

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

"Holding Forth The Word of Life"

Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXIII

St. Louis, MO • January 12, 2010

Issue No. 1

2009 Walk for the World....

Churches in Arkansas, Louisiana Win Free LifeWord Trips Abroad

Kewanee, Missouri, church comes in a close second in per capita giving

Springhill Baptist Church, Greenbrier, Arkansas, was the top contributor to the LifeWord **Walk for the World** at the close of the cut-off date of December 31, announces Diane Ward, national coordinator. Springhill contributed \$31,083 to take the top spot.

Hall Summit Baptist Church, Hall Summit, Louisiana, was the top per capita contributor to the Walk with offerings totaling \$12,300. With an average Sunday morning worship attendance of 50, the church's offering averaged \$246 per person.

Springhill and Hall Summit will each select two people to accompany a LifeWord production team on an all-expense-paid trip to an overseas destination, where they will witness the production of LifeWord programming and interviews with listeners, Ward said.

Southgate Baptist Church, Moore, Oklahoma, ran a close second to Springhill, Greenbrier, with a total contribution of \$27,157. Kewanee Baptist Church, Kewanee, Missouri, was second highest in per capita giving of \$149.41 per person (\$12,700 divided by the average worship attendance of 85). Those four churches were the top four contributors in the Walk, and their gifts equaled 21% of the total raised as of December 31.

Receipts of \$389,133 for the 2009 Walk were \$1,312 ahead of the \$387,821 total as of December 31, 2008, Ward reported.

Historically Walk offerings make a strong showing in January and continue to trickle in for a while before the fiscal year for the Walk closes on June 30, Ward explained. LifeWord received \$8,585 for the Walk on January 4. Last year a total of \$28,179 came in for the Walk between January 1 and June 30.

Regional Winners

Top contributors in each Walk for the World region receive an award from LifeWord. This year's regional winners are:

Springhill, Greenbrier (North and Central Arkansas Region), Wyatt, El Dorado (South Arkansas Region), Hall Summit, Hall Summit (Louisiana Region), Skyway Hills, Pearl (North and Central Mississippi Region), Evergreen, Seminary (South Mississippi Region), Kewanee, Kewanee (Missouri Region), Southgate, Moore (Oklahoma Region), Beacon Hill, Waco (Central West Texas Region), South Park, Fort Worth (Texas Metro-Plex Region), Rosewood, Gilmer (Northeast Texas Region), Center of Life, Houston (Southeast Texas Region), Helton Road, Theodore, Alabama (Southeast USA Region), Memorial, Fremont, California (West Coast Region) and New Home, Lansing, Michigan (At-Large Region).

Walk for the World receipts are used to underwrite LifeWord broadcasts currently in 33 languages every week and to develop programs in additional languages as God opens the door. LifeWord is targeting five new languages in 2010.

BMA of America Committee on Arrangements

Your Committee on Arrangements is happy to furnish you with this information for the 2010 meeting of our association in Fort Smith.

The Headquarters hotel will be the Holiday Inn located at 700 Rogers Ave. Hotels and rates to the BMA are:

- Holiday Inn, \$74; (479) 783-1000
- Courtyard by Marriott, \$87; (479) 783-2100
- Howard Johnson, \$69 (Outside), \$74 (Inside); (479) 494-7700

Reservations are to be made by calling the individual hotel/motel. Identify yourself as being with the Baptist Missionary Association of America for these special rates.

The Convention Center is located at 55 South Seventh St. The Convention Center is just a short distance from Rogers Ave. Take the Rogers Ave. exit off 540 exit and follow it to the Holiday Inn. The Holiday Inn is next door to the Convention Center.

Each messenger is responsible for their housing arrangements and you are encouraged to remain in your hotel through Wednesday night. Our good arrangement for the meeting place is dependent on the number of room nights at the local hotels.

Contact for all booths and displays should be with James Ray Raines.

The Committee on Arrangements wants to be of service to you. Let us know if we can help. For more information, you may contact any member of the Committee on Arrange-

61st Annual Meeting of the BMA of America

by Dr. Philip Attebery, BMA of America President

I invite every church in the BMA of America to be represented by attendance or official letter at the 61st annual meeting of the BMA of America. The meeting is scheduled for April 19-21, 2010 at the Fort Smith Convention Center in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

The theme for the meeting will be "*Get In The Way!*" The theme is based upon John 17:21 and will emphasize unity: "*That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou has sent me.*"

Jesus prayed for future believers to have unity. According to Jesus, proper unity will be essential evidence to the world that Jesus was sent by the Father. My prayer is that this annual meeting will inspire us to dedicate ourselves to being unified as Jesus envisioned.

Monday evening's session will focus on the meeting's theme. A concert by a combined Central Baptist College, Jacksonville College and Southeastern Baptist College choirs will precede the president's message. 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 the annual message by Jason Aultman. The annual meeting will climax with the Missions report and commissioning service on Wednesday night.

Remember that proposed constitutional amendments must be submitted in writing to the clerks of the association no later than Feb. 1. Please continue to pray for each ministry and individual supported by the BMA of America. May we be faithful to seek unity as we trust and obey our Lord!

DiscipleWay: 7 Disciplines for Maturing in Christ

A website is now available for those interested in learning more about DiscipleWay: 7 Disciplines for Maturing in Christ. The web address is www.discipleway.com.

DiscipleWay™ is a cooperative effort being led by the executive directors of the BMA of America to produce discipleship materials and to create a discipleship process that will assist pastors and churches in producing mature followers of Jesus Christ. The focus of DiscipleWay™ is upon seven spiritual disciplines: prayer, Bible study, worship, giving, witnessing, serving, and leading. Each discipline is essential for Christian maturity. Writing and curriculum de-

• See *WAY* Page 3 •

+++ NEWS BRIEFS +++

Antioch, Ellington, would like to let you and all our friends know that we are doing fine and praising God every day for all the blessings that we are receiving. Bro. Doyle Abbey from Potosi has accepted the pastoral duties at our church. We rejoice that Sis. Maudeline Burns' daughter had a kidney transplant and is doing good. We are having some wonderful, Spirit-filled services with our new pastor and his wife. They are a blessing to us. We have had a few visitors and are looking for more. We had a special service for Thanksgiving and give thanks to our wonderful Savior. We all have so much for which to be thankful. Some of our members have been sick, but are getting better for which we give thanks. Our prayers are being answered. We had our Christmas Dinner December 20th. We had to do some more work on the church. We invite you to come visit us any time you can.

