

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

"Holding Forth The Word of Life"

Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXXII

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Issue No. 2



by Jamie Jones

This year's ALIVE conference was a huge success! First of all we praise God for the work He did in the lives of those that attended. There were two saved, two rededications, and several that were dealing with a call to ministry. We also had a report of another saved and one who surrendered his life to ministry the Sunday night following the conference. God is good!

Bro. Mark Livingston, from Lufkin, TX preached several powerful messages from God's Word that challenged those in attendance. His straight forward approach, mixed with a bit of humor, and practical applications connected with both students and sponsors. Bro. Doug Mikan along with his wife, and the praise team from Oasis Church in Maumelle, AR led us in worship with some great music. The band "Echoing Angels" held an energetic concert and challenged us with their songs that we hear on Joy FM and KLove. Mike Lewis, also known as "The Jesus Painter" was a favorite among both students and sponsors. Mike did three paintings that clearly showed the sin of man, the great gulf between us and God, and the sacrifice that Christ Jesus paid for our sins. He then challenged the students to be available to God for whatever and whenever He asks. A trip to the "City Museum" was a welcomed change. Students and sponsors enjoyed multiple slides, mazes, and tunnels. There were lots of smiles that night but I know there were also tired legs the next day. In one word, the museum was...."expansive"!

A big thank you to all those who helped and participated. May God continue to bless this conference and use it to encourage young people to be ALIVE in their faith! John 3:7

BMAA Yearbook

By James Ray Raines, clerk

Due to the sickness and death of BMAA Clerk Ken Vanderslice, publication of the 2008 yearbook has been delayed. Bro. Vanderslice was in the process of layout for the book at the time of his illness and death.

Bro. Don Brown, former clerk, has graciously consented to complete this work. However, his schedule demands are such that it will take several weeks for the work to be completed.

Thanks for your prayers and patience as we work through this situation.

A Great Worker Called Home

Glenn Fox (November 16, 1924 - January 29, 2009)

Elder Glenn Fox, a leader in the work of the BMA of Missouri for many years, was called home to glory January 29. Bro. Fox, as he was known to most of us, was the pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Poplar Bluff for over 30 years when he was forced to retire several years ago due to failing health. He had pastored various churches in Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

He was the writer of the Adult Training Service Material for the Baptist Publishing House in Texarkana, Arkansas, for many years and touched many lives through this ministry.

He was also very instrumental in building Camp Garwood (the campground of the churches of the BMA of MO) to what it is today. He was camp director for many years. In 2005 the new dining hall at camp Garwood was named in honor of Bro. Fox and Sis. Wilma (his devoted wife).

He leaves behind a legacy of faithfulness and dedication to the Lord, His Word, His church, and his family. In his funeral message, Bro. George Reddin spoke truly of Bro. Fox as a "Man of God."

Our prayers are with Sis. Wilma, Bro. Dennis, Sis. Kathy and the rest of the family. We thank God for Bro. Fox.



Above: Bro. Fox at camp 2005

Below: Camp Director Chris Polk presenting the plaque to

Bro. & Sis. Fox naming the new

Dining Hall in their honor.



Retreat Dates for Camp Garwood

Camp Director, Chris Polk announces the following dates for the 2009 Retreats at Garwood.
Spring Paintball - March 27-28
Spring Retreat - June 5-6
Summer Camp - July 27-30
Fall Retreat - October 30-31
Fall Paintball - November 6-7

He still has some Camp Garwood Calendars available with dates of BMA functions and pictures from camp. If you are interested in purchasing one please contact Chris as soon as possible.

Watch your email for announcements of work dates and try to help as often as you can as we prepare the camp for all activities.

You may contact Chris at:
P.O. Box 271
Matthews, MO 63867-0271
Home phone: 573-472-1038
Cell phone: 573-380-1975

If you want to receive updates by email contact Bro. Chris and give him your email address.

From Our President...

60th Annual Meeting of the Baptist Missionary Association of America

Dr. Philip Attebery

I would like to invite every church in the Baptist Missionary Association of America to be represented by attendance or official letter at the 60th annual meeting of the BMA of America. The meeting will be held April 20-22, 2009 at the Branson Convention Center in Branson, Missouri.

The theme for the meeting will be "Faith: Raising the Sails!" The theme is based upon Hebrews 10:38 and 11:6: "Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. . . without faith it is impossible to please him." An additional subtitle to the theme will be "Remembering our Past, Envisioning our Future."

Every action of our association over the past decades has required the exercising of faith to be pleasing in God's sight. My prayer is that this annual meeting will inspire us to dedicate ourselves to living by faith for the next 60 years.

Monday evening's session will focus upon the meeting's theme. Tuesday will provide meeting opportunities for auxiliaries, departmental and agency boards, and the Pastors' and Laymen's Conference. Business will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons along with Wednesday morning. Tuesday night's service will include a concert by the Central Baptist College Choir and the annual message by Bro. Greg Medenwald. The annual meeting will climax with the Missions report and commissioning service Wednesday night.

Most sessions will have occasion to remember our past! Please continue your prayers for each ministry and individual supported by the Baptist Missionary Association of America. May we be strong in our resolve to please the Lord by living in faith!

+++ NEWS BRIEFS +++

Landmark, DeSoto, has had a good month. We've had visitors and enjoyed each one of them. We had several to go to the Alive Youth Event. Our pastor and his wife lived through it. Although I understand that there was some sickness that some of the group suffered through. Seems like there has been a lot of illness of one kind or another going around. Sis. Cathy Rudloff and Sis. Maxine Livingston both spent some time in the hospital. Both are on the road to recovery now and we praise the Lord for that. I am sure that each of us have those on our hearts whom we need to pray for because of illness, loss of employment, or spiritual needs. We are in the middle of the 50 Days of Prayer and Giving. There is never a lack of things to pray for. If we can't do anything else, we can pray!! Our pastor has been preaching some very inspiring messages. One that particularly stands out in my mind was the other Wednesday evening. He read Psalm 81:10 which encouraged us to read the Word more and allow God to fill us up with His words. "Study" We've had a beautiful snowfall and we just stayed in and admired it. Thank goodness for grandchildren with strong backs who willingly shoveled our driveway. Church was dismissed the night of January 28th because of the snow. Hope everyone stayed safe through it all. Til next month or the Lord's Return.

