

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

"Holding Forth The Word of Life"

Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXIII

St. Louis, MO • June 8, 2010

Issue No. 6

To The Churches of the BMAA

It has been my privilege to serve the churches of the BMAA as Executive Director of Missions for the past seven years. It has been a wonderful experience and I thank God for allowing me to serve Him in this capacity. As I close this stage of ministry, I do so with thanksgiving to God for all of His blessings upon BMAA Missions. I also carry a deep sense of gratitude for the pastors and members of BMAA churches throughout the world for their support and cooperation.

My life has been significantly enriched by being a part of the mission work of the BMAA. I have been so blessed as I have interacted with our missionaries, pastors, and churches. God has truly blessed the BMAA with some of His finest men and women who serve as our missionaries. It has been a blessing to visit various mission fields and to witness their work as well as the dedication and work of our Foreign Nationals.

I thank God for the privilege of serving with the fine men and women in the office, and for those who have served on the Advisory Committee during my tenure in the Missions Office. Another rich blessing has been to see the response of our people

enrolling in the Intercessory Prayer Force. How wonderful it has been to see their commitment in bringing our missionaries to God in prayer each day.

I thank my dear wife, Norita, for her faithful support in this ministry. The truth is, I couldn't have done it without her.

Norita and I thank you for your prayers, your invitations to visit your churches and the opportunities to share in the work of BMAA Missions. We have grown to love our people as we visited in hundreds of churches and associations. You

have been such a blessing to us.

Words cannot express our shock at your generosity shown to us at the recent meeting of the BMAA in Fort Smith. Thanks for your kind words, your expressions of thanks and the gift of a vacation in Hawaii. We appreciate your kindness and love so much.

How thankful I am that God has raised up Dr. John David Smith to serve as our new Executive Director. He is a man of vision and commitment to Christ. God has especially prepared him to lead in every facet of mission work. Dr. Smith is one of the finest

"That Day"

This is the theme of the 2010 BMA of Missouri State Youth Camp which is July 26-29. We are excited about the potential of camp this year and hope you are making plans to be there and to bring many young people with you.

Pray for camp evangelists Don Burke and Ben Kingston as they prepare for the services and for the Harper Family as they present the music.

If we are going to continue to offer a "Free Camp" we MUST have MORE Free La-

bor young men I know and he will do an excellent job of leading our mission program to new levels of excellence. He is assuming a role with gigantic responsibilities and he, and his family, will need your prayerful support in every way.

In my opinion, it is time for us older men to step aside and thrust younger men into positions of leadership, and to walk along beside them as they lead. God is raising up a new generation of young men who are anointed of God as pastors of BMAA churches and they need to assume positions of leadership in our Association. I praise God that John David Smith is one of these.

I will continue to assist Dr. Smith anyway he desires. My prayer is that our Father in Heaven will continue to pour out His blessings upon the BMAA and that we will continue to increase our effectiveness in making disciples throughout the nations. May God be glorified through the work of BMAA Missions as we reach the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

With Brotherly Love,
Grady Higgs

bor to keep the camp in good condition and make it more appealing to campers. Please contact Bro. Chris Polk at 573-380-1975 and let him know when you can come to Camp Garwood and help with the work to be done.

We also need more offerings to keep the bills paid! It is amazing how much a "Free Camp" costs to have each year. We want to be able to invite others to come and enjoy the camp without them having to worry about how to pay for it, but we must keep the offerings coming because the expenses never cease. Make sure your church sends an offering with your campers and at least help pay for the insurance and food.

Bro. Chris works hard to keep the camp grounds looking good

but he should not be the only one doing the work. Your help is appreciated.

Pray for this to be a great camp and for many souls to be saved. Pray for the young people who attend that they will let God have first place in their lives. Pray for the homes that will be represented at camp and that doors into homes will be opened because of camp.

Camp Garwood is a wonderful opportunity for outreach and we pray that we will be ready to do all we can to reach souls, build lives and glorify God at camp this year.

God bless each who gives of their time, talents, tongues and treasures to help us reach others through this ministry. Thank God for the good leadership we have and for His blessings!

BMA of Missouri Mission Symposium and Midyear Meeting

Friday, May 14, 2010, those attending the annual BMA of MO Mission Symposium were treated to many blessings and challenges as we gathered at Stony Point Baptist Church in Mineral Point, Missouri. Brethren Tony Crocker, Sam Husser, Jamie Jones, and David Hughes blessed us by sharing their experiences and those of other missionaries and challenged us to do more for Christ.

The attendance was good, but there was room for many more
• See BMA of MO Page 3 •

Homecoming Day

July 11, 2010

Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church
2001 Ables Road, Sikeston, MO.