Doyle Abbey, Pastor
Minnie Asberry &
Edith Burns, Reporters

Kewanee, Kewanee, sends Greetings and wishes for a Happy New Year to all. December was a busy month as the children practiced for their Christmas program and the adults worked on their cantata. The ladies enjoyed the Secret Sister Revealing at the church fellowship hall, catered by our very own Cheryl Franks. It was delicious! Sis. Kay Kimes was in charge of the games and she always makes it a fun time. Each lady in attendance received an ornament with their name and year on it. Heather Meyer was saved in our morning service December 6th and was baptized that evening along with Tyler Sprouse by Jason Redden, Tyler's uncle. Please pray for both of these as they start their new walk with Christ. The church was awed by our children's Christmas program, "A Not So Silent Night."

It was a trial scene of the shepherds telling what they had seen and heard the night of Christ's birth. We had about 25 children

ranging in ages 2-13. We had angels fluttering around the church and even had a cow and a donkey (alias, a couple of the younger children). The kids did a wonderful job and hats off to Kiley Adams for picking this program. Thanks to all that helped. Kiley and the kids could not have done this without your help! The Christmas Cantata was under the direction of Shelly Johnson. As always she did a great job! She put together familiar Christmas songs with the nativity scriptures. It was nice that the congregation could sing along with the choir. The children received treat bags the Sunday before Christmas and we passed out over 200 Christmas cards. We have our own little post office at Christmas and now we have a greater respect for all the mail handlers in our USPS. As the month is closing all the old flu bugs are making their best effort to put a damper on all the holidays and they have done a pretty good job! Maybe all this cold weather will put a damper on them. Its got to be good for something! We want to thank Bro. Webb Manley, Bro. Larry Tucker and Bro. Rocky Houston as they continue to fill in as we seek a pastor. Please continue to pray for us as we wait for God to send us a pastor. We know He has someone for us, it's our Job to pray, seek and WAIT! We are looking forward to serving God and to see great things happen in His name. Let's go into this new year-"Looking for that Blessed Hope and Glorious Appearing of the Great God, and our Saviour Jesus Christ."

Debbie Houston, Reporter

Bethany, St. Louis, has been blessed with many happy events this past month. Our annual Christmas Dinner was a huge success with many family and friends of members in attendance. Our Christmas Program, "The Christmas Story: Jesus Christ is the Same - Yesterday, Today and Forever" was presented in our sanctuary. This was a beautiful and moving presentation. Christmas

Baskets full of delicious fruits and snacks were prepared and delivered to several of our members. The recipients of these Baskets really appreciated them and the visits from those delivering them. Through gifts, our members provided some items for families in need. The church presented Bro. and Sis. Hoffmann a love offering for Christmas. Bro. Hoffmann has been our pastor since January 1988 (22 years). Some of our youth attended the Alive Conference and reported having a wonderful time. We look forward to a busy 2010 as we start it with our annual "Fifty Days of Prayer and Giving" Missions emphasis.

James Hoffmann, Pastor
Carol McDonald, Reporter

Charity, Bismarck, sends greetings. We had a good month seeking God's will through His Word and prayer. Our pastor opened the photo album and showed us Jesus in the manger, scenes of his boyhood in the Temple, His life, death and resurrection. Finally, not yet captured in pictures but just as sure is the next scene when He comes as Ruler, on a white horse followed by His saints. There were many visitors throughout the month. Vicky's best friend was here from Mississippi. The McGuires and Osbornes came from Illinois, The Fish family came from Emerson, Arkansas, and the Dudleys from O'Fallon. On the 20th we helped Sis. Ragan celebrate her 88th birthday with her family hosting the surprise at the Bismarck Airport. Our pastor helped in the ordination of Bro. Brian Buckley as a deacon at Bates Creek on the 27th. Three of our families enjoyed the New Year's Eve program with the Harper Family at Stony Point. We now have around 100 individuals and families on our weekly prayer list. There are other unspoken needs, the lost, the sick, the grieving, and they are all so important. One of our ladies, Becky, just underwent surgery and is recuperating at home. Her daughter, Ellen, is sched-

uled for surgery on the 19th of January. Two couples are each expecting their first child. God has blessed. Until we meet.

Lee Miller, Pastor
Melvin Meade, Reporter

Lower Doe Run, Ellington, reports it has definitely been a fast year!!! We have had many blessings from God in 2009, and one of the top on the list is that Bro. Denver Page accepted the position of pastor of our church. We have not had any additions in the 6 months he has been here, but we have made a lot of contacts and a lot of friends. Sis. Kathleen had her second eye surgery this month and it turned out well. Bro. Rayfield went back to Columbia to the doctor and got a good report also. December 11th, we had an open house at the parsonage. We had several of members come and 2 visitors, Butch and Judy Robbins. She is Bro. Roy William's daughter. We ate and sat around and told funny stories, some were true, some were not. It was enjoyed by all. Bro. Don Hoffmann and his wife, Thelma, visited us the 13th. They are in the process of moving back to Ellington and should be completely moved by the 1st week in January. We look forward to seeing more of them. Also, on the 13th, Sis. Helen Morris' daughter, Linda, and 4 of her 5 boys were present, and the Robbins from Hot Springs, Arkansas, visited in our morning services. My

daughter-in-law, Mary, had surgery the 30th of November, and is doing very well. December 16th, we had our Christmas program and fellowship. It turned out well. We were blessed to have Denver's son and his two youngest girls come in for a week at Christmas. It had been 5 years or so since he has been able to come in for Christmas. We had a wonderful Christmas. The church gave Denver the 20th off, so we could visit more with our family. We thank Bro. Leonard Compton for filling in that day. I hope that each one reading this has had a good year and is looking forward to serving the Lord to your fullest in the year to come. We would like to extend our sympathy to the Pape family and the Jim Bryant family. Until next month or the Lord's Return

Denver Page, pastor
Sharon Page, reporter

Bethel, Sikeston, reports that our ladies class and youth put a tree up and decorated it for Hunter Acres Caring Center here in Sikeston, it was such a blessing to see all their smiling faces when we plugged in the tree. The residents were so happy to see visitors and especially to see the children. We visited and sang for them. We need to remember ones who are in the nursing homes throughout the whole year. Some have no visitors at all, and are so excited to see chil-

• See NEWS Page 4 •

**The Missouri
Missionary Baptist**

Established by the Baptist Missionary Association
of Missouri November 1937

The Missouri Missionary Baptist (USPS 355-500) is published monthly
by the BMA of Missouri Publications Committee.

Subscription price is \$10.00 per year

11229 Midland Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63114

Periodical Postage Paid at St. Louis, MO 63155

POSTMASTER: Send address change to:

Missouri Missionary Baptist

11229 Midland Blvd.

St. Louis, MO 63114-1116

James E. Hoffmann, Editor

Ph: 314-429-0714 • E-Mail mmbpaper@charter.net • FAX 314-429-2526

Danny Kirk, Assistant Editor

DEADLINE for copy is the FIRST TUESDAY

of the month in which you want it to appear

See the MMB online at 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@gmail.com

CONTACT BRO. JONES AT:

410 Donegal Dr.
Smithville, MO 64089
816-866-4646 home • 573-631-6274 cell
E-mail: pastorjamiejones@gmail.com

SEND REVOLVING LOAN FUND OFFERINGS TO:

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

BMA of Missouri Website: www.bmamissouri.org

✝ From Our Workers ✝

From Our Director...