Wayne Gibson, Pastor
Sharon Page, Reporter

Bethel, Sikeston, had a January that was a pretty tough month for us with all the sickness that has been going around and then the ice storm came and knocked out power to the majority of the city and surrounding areas. But our God is so gracious. He bought us through it all as usual. Maybe He was just trying to bring us out of our comfort zone. We have been so used to having everything at our fingertips; instant everything. I think we all need something like this to make

us realize just how fragile we are and how powerful God is. We did have to call off our Wednesday night service on the 28th when the storm first started. We planned on having a Sunday morning service at 11:00, still with no power, but we brought flashlights and blankets and went to the fellowship hall because it was warmer in there. To our surprise, just as we started the service the power came on, and stayed on, so we were able to have services that night also. It amazes me that we get so surprised when God does something like that. We do limit God's abilities a lot of times don't we. Praise God this bad weather did not keep people away from our services. We still had lots of visitors. One of our members, Bro. Tim Bell, has been called into the ministry and is available to preach wherever needed. Please pray for him as he begins to preach God's Word. He preached here on Wednesday night, the 14th, and brought a wonderful message. He can be reached at 573-471-5063. Sis Kay Campbell has moved to an assisted living home in St. Louis near her daughter. We're hoping this is just a temporary move, so please keep her in your prayers. At our business meeting on the 18th Bro. Rodney Dunlap came and gave us his report for the Charleston Mission. It sounds like everything is going well there as they are still seeing souls saved and visitors coming. Our Faith Baptist Institute class started back up on the 19th and everyone was ready to get back to class and learn more of God's word. Please keep us in your prayers.

Jerry Adams, Pastor
Joan Wood, Reporter

Mt. Zion, Ellington, says, "Happy New year to all God's people! We were very glad to have the Reeses back with us. Bro. Reese had to spend a few days in the hospital. Sis. Irene Thomason's son Larry and grandson Dean from Florida spent a few days with her. Our love and prayers are with Bro.

Larry Edward's family as his mother went to be with the Lord. Sis. Barb Harmon is grateful for your prayers. Her cancer doctor gave her a good report. Our prayers are with Sis. Dianne Meade who has been recuperating from a foot injury. She started therapy this week. We have missed her and are looking forward to seeing her soon. Sis. Barb Harmon's nephew, Andy Rayfield, left for Iraq. He has been in the marines for nearly 8 years. His wife and daughter live in Jacksonville, NC. Keep our service men and women in your prayers. Until next time - God can mend your broken heart, but you must give Him all the pieces.

Emory Shelton, Pastor
Mary Marcher, Reporter

First, Matthews, reported via telephone that, thanks to a generator, they were able to have services during the electric outage due to the storm that hit most of southern Missouri and northern Arkansas. Many of our churches and families were affected, but most seem to be making it alright.

Karen, McGee, Reporter

Ozark Heights, Potosi, sends greetings to all. We are really glad the month of January is gone; some very cold weather, ice and snow all played a part. Our pastor enjoyed his trip to the BMAA missions symposium. He came back with some good reports on our missions and how we can all step up and help our missionaries, who really sacrifice a lot. The 50 days of prayer and giving is coming up. We urge everyone to step up and give! Bro. Ron Eye presented his first sermon on January 4. We enjoy you Ron! Following that service Bro. Zach McGuire was saved with others rededicating their lives. Bro Zach joined our church by baptism January 11. We are so proud to welcome him! I know Sis Dawn and Bro. Brian were very proud. Keep up the good work. The youth had a great time at Youth Alive and returned to us with lots of joy and

cheer. Our youth are now preparing a Valentines Banquet for all the married couples. We are looking forward to this. On talent night Bro. Sam Compton gave the message! We all enjoyed it. Bro. Butch Wilkinson had a bad fall. Hurry and get well! Good wishes and prayers to all until next time.

Brian Meade, Pastor
Georgie Brokaw, Reporter

Ohlman, Bunker is planning a spring revival with Bro. Jeff Richards in April. Also, we look forward to a visit from one of our missionaries, Laura Kanaykin. She is to visit with us in March. We had a Christmas program performed entirely by young people and it was really inspiring. Our GMA group is really growing. Many of these young girls come from homes that do not know the Savior. It is our sincere prayer that through these young people the parents may be reached. We want to extend to all a very blessed and happy New Year, and our hopes for an early spring!

Terry Sharpe, Pastor
Vernis Barr, Reporter

Bethany, St. Louis, is rejoicing in three more additions, two by statement and one by baptism. We welcome Bro. Jerry and Sis. Evelyn Mitchell and their daughter Madolyn into our fellowship. They have already been a blessing to us. Our attendance and offerings continue to be great even during

the bad weather and visitors are coming to almost every service. Some are showing interest in working with us. We are praying for God's will to be done in their lives. God is blessing as we pray for our missionaries and look to Him to give us "extra" money that we can give to missions during the special emphasis. We are excited about what God is doing through the Baptist Missionary Association of America and are thankful to be a part of this great fellowship of churches. Pray for our associational leaders. We extend our sympathy and prayers to Sis. Wilma Fox and her family as they adjust to the home-going of Bro. Glenn Fox. He was a great man of God who let God use him in a great way here in Missouri and throughout the BMA of America.

James Hoffmann, Pastor
Megan Eye, Reporter



The start of a painting by Mike Lewis that was used to teach important truths at the Alive Conference for youth in St. Louis this year.

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✝  **From Our Workers**  ✝

From Our Director...

It was a joy for me to attend both Mission Symposiums this year. At the Horn Lake, Mississippi, symposium, the Missionary Committee meeting took place, and our missionaries, Jamie and Rebekah Jones were officially approved. The Jones family is now on deputation seeking partnership and prayer support for their church planting efforts in Smithville, MO.

The theme for the Mission Symposium was "Search and Rescue." Bro. Grady Higgs, Executive Director of Missions, reminded us that God has a burden and it is summed up in three words: "Lost, Search, and Rescue." I could not shake those three words from my mind and came home to my church and preached a series of messages based on them. It's my desire that Lindsay Lane Baptist would renew and intensify her passion

for reaching out to the lost. I want to challenge your church to revisit the mission and purpose of your church. Churches are great places to find nourishment, fellowship, and respite from the world.

room for ourselves. May God help us to find the will and the way to engage our culture, for their souls are at stake.

