widger of Florence, AL.

He is also survived by a brother, Donald (Julia) Widger of Arnold; sisters: Geneva

George and June Burns of Salem; sisters-in-law: Wilma Widger of Farmington, Wilma Phillips of Letts, IA, Virginia Scott of Bowling Green and Hazel Harper of Bunker; and brother-in-law, Leonard Kuntz of Rolla, as well as a host of other relatives and friends.

Virgel worked in St. Louis, at Laclede Gas Company and retired in January 1981 after 30 years of service, when he and Lucy moved to their home in Turtle, MO.

While living in St. Louis, Virgel was a member of Zion Missionary Baptist Church, serving as a Sunday School teacher and deacon until he moved to Turtle and joined Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church of Salem.