It seems like yesterday we were worried that the world (at least the technological world) was going to come to an end with "Y2K" (the year 2000). Now a short decade later (doesn't it seem short?), we have entered into the year 2010. We have a new year before us, as well as a new decade. What will we accomplish in it?

The ancient Romans thought the month of January was a time of beginnings with swinging doors and gates. From the door or gate you could see the past or turn to see the future. Matter of fact, the month of January was dedicated by the Romans to their god of Gates and Doors, Janus. In ancient art forms, he is commonly depicted with two faces...one looking to what is behind and the other looking forward to what lies ahead. Thus, Janus, represents the contemplation on the events of an old year while looking forward to the new.

When the year comes to an end, I find myself in a very

reflective state. Looking to the past can be helpful. If we are wise, a careful reflection on the past could help us to avoid making the same mistakes. The

past can create a baseline of knowing where we are at the moment, so we can begin there with hopes of further growth. If the ground is sure and secure, why cover old territory again? But we must be careful, for the past may carry some pitfalls and snares. Too many times we look back and pick up the burdensome weight of guilt, shame, regrets, and "what if". Perhaps what we need is a careful, wise, but quick glance to the past, but then turn our greatest energy to what lies ahead.

The apostle Paul offered wis-

dom to us when he stated: "...but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13-14

The Romans got it wrong with their worship of many gods. There is only one true God and you and I are blessed for we know the God who has an upward call for each one of us. So for the past, we are going to thank God for the schoolmaster and the old text book called 2009. With excitement, we also look forward to what God is going to do in and through each of us in 2010. The Apostle Paul was a "reaching forward" and "pressing toward" kind-of-guy. Like Paul, may we be in a dynamic state of "pressing" toward the goals that God has for us in 2010! May God bless the work of our association as we press forward to please Him!

From the Jones...

Greetings from Smithville, Missouri (seems like the North Pole)!

I am thankful for all God did in 2009, and I am looking forward to a great 2010 for North Lake Church in Smithville. Right now, we are beginning to plan for the summer, and plan to host several mission trips for

youth groups. Last summer well over 100 students and sponsors served Christ through many different projects here and we plan to do that, and more, again this year.

As I write this report, plans are underway to begin a youth Bible study this month at another home in the area. This is truly an "answer to prayer."

The Bible study at our home continues to go well, but we are asking God to open up more homes, to host more Bible studies this year. Please pray with us for this. We have held three worship services so far and we will be continuing with monthly "preview" type services for the first part of the year. Please pray that God is glorified with

Believing Without Seeing

Hebrews 11:1-6

by Joseph Harris via www.miniedition.net

Do you believe that John Quincy Adams was a real person? Do you believe that he served as a United States President? How would you answer these questions, since he lived so long ago and no one alive today has ever seen him? There are no eye witnesses. Yet, no one today seriously doubts he ever lived.

Do you believe that someone named Jesus actually lived almost 2000 years ago? Why? No one has ever seen Him. There are no eye witnesses available. Jesus pronounced a blessing upon those who would believe in Him without ever actually seeing Him. "...blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." (John 20:29). Notice the following three reasons to believe in the existence of Jesus.

His Descendants. We know John Quincy Adams lived because he has descendants verifiable by records. His family tree bears record to his existence. If for no other reason than this, anyone who doubted the existence of John Quincy Adams could check the records.

Jesus also has descendants. He never had any earthly children, but the number of his spiritual descendants has grown into the multiplied millions since His death. This fact alone is one of the greatest proofs of His existence.

His Deeds. Consider the works and deeds of John Quincy Adams. He was responsible for developing a policy known as The American System and his appointees in cabinet and judicial positions exerted influence that lived on.

Jesus has left a more powerful legacy of works, deeds, and miracles. Not even the greatest Old Testament prophet can claim to have performed all the miracles performed by Jesus. He also demonstrated the greatest example of forgiveness to the world when He died on the cross with a forgiving spirit toward those who killed Him.

His Documentation. History books are available for those who desire written proof for the existence of John Quincy Adams. Personal documents are available in museums proving the historicity of John Quincy Adams.

The Holy Bible is documentation of the life of Jesus. The Scriptures not only give an account of some of the life and ministry of Jesus, they also produce faith for man to believe in Christ. Proof is available for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear and you can believe in Jesus without ever having seen Him.

Note: If you need spiritual help or encouragement please contact the author at the address above or the editor of this publication using information in the box on page 2.

Jesus Is THE Answer to all our needs!!

• WAY From Page 1 •

velopment are in progress and plans are to introduce more detail of DiscipleWay™ at the 2010 annual meeting of the BMA.

Each page on the website includes an opportunity for individuals to join DiscipleWay™ as a prayer partner. A newsletter is sent to prayer partners weekly via email with specific prayer requests. The need for such partners and their daily prayers is tremendous. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will guide each person in the development of DiscipleWay™.

them and that He uses us to reach and rescue the hurting in Smithville.

Thanks to all of you, who so faithfully pray for God's blessings upon our ministry and the mission of planting New Testament Churches.

Happy New Year,
Jamie Jones
North Lake Church

• **NEWS From Page 2** • dren. There is an audience at all nursing homes, just waiting for God's love to shine on them. What a wonderful way to witness. Our children put on a Christmas musical. It was a wonderful message of giving. They did a great job, and Shelly Kinder has been so wonderful about teaching songs to all the kids. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Suzan celebrated their 41st Wedding Anniversary the 23rd. They are such an inspiration to see in their walk with the Lord and to carry that throughout their marriage. You see it in the love they have for one another. May they have many more blessed years together. We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and shared the real meaning of it with loved ones, friends, and even someone you don't even know. Have a wonderful and blessed New Year. Share the good news of our Lord Jesus with someone everyday of the year.