Jesus told us that we need to pray and we are to pray to the Lord of the harvest that "He will

Financial Report BMA of Missouri Missions • January 2009

General Fund

Balance December 31, 2008		\$ 16,548.96
January Receipts:	\$ 3,176.03	<u>3,176.03</u>
Total Available		\$ 19,724.99
January Disbursements:	\$ (4,468.77)	<u>4,468.77</u>
Balance January 31, 2009:		\$ 15,256.22
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 64,031.63	
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 22,537.49	
ING Direct Savings	\$ 40,414.61	
Total in CD's:	\$126,983.73	

Therefore, it is easy for us to slip into a comfortable position where our preferences and needs are being met. Yet, all of our churches are surrounded by a multitude of people who are lost and destined to spent eternity separated from God in a terrible place called Hell. God has commissioned His church to be a "life saving station" to the lost and not a comfortable waiting

starting Bible studies in their home.

2. Pray for a good BMA of MO Symposium offering (May 15) for Bro. Rodney Dunlap and the Charleston mission.

3. Pray for a good World Missions Day (Feb. 22) offering for our national mission department.

4. Pray that our churches will reopen the Life Saving Stations in their communities.

From the Dunlaps...

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

The only bad news of January at all was that our morning worship attendance average dropped after increasing for seven straight months prior. We had averaged 29 in December and averaged 25 in January. A family of six has-at least for this past month-quit attending ... and that does affect the average. We averaged 18 on Wednesday nights.

The biggest blessing of the month was the salvation of Shanya. Praise God! In 2009 the straightforward gospel still works.

We also began future Sunday School teacher training in January, doing it during our Sunday evening service time slot. We

have a policy that when we begin a Sunday School each of our teachers will have been a member here at least one year and will have completed a course on some key Bible doctrines. Beginning a Sunday School is not even on our radar, because we just don't have the teachers, but with this study behind them we will have a few people already prepared when the day comes.

We were tremendously blessed in January with a record level of outside support. We do not know where some of the support comes from because it's channeled through the SEMO Association, but we do know it has been increasing the last few months, and are incredibly thankful. With the support currently increasing as it is, Deb and I are looking at the possibility that I may not have to pursue

full-time work at this juncture in the mission's history after all. We did receive one large check this month we don't anticipate getting every month, but still we're in a definite upward trend.

We were also tremendously blessed in a local way this month. The Charleston chapter of the NAACP honored us as a church "making a difference in the African-American community" and also specifically thanked me for being a white man visibly working among black Charlestonians. I came here with a real complicated game plan: love God, love people. It's a blessing to see it working!

Thank you for your support of Abundant Life in Christ Missionary Baptist Mission.

For the souls,
Rodney, Deb, Zee, Rachel & Eli Dunlap

From Bro. Jamie...

Wow! What a fast 2008 it was, and it's already February 2009. Time flies when your having fun on deputation. We have received so many blessings from the churches we have visited. It seems that there is an excitement in the air among many churches about searching for the lost. I have had the privilege of being in churches and visiting with associations that are seeking to rescue those that are without salvation in Christ. I am personally excited about what God is doing among many people in the BMAA. I pray that God gives us an attitude of search and rescue (Luke 19:10).

I spent this last week sharing the vision for North Lake Church with churches in Mississippi and Oklahoma, and also getting some DCPI (Dynamic Church Planting International) training. The training course focused on the mother church - daughter church relationship. It was a great blessing to have the pastor of our mother church, Bro. Danny Kirk there. The training gave us both a healthy respect for the church planting relationship between a mother and daughter church. We also established some personal goals for our respective positions. Pray that God would keep us focused about the calling He has given us!

We will visit a few churches in Missouri the next couple of weeks, and then head for Arkansas. Please pray for traveling grace upon my family and don't forget to be on mission to "search and rescue!"

Bro. Jamie Jones

Letter To The Editor

The name Bobby Joe Wright is a name that has stood long, if not loud, within the BMA work. I say 'long,' because for over 4 decades he worked with Baptist Publishing House (now Disciple-Guide), plus his ministry as a pastor and preacher exceeds even that length of time. I say 'not loud' because Bro. Bobby Joe has ministered to thousands upon thousands of people around the world who at most have only seen his name as editor in the adult quarterlies that they have used year after year after year. Bro. Bobby Joe has truly been servant to God's people within our work and beyond.

Bro. Bobby Joe's health has been declining in recent month, and within the past few weeks he has entered a nursing facility where he has joined his wife (Ann Wright) who was already a resident. I think this would be an excellent time for all of us who have been touched by this quite servant to send a card or a letter to let him know how much we appreciate him and his work, and to tell him that we're praying for the two of them. Bro. Bobby Joe has served us for years and years, and this seems an excellent time for the served to now serve the server.

You can write the Wrights at this address:

Bobby Joe & Ann Wright
Bailey Creek Nursing & Rehab Center - Room 302
1621 East 42nd Street
Texarkana, AR 71854

Don Burke

BMA of Missouri
Annual Men's Retreat
Meramec Retreat Center, Richwoods, MO

Mark your calendars now...

April 30 - May 2, 2009

(watch for more details in March)

Theme: A Man and His Work

Cost: \$60

Activities at this year's retreat include:

Golfing	Horseshoes	Pitching Washers
Ping Pong	Guided Turkey Hunts	Archery
Skeet Shooting	Bible Study	Breakout Sessions
Eating	Laughing	Door Prizes

Don't miss out on the fun and the fellowship!

A Question About Being Gay

A Message preached by Pastor Don Burke
Breton Creek Baptist Church • Potosi, Missouri
(PotosiPastor@gmail.com)

Joshua 7:19-21

Question: "I was saved many years ago. I grew up going to church, and still go regularly. But the deal is, well, I am gay; and I've been gay as long as I remember - even since I was a little kid. I never chose to be gay, so I can't help but think that God made me this way. I know what the Bible says about being gay - that it is a sin that God detests. Will being gay keep me out of heaven?"

This question is actually a composite of nearly identical correspondences and discussions that I have had with no less than four individuals in unconnected circumstances in the last three months alone. All four were struggling with pretty much the very same questions. And I dare to think that for every person that is willing to brave making their questions known, there are dozens, if not hundreds, who struggle silently with their questions.

The gay movement is growing, and there is reason to believe that its popularity is going to continue to increase. According to one BMAA leader in touch with the today's youth, being gay is one of the big fads of the day among young people. With its growing popularity, we Christians who are to be the salt and light in this old world must get our heads out of the sand and learn how to deal with it. This sermon is an attempt to help us start.

The Place to Begin: Our Own Attitude

We must first take stock of our own attitude toward the subject of homosexuality and the people who are caught in its grips. Many of us grew up in a time when it was disgraceful to even speak of such things openly, and our discomfort sometimes expresses itself in outbursts that attack the sin and sinner alike. On the other hand, there are those who wish to be so accepting of the sinner that they feel they must tolerate or ignore the sin.

But these approaches do not reflect our Savior's attitude. In His dealing with people who had sexual-immorality issues (the woman at the well and the adulterous woman, for example), Jesus had deep compassion for the individual, and yet loved them enough to take issue with the sins that brought their hurt. As we deal with people in similar situations in our day, we too must show compassion to those who struggle while refusing to wink at or ignore the sin causing their problem.

Will Being Gay Keep You Out of Heaven?

Without question, the Bible takes a stand against same-gender sexual relationships, making it clear that it is a sin. (Of course the same is equally true for sexual relationships of any kind outside of marriage.) One cannot give an honest and open reading to the applicable portions of the Mosaic Law (Lev. 20:13) and New Testament writings (Rom. 1:21-32) without seeing that God obviously condemns such actions.

Again and without question, such actions are sin, and one cannot enter into Heaven with such sins on their spiritual "account." (I Cor. 6:9-10) However, once a person has genuinely been saved, all of his sins are transferred to Christ and His death on the cross. (Col. 2:13-14) So that means that even for the saved person that struggles with some form of sexual immorality (as with other sins), that sin will not prevent them from going to Heaven.

However, I must make it clear here what genuine salvation involves. Among other things, it means that, from the bottom of our hearts, we agree with God that the things in our life that He calls sin are wrong. In this particular case, it means the gay person must own up to God that the homosexuality is a sin. It also means that he genuinely regrets his sin and truly desires to put it away from him. It doesn't mean that there are never relapses into those sins, but it does mean that there is a genuine desire to be rid of it.

I must also add here that just because Heaven is assured doesn't give a person freedom to do anything he wants - sin always comes with consequences. While I believe that one can truly be saved and still struggle with sexual sins, I do question the legitimacy of one's salvation if he can commit such sin and never be troubled by it. God placed the Holy Spirit within our heart at the moment we were

saved, and one of the Spirit's jobs is to convict us of our sin. (John 16:7-8) If the gay person has no conviction for the sexual sins, I have to wonder if the Spirit ever resided in his heart in the first place - if that person was ever really saved.

Intentional Confusion About What "Being Gay" Means

We need to understand some distinctions our society has tried to blur. There are some activities that are arbitrarily labeled as feminine and masculine, either by society as a whole, a smaller subgroup, or just our immediate family and friends. For example, a little boy may carry around a purse or prefer to play house with the girls instead of run or play ball with the other boys. From the feedback I'm getting, some feel that such "cross-activity" is an indication the child is gay, or at least "pre-gay."

But I have to ask - is there anything in Scripture that says that this kind of play-preference is a sin? Of course not. Just because society labels playing house as a girl's game doesn't mean that a boy who likes to play house has gay tendencies. Similarly, a girl can like to do things that are more often done by boys, such as sports, interest in cars or guns or the like. Do such interests mean that she is gay or has gay tendencies? Not in the least. Don't let the world confuse you by its attempts to mislabel and cloud the issue.

The Digression Into Sin

As we look into our Bible text (Joshua 7:19-21 ESV), we find Achan was brought before Joshua and all Israel to explain the sin that he had committed. In a previous battle at the city of Jericho (when all the spoil was to be given to the treasury of God) Achan recounts: "When I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak from Shinar, and 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels, then I coveted them and took them. And see, they are hidden in the earth inside my tent..." (v. 21)

Achan gave what might be called a four-step digression into sin - a digression that caught Achan and dragged him down to his death. It likewise catches many people today, and I dare think it happens to many of those that slip into the gay lifestyle. Notice the four steps:

I Saw

"When I saw..." Achan began his description of what led to his sin. In a separate situation we find King David's fall into sexual sin beginning in the same way: "...And from the roof he saw a woman bathing..." (II Sam. 11:2 NASB) Both men's fall into sin began with being tempted by what they saw.

One distinction we must clearly understand is that temptation itself is not sin. Say you're walking past someone's wallet or purse, see a \$20 bill and have a fleeting thought that says, "Hey, I could lift that and no one would know I took it." That is temptation. But is that temptation sin? No. And Achan was at this stage of temptation when he said, "I saw."

The world tells us that if a person is tempted toward same-gender sex it means that they are already gay. As I tell my church at times, there is a Greek word for that - hogwash! Being tempted to steal doesn't make you a thief, being tempted to kill someone doesn't mean you were born a murderer and being tempted to be involved in a same-gender relationship does not mean you are already gay or were born gay. I don't mean to minimize the struggle of that temptation, but don't let the world convince you that just because someone is tempted in that area that she is already gay.

I Coveted

After saying he "saw" the enticing items that were forbidden to him, Achan went on to say, "then I coveted (desired, longed for, took pleasure in) them."

While being tempted is not a sin in itself, we must realize that a person crosses the line into sin when he decides to pursue the temptation. In Proverbs, within the context of a sexual temptation of a seductress, the wise man instructed, "Do not desire her beauty in your heart." While the passing temptation is not a sin, the heart that grasps that temptation and enjoys the desire of giving into it has provided sin a place to reside within that heart.

It is important to understand that having a desire for a same-gender sexual relationship is a sin of the heart - it shows a heart that is given to, and to some degree driven by sin.

But if you are struggling with those kinds of desires, does that

mean that you are gay? Some will have a different opinion on this, but I'd have to answer by asking - does having a desire to rob a bank in itself make a person guilty of stealing; and does having a desire to copy someone's answer on a test (but not doing it) make you guilty of cheating? If you have toyed with gay desires but haven't yet acted upon them, it is clear that you need to ask forgiveness for those thoughts, but I can't say that the desires alone mean that you are a homosexual.

I Took

No longer was the thought of the Jericho's goodies limited to a passing temptation for Achan. Nor was he content with just having the sinful desire for that which God said was not his to have. He worsened his sin by choosing to take those things as his own.

What was true for Achan is true for most, if not all, of our sinful ways. It begins with a passing temptation in our thoughts, often from something we notice through our sight or other senses. If we are not careful (and maybe without a conscious decision to do so) we will give room in our heart for the temptation to implant itself and it will become a desire of our own that grows to be a longing or yearning. And, given the right circumstances, that longing is often allowed to be realized in our actions so that, like Achan, we have moved from "I saw" to "I coveted" to "I took."

Within the context of today's topic, the "I took" stage is when one chooses to actually become involved in a gay relationship.