Jerry Adams, Pastor
Marcia Hickman, reporter

Emmanuel, Sikeston, finished December by welcoming Bro. Austin Henly as a new member. The Christmas program, "The Birth Of Jesus," under the direction of Sis. Donna Davis was a great blessing. A time of fellowship followed with a good attendance and lots of goodies. A needy family had been adopted and they graciously accepted their gifts with tears accompanying their gratitude. The New Year's Eve Watch service was a wonderful way to close out 2009. There was music, testimonies, and good preaching by Brethren Tim Bell and Jerry Adams from Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Sikeston, and of course good food and fellowship. The church has been saddened by the recent death of Bro. Gorman Hartlein. He and wife, Sis. Jean, were involved in a car accident near their home in early December. He passed away a few days later and she is still in the hospital recovering from serious injuries. Deepest sympathy is expressed to the family and prayer is requested for her recovery

and return to church services. Bro. Hartlein will be missed. Emmanuel will host the South East Missouri District Women's Missionary Auxiliary Tuesday evening, January 19, at 7:00 p.m. The WMA also enjoyed giving a festive Christmas luncheon for the Ladies Sunday School class. January 3rd was a glorious day. The preaching was excellent, the attendance was good, and we enjoyed the monthly birthday and anniversary luncheon. The evening service ended with Sis. Faye White coming to request church membership on the promise of a letter. In the past few months there have been souls saved, baptized and added to the church. We are looking forward to 2010 as a time of revival, salvation of souls, and church growth as we worship our LORD GOD, JEHOVAH! Billy Davis, Pastor
Vi Maclin, Reporter

Bethlehem, Doniphan, hosted the Youth in the Harvest in December. Bro. Grady Higgs, Director of BMAA Missions was the speaker. He spoke about the 50 Days of Prayer and gave a very good message. We had our Christmas fellowship dinner December 13 with good attendance and, as always, good food! Sis. Yvonne Hawkins, our youth teacher, organized a little Christmas skit that evening. She had to recruit a couple of high school girls to help our very limited number of young people. They did a very good job, and we enjoyed the program. Please keep Bethlehem Church and Bro. and Sis. Colburn in your prayers. Russell Chitwood, Pastor
Janice Colburn, Reporter

Ozark Heights, Potosi, says, "Hello to every one." We are like the rest of you, and have settled down a bit from a hectic pace but we had a very joyous month. Christmas has come and gone but Christ is still very much around and we are so thankful for that! The Christmas program was wonderful and was enjoyed by everyone; we are so thankful to all that worked to provide us a look at the reason for the season. We also had a

Christmas Cantata based on the precious name of Jesus, presented by Sis. Sara and the choir. It was so good and heart warming. Big thanks to everyone! Youth Alive is in Jefferson City this year and Bro. Brian and Sis Dawn are going and Bro. Matt Masson and Sis Geri Lawson will also be going to help with the youth. We have wonderful youth leaders in charge. Bro. Gary Gilliam is so good with them. The teens presented the program, which they have been working on over the last year, to the church Wednesday Dec 16th. They together built a workbook on How to Build Teen Christian Standards. We have been enjoying a great study on the life of Jacob on Sunday evenings and Bro. Brian is working hard to bring the Old Testament home! We enjoy every lesson! Our dear Sis. Dessie has not been doing well lately. The Church is praying hard for her recovery. Sis. Gurlean Lawson is also having health problems and has been in our prayers as well. Our hearts were saddened over Bro. Sam Eye's loss of a brother over the holidays; many knew Bro Sloman Eye personally. Have a Happy New Year and may God Bless us all.

Brian Meade, Pastor
Georgie Brokaw, Reporter

Bates Creek, Potosi, sends New Year's greetings to all of our sister churches. We had a very busy "end" to our year. Some of our ladies got to go hear the Fellowship Choir sing and enjoyed it very much. Our Christmas program was a candle lite program directed by Sis. Carol Pulliam. We are so blessed to have Sis. Carol as she always does such a nice job and is willing to do anything that is asked of her. The Christmas program was beautiful and was followed by a good fellowship. December 27th, Bro. Bryan Buckley was ordained as a deacon. Several from our sister churches helped with this service and we appreciated all of the ordained help. God's presence was in the service. May God bless and direct Bro. Bryan as he attends to God's work. Continue to remember

our church that we may have the man that God wants for our pastor and that our church will continue to grow in this new year.

Sara Buckley, Reporter

Friendship, Harviell, has been busy this past month. We are having visitors in our services and the Lord is blessing. November 22, we had a bridal shower for Alexandriaiah and Tyler Bollman who were married on November 28th. Bro. Ernie was gracious enough to drive the Church Bus to Bethany in St. Louis the day of the wedding so some of us could attend. We wish the best for them as they start their new life together. We had 15 who attended the Youth In the Harvest at Bethlehem this month and brought home the Highest Youth banner and Highest Attendance Banner. We had a spirit-filled service December 13th. Ashley Oxley (a teenager) presented herself as a candidate for baptism and Cecil and Nadine Cate joined on the promise of a letter. In the afternoon, we had a baby shower for Sarah Beth Armes and Baby Reese. December 16th is surprise Bible study Night. Sometimes it gets rather deep- but it is enjoyed by all. December 23 at 7:00 p.m. we will be having our Christmas Program " King Jesus." The youth have been working hard on the program. We are looking forward to a wonderful service. We would like to welcome you to the January Youth In Harvest at Friendship, (Skit- F.R.O.G. class) as well as the 3rd Sunday singing in January. Sis. Becky Cate had surgery December 10th and Bro. George Moore had a knee replaced December 15th. Sis. Shirley Dowd had emergency gall bladder surgery December 11th in Poplar Bluff. Keep these folks in your prayers.

Ernie L Cate, Pastor
Thelma Dunlap, Reporter

MT. Zion, Poplar Bluff, sends greetings and announces its WMA will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary February 9, 2010 at 1:30 P.M. in Fox Fellowship Hall at the Church. We

want to invite anyone who can attend, to come and join us as we enjoy the wonderful memories of our study of God's Word and projects we have supported during these past 50 years. Sis. Wilma Fox was honored on her 80th birthday December 19, with a celebration in the fellowship hall, hosted by her family. About 75 friends and relatives joined in the fellowship and Christian love for this memorable occasion, for a faithful and a real servant of God. Three other ladies from our church turned 80 during 2009. Please pray for our church as we seek a pastor of God's choosing. We have enjoyed messages from several different men of God, while we wait for God to send us a pastor.

Dorothy Goldschmidt, Reporter

First, Potosi, says, many good wishes and God's protection to all of you this new year. First Baptist was blessed with the baptism of Sarah Deal, Benjamin Haguewood and Caleb Jarvis into our membership. Our church observed the Lord's Supper this month. A group visited the Georgian Gardens nursing home for a inspirational service. The Pastors of our church invited the Deacons and their wives to a dinner and fellowship which was well attended. Bro. Jamie started a new program of assigning two deacons each week to help with visitation and care of church members. We were very sorry to lose one of our faithful deacons in death this month. Bro. Sloman Eye had been a member of our church since 1949 and a deacon since 1956. He and his late wife, Ethel, were dedicated members and helped research the history of our church for many years. The Christmas Program was "Praise His Name." Volunteers bought and wrapped gifts for the van children. Volunteers prepared and delivered thirty-three food baskets and other volunteers signed up as "bell ringers" to help those in need in our county. The men had their monthly breakfast the 19th, the Youth attended the Alive Conference, and the Naomi & Ruth

• See **NEWS Page 5** •

Moral Action Committee

BMA of America

Dr. John M. Adams, Executive Director

P.O. Box 305 • Mantachie, MS 38855

Telephone 662-231-3863 • Home 662-282-4923 • Fax 662-282-7500

Email: fbcjdmaj@yahoo.com • Web: www.fbcmantachie.net

Capital Punishment - Our Judeo-Christian Heritage

Leviticus 24:17

According to Scripture, the Bible favors the death penalty. Capital punishment not only deters crime; it is the ultimate and greatest deterrent because the murdering criminal realizes that the imposition of sentencing will mean no probation and no parole. Society, according to God's law, has a right to defend itself and take the life of those who commit murder with premeditation.

I. Capital Punishment is taught in the Scriptures.

Genesis 9:4-6 teaches that life is precious made in God's divine image. Murder is a strike at God, who created man. God requires, according to Genesis 9:6, the life of the murderer.

The laws and ordinances of Exodus again remind us in Exodus 21:12-15, of the sacredness of life. James 1:14-15 describes the corruptibility of sin that bringeth forth eventual death. It is the right of the people to impose capital punishment for murder offenses.

Other scripture references declare God's intentions toward life. These Scriptures are: Exodus 20:13, Exodus 21:23-25, Romans 13:3-5, and Acts 25:10-12.

II. Many Governmental Laws Seek To Banish Capital Punishment.

In 1972, in the case of Furman versus Georgia, the US Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that capital punishment was unconstitutional. This nullified the existing death penalty statues in forty states and the sentences of six hundred and twenty-nine death-row inmates.

On July 2, 1976, the Supreme Court ruled 7-2 in the Gregg versus Georgia case that the death penalty, at least for the crime of murder, is not a cruel or unusual punishment. Presently, state legislatures have passed death penalty statues, yet there is not a federal death penalty legislation on the books.

After World War II, the death penalty became less popular. Newsweek stated, "there were 82 executions in 1950; 49 in 1959; and finally two executions in 1967." Much of the decline resulted as a result of legal battles that were waged by the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union).

III. Our American Society is Concerned

According to a recent Gallup poll, sixty-five percent of Americans now favor capital punishment. This percentage is up from forty-two percent in 1986. Most people believe that capital punishment is an effective public deterrent to murder and a permanent deterrent in preventing the murderer from committing additional crimes inside or outside of prison.

At least one study by Dr. David Phillips, a sociologist at the University of California at San Diego, confirms that capital punishment acts as a "deterrent to murder for at least two weeks after a highly publicized execution. On the average, homicides decrease by 35.7%," explained Dr. Phillips.

Death penalty executions are such a slow process now due to the ability of criminals to appeal and appeal. Many people are beginning to complain. "I feel the same way the majority of people in the United States feel about the death penalty," stated former Texas Judge Michael McSpadden. "Enough is enough of these appeals. It's time to enforce the laws."

Former Governor, George Deukmejian, probably brought the

• NEWS From Page 4 •

ladies went caroling. A list of readings for the whole Bible in the year 2010 was passed out with our weekly bulletin. The JOY group sponsored donations for the purchase of a 26 passenger shuttle bus which will be easier to board than the vans. May the new year bring blessings to your church, and the joining with our church in prayer for our missionaries and our country.

Jamie Haguewood, pastor
Beverly Simpson, reporter

Zion, St. Louis, sends Happy New Year greetings to all her sister churches. We pray the Lord will richly bless you in the New Year. Zion went through

"delay" issue more into focus when he complained that of all the men on the California Death Row, the state Supreme Court had reviewed the cases of twenty three and of that number only thirteen convictions had been upheld.

Senator Dennis DeConcini (D. Arizona) writing in the American Legion magazine, presented the use of capital punishment into correct perspective:

"If we in this country are to administer a successful criminal justice system, we must first consider what qualifies as justice. Obviously, the most simple and direct form of justice is restitution-compensative to one who has been wronged. But in reality, restitution often is not possible. When an innocent human life has been lost, restitution is not among the options from which blind justice can choose. Punishment becomes the alternative. It logically follows that the more severe the crime, the more severe the punishment applied. We have, in this nation, admirably adhered to the protection of individual rights; yet we should not in that process forsake our responsibility to protect the rights of society as a whole. And, in these cases (murder cases where the murderer was sane and represented a threat to society)...capital punishment emerges as the only vehicle for ensuring those rights."

some changes in 2009... some good and some not so good. We lost a faithful member in Bro. Van Widger when he moved to Texas to become the Business Manager for the BMAA Theological Seminary. It took three people to fill positions he held at Zion. During 2009 Zion started a web page that is doing very well under our web master, Sis. Jacqueline Baker. To see Zion's web page go to: www.zionbc-bmaa-stl.com. Zion appreciates her pastor, Dennis Baker, for all the fine messages on Sunday and the interesting studies on Wednesday evening. We also appreciate Bro. Baker and the work he does through the AmHeart Hospice program. We continue to keep the first Wednesday of each month strictly for praying for the needs of the church, associational work, spiritual, health and personal needs of our church family and friends. The Lord has blessed and answered prayer. Several have experienced sickness over the past year but the

Lord was faithful in returning health to each one. We pray the Lord will continue to use Zion to be a lighthouse in Oakville.

Dennis Baker, Pastor
Norma Womble, Reporter

Oak Hill, Alton, sends greetings. What a beautiful wintry day we are experiencing! Snow flakes are lazily falling--seemingly a surprise to the weather forecasters. We haven't had any measurable snow yet this winter but many of you have as we have learned. We continue to have visitors. Recently one of our regular visitors, Jim Pendergrass, was saved and joined our fellowship. Prior to Jim's salvation, one of our members was saved and a few weeks later another member was saved. Our pastor challenged us this morning to seek the Lord, Find Him, Follow Him, and Trust Him for 2010. Then we can expect to experience more souls being saved.

Edward Casey, Pastor
Marianne Hufstedler, Reporter

Attebery Accepts LifeWord Position

Charles Attebery of El Dorado, Arkansas, has joined the staff of LifeWord Media Ministries as chief development officer for the international missionary radio organization headquartered at Conway, Arkansas, according to an announcement by Executive Director George Reddin.

Attebery will assist the executive director and other staff members in fund raising and will also serve as executive of the LifeWord Foundation.

Attebery was president of Central Baptist College at Conway 1990-2004 and was CBC vice president for institutional advancement before assuming the presidency.

He also served as assistant to the director of Ministers Resource Services, Texarkana, Arkansas, and business manager of Jacksonville (Texas) College and was pastor of churches in Arkansas and Texas before beginning his work at CBC.