Some might say, "Well, if desiring it and doing it are both sins, I might as well go ahead and do it." Not only does that mindset make a mockery of God's command that we abstain from sin, it is just bad thinking. Moving from the sinful desire to the sinful act adds sin upon sin. And although all sins are odious in the eyes of God, the sinful act has much more dire consequences than the sinful thought. Both are to be avoided.

I Hid

But the digression into sin was not over for Achan - there was one more level he went through. It wasn't enough that he just took the garment and precious

• See **QUESTION Page 5** •

Moral Action Committee

BMA of America

Dr. John M. Adams, Executive Director

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Euthanasia - The Right To Die

Exodus 23:7

Our Judea-Christian Heritage

Euthanasia is morally and biblically wrong. Euthanasia is defined as "the act or practice of ending the life of a person suffering from an incurable illness or injury, or better known as mercy killing." As believers, we should seek to safeguard the God-given right to life, to which each person is entitled. According to the humanistic philosophy if you're old, mentally ill, or severely handicapped you should be allowed to die. The listed individuals have a God-given life and spiritual desires that should be treated with compassion, dignity, and encouragement. Proverbs 6:16-10..."The Lord hates...hands that shed innocent blood and a heart that devises wicked plans." We are urged to "keep far from a false matter..in not slaying the innocent or righteous." Those who desire to destroy other individuals by injections are classified as "wicked." Exodus 23:7 states, "Keep thee far from a false matter; and the innocent and righteous slay thou not; for I will not justify the wicked."

I. Historical Aspects of Euthanasia

When Hitler of Nazi Germany issued his direct order for euthanasia in 1939, all German state institutions were required to report on patients who had been ill for at least five years or who were not able to work. The decision of which patients should be killed was based entirely on a brief questionnaire. The Nazi authorities who issued the death sentences were professors of psychiatry at major universities in Germany. The professors never saw the individuals personally.

The first to be killed in the Middle Ages and during the holocaust in the 1940's were the aged, the infirmed, the senile, the mentally retarded and defective children. The German Nazi power even went so far as to exterminate children with badly modeled ears, epileptic seizures and bedwettters.

According to a new service publication, "The mass extermination of Germany's undesirables began with the acceptance of the attitude which is basic to the euthanasia philosophy, there is such a thing as life not worthy to be lived." This is the same philosophy that is accepted today with abortion, infanticide and euthanasia.

II. Present Day Concept of Euthanasia

Euthanasia is not a mere fear for the future. It has survived and is now present in the American Medical practice. Doctors in the United States face the medical ethical decisions of starving "undesirables to death or administering fatal injections. "Voices in our governments are looking for ways to reduce health care costs." (Mercy Killing by Denyse Handlen)

Well meaning people are attracted to what may seem to be the beneficial aspects of some type of euthanasia. Americans must not be misled or tranquilized by the assurances that the practice is limited to the terminally ill. Abortion was also once proposed as a last resort in desperate cases. Today it has become a common practice for birth control. "To say that this subject can be carefully controlled is either naive or deceitful," (The Right to Live, The Right to Die - Dr. C. Everett Koop, former Surgeon General)

Former Governor Richard Lamb of Colorado shocked the nation when he told a group of health lawyers that "sick people have a duty to die and get out of the way and let the well society build a reasonable life."

III. The Biblical Perspective of the Right to Life

I Corinthians 3:16-17 reminds us that our bodies are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in us. Our life is precious to God and to us. Euthanasia is moving into the spotlights and the movement continues to gather momentum in our land as a great

• **QUESTION From Page 4** • metals that were not his; Scripture says he hid the stolen things among his personal things. Although they were hidden from the sight of anyone else, Achan had made the sinful items a regular part of his belongings.

Like Achan, we often allow sin to become a routine part of our life. We may try to hide it from the view of those around us, but we find the more that we "take" sin, the more that it becomes "hidden" among the stuff of our lives.

Why does this happen? I believe the answer, at least in part, comes from the fact that one of the characteristics of sin is that it is addictive. The Bible describes that addiction in terms of slavery. When we choose to sin, we become a slave to that sin (John 8:34). The more we pursue the sin, the more we are enslaved by it.

I'm sure this addictiveness is true for all sins, but it seems that it is more evident in the sexual sins. I believe this is because, by the Creator's design, sex generates an appetite for more sex. (Granted, that varies by individual, and sin has twisted it all out of whack.)

This is at least part of the drawing that is designed to bond a husband and wife together. So, with the designed self-generating attraction between those who are sexually involved, combined with the addictiveness of sin, when people play with sexual sins a little, it has a magnetic draw pulling them back to it. They play with it a lot and become enslaved to it. This enslavement is why many say, "God made me this way. I can't change it." And in a sense, they are partially right - they can't change (on their own). But it's not because God made them that way, it's because they chose to put their foot in the bear trap in the first place when they gave in to the temptation to take the sexual sin into their lives.

However, it's very important moral issue. Pray for our nation.

Highlighted Contributing Churches & Organizations:
Zalma, Zalma, MO
Northeast Mississippi District
WMA
Magnolia, Hattiesburg, MS
Antioch, Gilmer, TX
Calvary, Vidalia, LA

to notice that "I can't change it" doesn't mean one's condition is irreversible. While a person may not be able to free himself from his sexual sins, that doesn't mean God can't or won't free him. But that freedom comes from the same process that one goes through in salvation itself - admitting that both the desire and the action are sin; having a genuine desire to have those sinful activities and thoughts out of his life; and asking God to forgive him and take the sinful desire and sinful activity away.

But what if someone truly does seek God's forgiveness and genuinely strives to get out of the sin (over and over again) and is still not free? Is that person beyond hope? Does the repeated offenses mean the person was not sincere in his faith or repenting? Not necessarily.

Sometimes the sexual sins, while still wrong, are themselves the results of other things that lie deeper within a person. And if we fail to deal with the deeper issues, we usually fail to deal with the root of the problem. That usually means we become repeat offenders.

Let's follow the story of a hypothetical person - Pat, which could be a male or female name. Pat grew up feeling unloved and unwanted, so over time attempts to find that sense of being loved in an inappropriate sexual relationship. In time, Pat realizes that this is sin, becomes genuinely sorry for sinning and asks God for forgiveness. But Pat still hasn't dealt with the deeper issue of the feelings of being unloved, so pressure builds and builds until Pat falls victim to the sexual temptation again. If Pat is particularly strong, he/she might fight off repeating the same sin, but the pressure will eventually build to the point of forcing a break somewhere else.