"Charles Attebery is well-known among BMA Baptists and in the Conway business community as a highly effective development officer and friend-raiser, and we are pleased to welcome him to LifeWord to assist us in meeting the challenges of a new era of media missionary outreach," Reddin said.

Steve Crawley, LifeWord chief financial and operating officer, has served the ministry as development director and LifeWord Foundation executive for five years and looks forward to the strength Attebery adds to the ministry.

"We are delighted to have someone with Charles's credentials working to advance the ministry of LifeWord. His administrative and development skills, coupled with his years of experience, provide additional strength to the LifeWord team," Crawley said.

The LifeWord Board of Directors approved the creation of the new position, which became effective January 4.

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

2010 WMA Retreat

Ladies, 2010 is now upon us! **October 8 & 9 will be here before you know it.** Make plans now to attend the Missouri WMA sponsored retreat which will be at Zeno's in Rolla.

We are so pleased be able to offer a package deal which will assist the committee with registration details.

Early registration fee (before September 1, 2010) will be \$50. This includes three meals. After September 1, 2010 the registration fee will be \$60. and also includes three meals.

There will be early registration forms available at the MO WMA meeting at Zion March 6, 2010. However, you can beat the rush. Just send the registration fee (check made out to MO WMA), name of person, address, phone number and name of church to:

Janet Widger • 7409 Rupert Ave. • St. Louis, MO 63117

I am hoping to have a very special gift for the first 10 paid registrations.

Please pray for our speaker, Sis. Jerene Reddin, as she prepares to come and bless our hearts.

2010 Missouri State Women's Missionary Auxiliary Meeting

Ladies, the 41st meeting of the Missouri WMA will meet **March 6, 2010, at Zion Baptist Church** in Oakville, Missouri (South St. Louis County). The address is 3485 Baumgartner Road.

This will conclude 40 years of service to God through the Missouri WMA. We would like to celebrate the past 40 years, and look forward to the next 40 years and beyond.

As part of the program, we would like to include some thoughts and comments from ladies who have worked in the WMA of Missouri. We want to know how the WMA worked in your life, how you may have been influenced by being a part of a WMA, what you enjoyed about WMA, etc. Please send a note or letter to **Connie Reifsteck, P. O. Box 190493, St. Louis, MO 63119** or email to **connierentals@yahoo.com**.

Our program is based on service: rejoicing over the past 40 years of service, reflecting on our current service, and reaching out in the future to areas of service where God may call us.

Mrs. Diane Spriggs, Editor of *The Baptist Trumpet* of Arkansas, will be our program speaker.

We're still praying for 100 groups or individual ladies to give \$40 to the state project fund. Our project will support Camp Garwood and the Missouri Baptist Paper. Since there won't be a retreat silent auction this year to benefit Camp Garwood, we need to really support this project. Your participation will help us reach and perhaps exceed this goal.

We're looking forward to a great meeting, and want to include as many of your thoughts and comments as possible. Please plan to attend this celebration.

Connie Reifsteck
President, Missouri WMA

Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee, Director
P.O. Box 163 • Mountain View, Arkansas 72560
Email: kingofthemountain@mvtel.net
WebSite: travisplumlee.com

Parents VS. Grandparents

Surely it won't hurt the little one to not take a nap today at the grandparents house. After all, it is the holidays. Maybe a parent might make a request like this: "Come on mom, please stop giving Bud and Budette cookies before dinner. We don't even allow them to have chocolate at this age." Grandma might respond with: "Oh snicker doodle! We gave y'all bowls of chocolate when you were younger than them, and you turned out okay."

Parents suddenly realize that their own parents were not so stupid when they have their own kids. But parents also will have the right to raise their children in the way they think is best. This sometimes will come into conflict with the way the grandparents raised their own kids, and how they think their grandchild should be raised. Everyone involved has to show humbleness, mercy and love to get through these moments in the clash of the generations. Be sensitive to each other's desires. Never forget, we all want the best for the children/grandchildren.

Let's don't ruin family get-togethers with a boxing match. Can you imagine family fight night. The bell sounds. Ding! Tonight's match is between the new upcoming parents versus the defending champion grandparents. Over in this corner, weighing in at 300 pounds together, wearing the latest faddish shorts and tops that match, looking high strung and wrung out are the parents. And over in this corner weighing in at a rough estimate of 400 pounds in the droopy drawers, the stained tops with a tear and a look of who cares, are the grandparents.

Round One - Parents take the first swing. "These are our kids, and we will raise them how we think." This is a technical knockout from the beginning. It is true. No matter how you think your adult children are raising their kids wrong, you can't undermine their authority (unless there is abuse). They are the parents. Put yourself in their shoes. Would you have appreciated a meddling from parents or in-laws when you were their age? I know you may have wisdom that actually is a smart thing for them to do. I know you may be only trying to help. But you have to go by the parents' rules. Grandparents are not permitted to undermine the rules established by the parents because it will cause the kids to rebel against the parents. Honoring and obedience are the two biggest ground rules established in the Bible for children in response to their parents. Ephesians 6:1,2. You must never even give a hint to the grandchildren that they are being raised wrong. You can't say anything to the grandkids when the parents aren't around. You can't knowingly go against the parent's rules even if you think they are dumb rules. In some cases, you may have to bite your tongue a lot which is why most boxers wear a mouth piece.

Round Two - Grandparents give a sucker punch. Parents need to realize that this is one of the few joys that grandparents have. Many things have changed. Jobs. Health. Get up and go has done got up and left. But having grandkids is a crown to people according to scripture. So, you have to let the grandparents have some slack. If they overindulge them when the kids visit, let it roll. You can always tell your kids that the grandparents are allowed to give y'all stuff and let you occasionally stay up late and eat ice cream because it is a special occasion. It is special days to visit grandma and grandpa. However, we are allowing you to do that. But you still have to obey us, and the rule is no ice cream before bed. Parents need to simmer down and put their egos aside. Your parents weren't perfect. They made mistakes. You have the right to do things differently to avoid those

Involving your Church in
**Fifty Days of
Praying and
Giving**

special Missions
emphasis will be a
blessing to your church
and people "across the
street and around the
world."

Contact BMAA Missions Today:
Call 501-455-4977 or
Email bmaam@bmaam.com

mistakes. But it doesn't mean you have to see everything your parents say or do as a confrontation to your authority. Your parents do have wisdom. Wisdom comes with age. Don't bristle every time they offer some advice. Some of the things they could tell you really could help you. Grandparents should not constantly criticize or offer advice. I think it would be wise to offer advice when asked for it. If there is some glaring problem that you know could help them, then take them away out of earshot from the kids and gently and lovingly offer help. At that point, you have to punt. Let it go. The parents will either take the advice or reject it and you can't control it.