The only real cure is to deal with the deeper issue: Pat has to accept that God does love in all the ways that he/she needs; understand that it was a sin to pursue love in the improper ways; and ask God to forgive that sin. And even then, with the core issues dealt with, Pat must be wise enough to know that the self-generating attraction designed within sexuality will still likely be a strong temptation for a long time to come. But the more Pat fights the temptation -

praying, asking God for help and maybe getting an accountability partner - the weaker the grip of the attraction will grow in time.

Summary

There are a few things that we need to keep in mind concerning homosexuality and what God's Word says about it.

- The gay movement is growing. We must prepare ourselves with a good understanding of what God's Word says about the issue in order to be able to take our proper stand to try to stem the tide, and to try to help those struggling with this sin.

- The world is trying to win this battle (in part) by blurring lines of distinction. We must understand that boys who play "girl" games or girls that prefer "boy" activities are not gay or even "pre-gay." Nor does being tempted indicate that a person is gay. Even a person's sinful desires do not make a person a homosexual. Don't accept the world's mislabeling of you or others.

- Homosexuality is an abomination before God, but there is hope for those caught up in the gay lifestyle. Forgiveness is available to anyone who humbly bows before God, asks forgiveness of their sin and desires to abandon their sinful ways.

- No one is born gay, just like no one is born a murderer. Rather there is digression into sin as one chooses, even unknowingly, to progress from looking, to coveting, to taking, to hiding that sin within their heart and life.

- Sexual addictions can be particularly addicting. They are at times best handled with an outside accountability partner (Gal. 6:1-2) in addition to prayer and dependence upon God.

- Sometimes sexual sins are the expressions of even deeper issues within a person. In such cases freedom from the sexual issues may require properly dealing with the deeper issues as well. If you need help getting to the root of such issues, see your pastor or a qualified Christian counselor.

- As God's ambassadors, we must be bold in our legitimate condemnation of the sin, but we must remember that it is not our place to condemn the heart and motives of the sinner. Few

- See **QUESTION Page 8** •

WMA & GMA NEWS

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 WMA Offerings to:
STATE WMA TREASURER:

Cathy J. Fox

2142 Sunset Dr.

Poplar Bluff, MO 63901

Send all GMA Offerings to:
STATE GMA TREASURER

Norma Womble

4498 Cindy Lane

Barnhart, MO 63012

Missouri State Women's Missionary Auxiliary

Here are a couple reminders for our women in Missouri:

The Missouri State WMA

will meet at Black Creek Baptist Church, Poplar Bluff, Missouri, Saturday, March 7, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. Come take a trip through Romania with Ron and Norma Fields as they share their Mission Trip experiences of last summer. We know you will go away with a new appreciation of the work God is doing in Romania.

Project Money

needs to be sent in right away! Our project for 2008-2009 is 50% Missouri Missionary Baptist Paper, 20% Abundant Life in Christ Mission, 20% Twin Oaks Hispanic work, and 10% General Fund. "Every penny counts. Can we count on YOU?"

National Women's Missionary Auxiliary

Ladies,

It's time to send in our Standard of Excellence reports to Brenda before the National WMA meeting in April. She would love to have these as soon as possible.

The requirements are:

1. That a local WMA hold at least 75% of the total meetings for each quarter.
2. That the average attendance be at least 75% of the enrollment each quarter.
3. That at least 75% of the enrollment be Daily Bible Readers each quarter.
4. That the auxiliary be represented in at least four Associational meetings each year.
5. Financial support be given to district, state and national WMA's.
6. That the WMA sponsor Youth Auxiliaries in the local church (if available), district, state, and national.
7. That the WMA follow the WMA plan of work as closely as possible.

Send church names to:

Brenda Hornaday

P.O. Box 626

Magnolia, AR. 71754

Phone (870)-696-3541

Yours in Christ,

Brenda Hornaday

National 1st V. President

February Is

WMA Enlistment Month

February is Enlistment Month for the Women's Missionary Auxiliary. My prayer is that each local WMA group will catch the vision (Proverbs 29:18) of ladies reaching out in service, through benevolence, in witnessing, in teaching, and in missions. Once your WMA has caught the vision, you need to share the vision (Acts 26:19) by seeking to enlist other ladies in WMA.

During the month of February, the following ideas can be

used to focus attention on the WMA.

1. Have WMA ladies sit together for a worship service.
2. Ask the pastor to let a WMA lady speak briefly on "What WMA Means to Me" and share this year's district, state, and national WMA projects.
3. Ask the pastor for space in the bulletin to announce WMA activities.

4. Sponsor a breakfast, brunch, luncheon, tea, or dinner to promote WMA awareness.

Once you have decided what type of event to sponsor, the following ideas might be helpful:

1. Select a decorating theme for the event (decorate the tables with teapots and teacups, fresh flowers, silk flowers, glass containers, valentines, candles, or just use your imagination).

2. The event can be potluck or prepared by current WMA members, GMA girls might be enlisted to serve as waitresses.

3. Prepare a short program to present on what your WMA does (your Bible study, missions study, benevolence activities, youth auxiliaries and other special events or activities).

4. Appoint a telephone committee to invite prospective ladies.

5. Send special invitations by mail or email.

6. Make posters advertising the events.

Once you have your enlistment activities planned, above all be enthusiastic about sharing the vision you have for WMA.

Brenda Hornaday,

National WMA First Vice

President

Washington County District WMA

"The Washington County District WMA will meet with Emmanuel Baptist Church in Lemay, Missouri, Friday, March 13, 2009. The program will be mission related.

Please have your quarterly project money in."

Help!!

Ladies:

Our beautiful state of Missouri will once again host the annual meeting of the BMA of America!! If you have never been to a national association meeting, you have missed a real blessing. **The 2009 BMA of America meeting will be April 20, 21 and 22 in Branson, MO.** The Women's Missionary Auxiliary of Missouri will serve as the Welcoming Committee for the annual WMA meeting on **April 21, 2009.** I encourage all of you to attend, whether you have an active WMA in your local church or not.

We really want to exhibit to the many ladies from all across our country that Missouri is the best place to be. To do this we will need your help. Our MO State WMA President, Connie Reifsteck, has appointed me to serve as coordinator for the Welcoming Committee. One of the many tasks for this committee will be to provide welcome bags for the ladies attending the meeting. To do this, we will need everyone's help. If you would be so kind to provide items for us to put in these bags, it would be greatly appreciated. We are planning on a minimum of **300 bags.** What are some of items that we are looking for?

Small craft items • Packs of sugarless chewing gum

Individually wrapped hard candies • Bookmarks

Emory boards • Small travel lotions

Ink pens • Pencils • Small note pads • Letter openers

Small sample items of toiletries • Small packs of tissues

Small packs of wet-wipes or equivalent

Packets of hot drinks (coffee, tea, etc)

Note cards with words of encouragement or recipes

Anything that may be specific to your region of the state

Coupons for businesses in the Branson area

Individually wrapped snack crackers, cookies, breakfast bars, etc.

Or anything you would find pleasant to receive in one of these bags.

If you cannot provide the items but would still like to help, we can always use finances.

Time is of the essence here, if you can help, please contact me either by phone or email listed below. If you can bring the items to the **MO State WMA meeting on March 7, 2009 at Black Creek Baptist Church, Poplar Bluff, MO,** it would be greatly appreciated. If not, I will try to make arrangements to meet you or you can mail the items to me. We would like to have all items for the bags by Sunday, April 12.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Janet Widger

7409 Rupert Ave.

Richmond Heights, MO 63117

(314)644-5009

jawidger@yahoo.com

State GMA Meeting

The Missouri State Girl's Missionary Auxiliary annual meeting/houseparty will be at First Baptist Church of Matthews April 3-4.

The houseparty/sleepover starts at 7:00 p.m. Friday evening, April 3. Bring your sleeping bags, snacks, Bibles, etc. and enjoy this time with girls and sponsors from all over Missouri.

The GMA meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. Saturday and promises to be a special time for all. All girls and sponsors are encouraged to be present and enjoy the fellowship and encouragement as we reach out to each other in the Lord's work.

We hope to see you April 3-4.

Meramec Banner

News of one of the oldest local associations in the BMA of Missouri

Meramec Quarterly Meeting

March 21, 2009

10:00 a.m.

Friendship Baptist Church,
St. Clair

Theme: *Search and Rescue*

Meramec Missions

Danny Kirk, Director

920 Lindsay Lane • Florissant, MO 63031

email; pastorkirk@mindspring.com

What a great Mission Symposium we had this year in Horn Lake, Mississippi. Brethren Ben Kingston, Brian Meade, Jamie Hague-wood, John and Tim Dover, Brad Banderman, Ken Burnett, and myself loaded up in a van and had a great time of fellowship as we made our way to Mississippi. The theme for the symposium was "Search and Rescue" and all of the missionaries and speakers did a great job of inspiring us to intensify our efforts to reach the lost.

Bro. Grady Higgs, our Director of Missions, has challenged each of us to go back to our homes and churches and raise up "Search and Rescue Teams". With this in mind, we will continue with this theme at our quarterly association meeting, March 21, at Friendship Baptist Church in St. Clair, at 10:00 a.m. Pastors Ben Kingston and John Dover will speak on the subject of search and rescue. Following this we will have our business meeting and lunch.

I know that our Saturdays are busy, but I hope you will make a special effort to be at the next quarterly meeting. In the past year, only about 10 churches are represented during these meetings to take care of the association's business. The association needs your help and wisdom when it comes to making decisions.

Bro. Jamie Jones and Rebekah have been visiting among some of our Meramec churches and will continue on deputation until April. Bro. Jamie has reported making several new contacts in Smithville, Missouri, and I know that once he is settled-in, we will hear more good news. Pray for them as they strive to find prayer and partnership supporters among our churches.

Steadfast Faith in Shaky Times

Spring 2009 Adult Sunday School

By Charles Reddin, Adult Editor

The world is in an upheaval. The economy, the tensions in the Holy Land, the war on terror, ethnic cleansing in Africa, changing domestic politics - when have God's people had to cope with so many critical issues at once?

Actually, today's world may seem rather tame to someone like the prophet Daniel. He was probably still in his teens when the Babylonian king took him and selected other young men as hostages. There he stayed for seventy years. (Compare that to the fifteen months American hostages were held in Iran!)

Any hope of rescue took a blow when ten thousand more Jews, including Judah's king, were forced to join Daniel in Babylon during his eighth year there. In his nineteenth year in Babylon, his home country was annihilated.

Daniel's faith never faded despite isolation from family and spiritual supports. From his teen years to old age the light of triumphant faith beamed intensely in his life and writings. Whatever happened, he testified, "There is a God in heaven" (2:28). "He doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth" (4:35).

"Triumphant Faith," is the title of adult Sunday School studies

from DiscipleGuide Church Resources March-May 2009. One lesson describes the times. Six lessons observe triumphant faith in Daniel's life. Seven lessons examine the theological foundations of faith expressed in his prophetic visions.

Along the way Daniel will teach God's people the necessity of resisting the world's influence, the value of prayer, the effectiveness of a bold witness, the hope of the end times, and the surety of God's power even in the most trying of times.

To order these studies or obtain samples, call 800-333-1442 or go to our web site www.DiscipleGuide.org.

Who better to help us cope with today's upheaval than Daniel?

Thornton Announces Retirement

Bobby Thornton retired as the Director of the Armed Forces and Institutional Chaplaincy as of January 31. Thornton has served in this position since his election in April, 1995. His service to our association and our nation has been invaluable, and we thank Him for his service during the past 13 ½ years. He and his wife, Dovie reside in Tyler, Texas where they are actively involved in Rose City Baptist Church.

Thornton writes: Time is not limitless. All of us know what it is to manage our time. Only God works out of HIS time. He owns time. Even our end is already determined by God. Everything we are and what we do come to an end. My end has come for the Chaplaincy Department. I truly would like to continue, but that does not seem to be an option. As of 1 February, 2009, I turned over the responsibilities of the Department to Chaplain David Norvell. He recently retired from the Army Chaplaincy and has the experience to do a great job. He will be an outstanding manager of all our chaplains.

I thank the Association for allowing me to do this work for

Meramec Landmark Baptist Association Financial Report • January 2009

Balance December 31, 2008		\$ 12,212.29
Receipts:		
Berean	\$	
Bethel		520.00
Cave Springs		
Central		
Charity		25.00
Elmwood		
Emmanuel		
Fellowship		30.00
First, Bourbon		
First, Potosi		582.00
Friendship		
Grace Covenant		
Lakewood		234.00
Landmark		77.27
Lindsay Lane		100.00
Lower Doe Run		
Moselle		
New Testament		
Oak Hill		48.72
Ozark Heights		178.00
Springdale		365.50
Straightway		
Westview		50.00
White Oak Grove		
Total Receipts:	\$	2,210.49
Total Available		\$ 14,422.78
Disbursements:		
Danny Kirk		1,050.00
Director's Expenses (includes Mission Symposium expenses)		1,137.96
BMA of MO (Partnership)		1,000.00
RLF Transfer		540.00
Brotherhood Mutual		532.83
Total Disbursements:	\$	4,260.79
Balance January 31, 2009:		\$ 10,161.99
Revolving Loan Fund Balance		\$ 22,089.97



A view of some attending the Alive Conference in St. Louis. Our young people and their sponsors were challenged to live lives that honor and glorify God.

thirteen years. I owe the churches of the Association and the pastors of those churches all my respect and gratitude for their willingness to support this great outreach ministry. THANK YOU!