These are general rules. If grandparents raise the kids, or baby-sit for them much of the week, then the grandparents have to be allowed to discipline the kids as well. Parents should clearly state what the expectations are for eating, disciplining and sleeping. All grandparents should be allowed some lee way to spoil. The fewer visits they have, the more this can occur. (That is like 3 or 4 visits per year is all the grandparents get) Bottom line is that parents can't be undermined. Grandparents should be afforded a wide arena to interact with their grandkids. Never do anything that keeps grandkids from experiencing the unconditional love of grandparents. You parents may have a problem with your parents or in-laws, but the kids don't. Please, don't rob your kids of the joy of having a relationship where they are not held in strict accountability - they are just held.

Meramec Banner

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

Meramec Missionary Committeemen Meeting

When: Saturday, February 27 beginning @ 9:00 AM

Where: First Baptist Church, Potosi, MO

Missionary Tony Crocker will be our special guest and he will be speaking on the subject: *"Missions...Right Under Our Noses"*.

The emphasis for this meeting will be local missions. God gave the church a big task to win the world, but we must not forget our responsibilities to our Jerusalem and Samaria. Pastors, bring a group with you from your church! Lunch will be provided.

From the internet....

My Credit Report

If my life was a credit report and I was trying to obtain salvation, based on my score, **I wouldn't get it.**

My history shows that I've been delinquent in **praise**, past due in **prayer**, my **worship** has been in collections and I've missed a few **payments** (tithes) or only paid half (you know how we put \$20 in the basket and feel like we've done God a favor). Not to mention that my debt (sin) to income (blessings) ratio is too high.

BUT I thank God that I was able to file bankruptcy (repentance) and it cleared me of all my debt (sin). Now I have a co-signer (Jesus) whose score is **FLAWLESS**; not one blemish (sin) on his report.

So now, I **QUALIFY** for EVERYTHING! Most importantly, I've inherited eternal life and I didn't have to put one penny down. All of my closing costs were covered when Jesus laid down His life for me!!! I hear that my future home has all of the upgrades too.

Thank You Lord for Your unmerited mercy, grace, and favor!! **Note:** We cannot be good enough, pay enough, work enough, beg enough or do anything else to obtain our salvation. We are spiritually bankrupt. Jesus offers us the **FREE GIFT** of Salvation and it is ours when we confess and repent of our sin, ask Him to forgive us, and trust His promise that He will give us complete forgiveness of our sins. Praise God for His unspeakable gift. Accept it while you have the opportunity. Today!!

Thoughts About Serving God

- Some people want to serve God, but only as advisors...

- It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one...

- When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there...

- People are funny; they want the front row at the sporting event, the middle of the road, and the back of the church...

- Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong...

- If the church wants a better pastor, it only needs to pray for the one it has...

- I don't know why some people change churches; what difference does it make which one you stay home from?

All Are Welcome to Attend a:

Fry, Cry, and Lie Supper

When: Friday, March 5 beginning @ 6:00 PM

Where: Bethel Baptist Church, Lonedell, MO

Special Guest will be Chuck Buck, CEO of Buck Knives, Inc in Post Falls, Idaho. Bring your Buck knives if you want him to sign and bring your unchurched hunting buddies to hear the gospel. Several knives will be given to some fortunate guests.

Need more info? Contact Pastor Ben Kingston at 314-640-3633

Meramec Missions Director's Report

In December I was able to visit with the Jamie Jones family in Smithville for a couple of days. I was fortunate to attend one of their Wednesday night Bible studies and meet some of the new people who attend NorthLake Church. As people entered into the home they noticed the "new big guy" (me!) and immediately realizing I was a new face, came over to me and introduced themselves and made me feel welcome. I commend all of them for taking the initiative to make a new person feel at home with them. We then settled down for a great Bible study from the book of James and Bro. Jamie did a great job of leading the discussion. Again, realizing that Bible study was a new experience for many of these people, I was impressed with how they jumped into the discussion. During the adult study, Rebekah and another lady took the children to another area for their time of Bible activities. The whole evening was filled with life, laughter, and an earnestness to learn about God. God is doing a good work with the Jones family! As a matter of prayer, Bro. Jamie desires to open up a couple more Bible studies in different homes. Let's pray that more families will be open to a study in their home.

Our February meeting for the Meramec Association will be held at First Baptist in Potosi. Pastor Jamie Haguwood has a heart for missions and for the churches of our association. He has planned a challenge for our churches to get involved in missions "across the streets." Missionary Tony Crocker will be the special speaker for the meeting following a brief business meeting. The activities will begin at 9:00 a.m. and all are welcome to attend.

Please notice the advertisement for the Fry, Cry, and Lie Supper hosted by Bethel Baptist in Lonedell. It is my understanding that Bethel has hosted this event before that is centered around some good fried food, stories about the one that got away, and other stories that may stretch the imagination. An added bonus is that Chuck Buck, CEO of Buck Knives, will be there to share his testimony. This will be a great time to bring your hunting buddies to a casual and fun event where the gospel will be shared. If the Lord wills, I hope to be there and see some of you. Man, do I have a story to tell....

Meramec Landmark Baptist Association Financial Report • December 2009

Balance November 30, 2009	\$	9,733.86
Total Receipts:	\$	<u>3,958.57</u>
Total Available	\$	13,692.43
Disbursements:		
Danny Kirk	1,100.00	
Director's Christmas Gift	1,100.00	
RLF Transfer	250.00	
BMA of MO (Partnership)	500.00	
Jamie Jones Designated Funds	534.16	
Brotherhood Mutual	621.58	
Jones Christmas Gift	500.00	
Advisory Committee	150.00	
Postage	9.30	
Training Supplies	<u>21.00</u>	
Total Disbursements:	\$ 4,786.04	\$ (4,786.04)
Checking Balance, December 31, 2009:	\$	8,906.39
Revolving Loan Fund Balance	\$	40,293.71

The Greatest Miracle

Of all the miracles performed - Upon this earth
The greatest is a life transformed - Changed by rebirth.
The Lord alone can heal the soul - That's marred by sin,
His Spirit come and makes it whole - And dwells within.
That sould dwells in darkness no more- For GOD is Light,
It will, when this short ife is o'er - With GOD unite!

Retired Pastor Called Home

Elder Herbert Charles Pape, age 97, made his journey to heaven Friday, December 11, 2009, to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and many friends and loved ones who awaited him.

Bro. Pape was preceded in death by his wife, Violet E. Pape (nee Felchila), and is survived by his children: Herbert L. (Carolyn) Pape, Wesley A. (Nancy) Pape, Ola M. (Ray) Preston, Janet A. (Ken) Howard, and Mary Beth (Charles) Miller; 20 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren and many other family members and friends. He had pastored several churches in Missouri during his many years in the ministry.

His funeral was December 15 under the direction of Baue Funeral Home in St. Charles, Missouri, with burial in Mount Evergreen Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Northside Missionary Baptist Church, 1920 North Street, St. Charles, MO 63301.

A "Jabez" Kind of Year for the Shepherd Bags™ Ministry

Since becoming popular several years ago, it is common to associate the phrase "enlarging your territory" from the popular Bible study, The Prayer of Jabez with God opening up more doors than you thought possible or giving you more than you ever thought He would. That's the way Evangelistic International Ministries has to describe the year we've had in the Shepherd Bags™ Ministry as God has certainly done that and more in 2009. To say that it has been a banner year would be an understatement in so many ways.

First, we've had a record number of reports from overseas and seen for ourselves while on the mission field; children and adults come to Christ because of receiving a bag. Second, we sent out the largest number of bags since the beginning of the ministry. Our 2009 Breakdown for each country was: 11,238 bags shipped to Ghana, 13,174 bags shipped to the Philippines and 2,126 bags ready for Honduras. That makes a total of 26,538 Bags!

When you consider that for each time several hundred bags are taken into an area to be distributed, multitudes will hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ preached. It's possible that 100,000 or more will hear the blessed Gospel, many of those never having heard before.

Also, this year was the first time that EIM took a team of ladies into the bush of Africa! Those instrumental in raising the funds for a well in Bolga from Conway Christian School went to view the well and see firsthand what God had done with their dream of providing fresh water for that area.

While there, the team went to numerous villages sharing the Gospel and handing out over 3,500 Shepherd Bags™.

Last but certainly not least, we've had a group in Atlanta, Texas, and a couple in El Dorado, Arkansas, who have opened their hearts and started Shepherd Bags™ assembly stations. This means they purchase the contents for the bags, set up an area to work and assemble bags throughout the year. They then bring them to Magnolia to be boxed for shipping.

This year we hope to have them boxed at each station. With our main assembly station in Warren, Arkansas, the Honduras assembly station in Creola, Alabama, and one at Brister Baptist in Emerson, Arkansas, that brings our total to five stations that assemble bags.

We prayed for more bags this year because the need was so great. God not only gave us more bags but He gave us more workers with a heart for children to see them saved. I'd say that's a getting your "territory enlarged" kind of thing for sure!

As always, none of this could be done without the churches and individuals who made it possible. It could not work without you. For instance, we had a GMA district that adopted the Shepherd Bags™ Ministry for a mission's project for an entire year. A pastor and his dear wife drove several hours to deliver them and when they arrived it was an entire truckload; almost 1,000 bags! A precious lady makes bags on her own and sends down a couple boxes several times a year. So whether one bag, a dozen or several

thousand, God can take them and do amazing things. Only Heaven knows the impact you've had this year.

Our goal for 2010 is 50,000 bags! It's possible if God's people get on board. We plan to send bags into Pakistan, Ghana, the Philippines, and Honduras this year. If any church, group or individual would like to help us reach our "Jabez" goal in 2010, we welcome you to help us carry the Great Commission through a small zip loc bag to children around the world.

If you'd like more information, just email:

fnorris@eimworldwide.org

Don't Quit!!

Nehemiah 4:1-14

by Joseph Harris
via www.miniedition.net

Nehemiah is probably the most outstanding example of perseverance in the Bible. He persevered in rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem in the face of great difficulties.

Another man in more recent history persevered 28 years before achieving greatness. First, he lost his job in 1832. One year later, he failed in a business venture. In 1835, his sweetheart died; and the next year, he suffered from a nervous breakdown. Seven years later, he entered a bid for Congress and was defeated. He was however, elected to Congress in 1846, but lost five years later. Six more years passed, he tried again and was defeated in a bid for the Senate. In 1856, he lost the nomination for vice-president. Two years later, he was defeated again for the Senate. Then, in 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States of America.

Though Nehemiah did not have to persevere 28 years to rebuild the wall, the setbacks he suffered were just as powerful as those of Lincoln. Actually, Nehemiah's problems may have been more severe, since he was fighting a spiritual battle for the glory of God.

Nehemiah was successful because he remained focused on his goal. When he and the people received word that their enemies were about to attack, he rallied the people together and stationed them by family around the weakened and exposed ar-

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.

Perrin Seay, a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church in LeMay, Missouri, is willing to go anywhere the Lord leads to preach or pastor. You may contact him by phone: 314-402-0906, or by email: papaseay@yahoo.com. -11-

Rick Blair, of Potosi, is available for preaching appointments. Contact him by phone: 573-330-2933. -11-

Webb Manley - Looking for a King James Bible Believing Baptist to fill your pulpit? Please give me a call. Available for preaching engagements as the Lord leads and will travel as needed. Currently a member at Bethel Baptist Church in Sikeston, MO (Pastor Jerry Adams). Call 573-748-2471 (home) or 573-521-8282 (cell). -10-

Tim Bell from Bethel, Sikeston, is available to be used as the Lord directs. Contact him at 401 Virginia, Sikeston, MO 63801 or by phone at 573-471-5063, or cell phone 573-475-0517 -10-

Rocky Houston, a member of Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church is available for pulpit use. Contact him at his home at 573-748-5879 after 4:00 p.m. -10-

Jacksonville College, Jacksonville, Texas...

JAG DAY 2010

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and is planning on a happy New Year. One sure way is to be sure to visit Jacksonville College for JAG DAY 2010, our upcoming campus visit day for prospective students. There will be informative sessions on admissions and financial aid along with concerts by the JBC Choir and our resident student-led praise band "Refuge Band" along with free lunch, campus tours, and free admission to the basketball games.

If you are interested in music performance (choir or band) or theater performance, there will be auditions for scholarships worth over \$5000 per year.

RSVP ASAP to reserve your spot today! The fun kicks off at 9:30 on January 30, 2010. Discount overnight accommodations available at the Jacksonville LaQuinta Inn. Ask JBC Admissions for details.

Danny Morris, Director of Admissions

Jacksonville College

Affordable • Personal • Christian • Education

More information:

<http://www.jacksonville-college.edu/documents/JBCInfo2.pdf>

Application:

<http://www.jacksonville-college.edu/documents/Application.pdf>

east of the wall. When the enemy heard their attack plan was known to the Israelites, they withdrew. *"It came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known unto us, and God had brought their counsel to nought, that we returned all of us to the wall, everyone unto his own work."* Nehemiah 4:15.

The people remained focused on the goal at hand. They did not stop to have a praise and thanksgiving service, though they were surely thankful in their hearts. They did not get sidetracked and build a stone memorial for this day to be remembered forever. Instead, they immediately went back to work to finish the job.

The writer of Hebrews gives encouragement in perseverance. *"Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."* 12:1, 2.

When you feel that you are at the end of your rope, tie a knot in the end of the rope and hold on. Hang in there. Don't quit! Victory is coming, for *"we shall reap, if we faint not."* Galatians 6:9. Stay with the job at hand!