Chaplain David Norvell assumed his duties on February 1. He and his wife, Linda, reside in

El Paso, Texas. Pray for him as he assumes his duties as Director of the Armed Forces and Institutional Chaplaincy.

Send all BMAA Chaplaincy offerings to 4328 Loma De Brisas, El Paso, Texas 79937. Contact Chaplain Norvell at dnorvell@elp.rr.com or 915.307.6978.

Information for the BMAA Directory and Handbook

by Bobby L. Hudgens

DiscipleGuide Information Services

Thank you to BMAA churches for submitting your 2008 Church Letter forms to us at DiscipleGuide Information Services. This information provides us with important data for the next BMAA Directory and Handbook. The ultimate benefit is to your church and all other BMAA churches.

We ask each church to check and verify that you have submitted your copy of the 2008 Church Letter form to us. If not, please have it to us by the end of February. You'll find a copy of the form on pages 241-244 of the 2008-09 Directory and Handbook. You can also print a blank copy of the online form.

If you plan to submit the form online, you have until February 14. At that time the online 2008 Church Letter form will expire and will no longer be available.

Giving to Information Services for the Directory and Handbook in 2008 was significantly down. If your church has not given an offering to help us meet our expenses, please consider doing so. If your church can give an additional offering, that would be a great help to us as well. One thing is sure, we cannot operate at a deficit. We are currently exploring options that will provide you with the service but at much lower cost.

Pastors, please check to see that your listing and current e-mail address in the minister's directory (section VIII) of the Directory and Handbook is accurate. To make corrections log on to DiscipleGuide.org, click on "Information Services," and click on "Contact Information Update" on the brown bar to the left.

BMMI Presents Needed Nutrition to Village

Ralph Izard, M.D. • Director



The Baptist Medical Missions International (BMMI) was able to provide nutritional help to the children of Rattanakiri Province thanks to the "Children Helping Children" program and also in part to "Making Everlasting Smiles." The BMMI just completed a mission trip to Cambodia from January 18th to January 30th. Working primarily in six villages of the province, the team ministered to 1,175 persons with medication and also distributed vitamins and parasite medicine to several hundred additional children. Most of the men, women, boys and girls in the three new villages visited during this project had never seen a doctor!

The number of baptized believers continues to grow in the Rattanakiri Province and the school, under the direction of Bro. Edmund Neil Mamon, continues to increase in the number of students to the point that additional space is badly needed, as well as a project center and living quarters.

The residents of the Province of Rattanakiri in Cambodia

• **QUESTION** From Page 5 • will ever know the struggles such people go through, or the circumstances that have brought them to where they are. Who knows... had we experienced the same things we might have committed the same acts. As we deal with those legitimately trying to break the grip of this hideous sin, let's remember that we, too, are fellow strugglers.

• We must follow God's wisdom in dealing with those caught in this sin. On the one hand, the Bible (I Corinthians 5) demands that we disassociate from those who call themselves Christian yet live in ongoing wanton sin. (v. 11) On the other hand, we must be willing to reach out in loving help to those who acknowledge their sin and struggle to genuinely live as they should. (Gal. 6:1-2; James 5:19-20) We must also be willing to reach out a helping and loving hand to those outside of the church that are caught up in this vicious sin. (I Cor. 5:9-10)

• Remember that the digression into sin often begins with "I saw." We must therefore be wise in what we allow ourselves to see. This is especially true for those with children and adolescents - those particularly susceptible to the enticements of the people promoting the gay agenda. We must be extra diligent to guard against TV shows, movies and anything else that presents this abominable sin as an attractive package to these impressionable young people.

**Opportunity may
knock once,
but temptation
bangs on your
front door
forever.**

express a sincere "thank you" for the help that you have provided to them. It also provides a great opportunity to share Jesus Christ with them; most have no knowledge of Him. The Lord is doing great things in Cambodia and we are honored that He is using the Baptist Missionary Association of America!

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. -2-

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. -2-

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. -2-

Jimmy Daugherty, is available for service in the area of Pastor, Interim, Associate, or Pulpit supply as the Lord leads. He has been in the ministry since 2000 and has served in Mississippi and Texas. He has been married 14 years and has 4 children. For more information contact him at 903-975-0352, or 903-975-1026, or by email at jimmysuziedarty4@yahoo.com.

Sixth Annual

R and R Bible Conference • March 10-12

StoneRidge Baptist Camp • Smithville, Arkansas

Remember to bring your best sermon and leave your tie at home.

This Bible conference, founded in 2003, is fun, inspirational and affordable. Good food, good Bible preaching and good Christian fellowship, combined with a whole lot of fun is good medicine for the soul. Upon arrival and if you choose to participate, your name will be placed in a box and before each session, speaker's names are drawn out. While all will not get the opportunity to preach, all will need to be ready if they are selected.

This conference is held each March at StoneRidge Baptist Encampment located in Smithville, Arkansas. StoneRidge is well equipped and very user friendly to all that attend.

A person may participate in all or none of the events. Your time is yours to do as you please. Make plans to attend. We will be looking for you.

Cost is \$65, which covers six meals and two nights lodging. For more information, contact Paul White 870-710-1906 (cell), or 870-257-2945 (home), or 870-856-4060 (church), or by email: pvw@centurytel.net.

Activities include: Marksmanship, Horseshoes, Free Throw, Ping Pong, Checkers, Hammer Throw and Gold Chipping.

*This conference is financially underwritten
by the families of Ken and Richard White.*

A Strange Thing About Sin

It might seem natural to suppose that every time a man sins, he would know a little more about sin, its nature and its methods. Actually, the exact reverse is true. Every time he sins, he is making himself less capable of realizing what sin is, less likely to recognize that he is a sinner.

The really diabolical thing about sin is that it perverts a man's judgement. It stops him from seeing straight.

James S. Stewart via The Revivalist