Bro. Billy Davis, Pastor
Bro. Ray Thurman - Guest Speaker

Morning Worship - 10:45
Lunch and Fellowship - Noon
Special Services - Afternoon

WELCOME:
Former Members, Sister Churches, and Friends

NEWS BRIEFS

Mt. Zion, Ellington, sends a "hello" to all on this beautiful morning. May 9th the mothers were recognized on their day and Bro. Emory brought an inspiring message. Bro. Albert and Sis. Dianna Meade spent a week in Norfork, AR, camping, fishing and relaxing. June 20th Sis. Dianna is scheduled to have tests done. Our prayers are that everything will turn out OK. May 6th my son, Clinton, underwent surgery to remove a kidney that had a cancerous tumor. The surgery went well and he is at home recuperating. The surgeon assured him the cancer was removed and he will not need to undergo chemo. We give praise and thanks to God. May 24th Sis. Sarah Asberry called to let us know she is spending a week or two on the farm with her daughter and son-in-law. May 30th we are looking forward to the 5th Sunday Singing which will be at Ohlman Church in Bunker. May God bless each and every one. Until next time – memorizing God's word is like planting seeds that bear the fruit of a righteous life.

Emory Shelton, Pastor
Mary Marcher, Reporter

Bethlehem, Doniphan, observed the Lord's Supper April 25. We hosted the Youth in the Harvest on Friday night May 7. The program was 3 skits by the puppets. The young people really enjoyed it when Sis. Dian passed out puppets to anyone that wanted to have one to sing with! After all, that is what Youth in the Harvest is about - young people hearing the message of Christ (even if it is puppets giving the message.) We also hosted the 3rd Sunday singing May 16. We had a good crowd and as always enjoyed the singing and the fellowship. Sis. Dian Decker is Grandma! Son, Jimmie and wife Rebecca have a son, Gabriel Nathan Decker, born April 27. He weighed in at 10 lb. 7 oz. and was 30" long! We are planning a service at the nursing center where Bro. Colburn is staying, and will possibly be doing that more in the next few months.

Please pray for us in this endeavor. Also, please pray for our members that are still having health problems. Some have not been able to attend for several months!

Russell Chitwood, Pastor
Janice Colburn, Reporter

Ozark Heights, Potosi, says, "Well here we are again. May is almost over!" We have accomplished a lot this month. Homecoming the first Sunday in May had a good turn out. There were lots of family and friends who came out to enjoy a day of food, fellowship and music. The Heritage Boys were very good and all enjoyed their music. We celebrated Mother's Day May 9th. Where would we be without our dear mother's love and devotion? We give God thanks for all our wonderful mothers. Bro. Tony Crocker came to our church with a heartfelt message about missions and how they work. We owe a lot to the Crocker family for what they endure to bring Christ into so many lives. Ozark Heights Baptist will hold you and your family in our prayers, always. This past Sunday we had a pleasant surprise when Sis. Rosetta Blizzard blessed us with beautiful music. Sis. Connie, Sis. Gerri, and Bro. Brian have been busy working on Bible school for our youngsters. We are so thankful for their tireless efforts. Bro. Brian and family will be away this weekend and Bro. Ron Eye, whom the Church licensed as a minister of the gospel, will be leading both services while the pastor is away. We are so proud of his willingness to serve in any capacity. May God bless each and every one of you this coming month! We send our love to all our shut-ins. You are not forgotten and are constantly lifted before our Lord in prayer. May our Lord keep his loving and comforting arms around each of you!

Brian Meade, Pastor
Georgie Brokaw, Reporter

Charity, Bismarck, reminds us to "Pray for revival in our churches." The Missions Sym-

posium held at Stony Point was such a blessing for those attending. What a surprise to find very few churches attending. What an awesome opportunity to be able to meet our missionaries in person. Those we pray for every day. Those we relate to through the Gleaner 6 times a year. Those we support with our gifts and offerings every week. Missions is our business at home, in our local association, in our state association, in interstate missions, and around the world, as we were reminded at the Symposium. What an awesome responsibility to reach the lost, tell them of our Savior, invite them to church, disciple those who are saved. I am excited about what God is doing through His dedicated missionaries. That Day is fast approaching when our time is up. What are we doing? We at Charity are praying and looking for Revival. Some of the members have discovered the BMA of MO Fellowship Choir where we can honor the Lord through our music. We gather for practices and fellowship two to three times a month. We are on the lookout for new voices. If you love to sing and fellowship with God's people, join us. Call any member of the Choir. Ask those in your church if they want to join. God will bless you. Until we meet again.

Lee Miller, Pastor
Carolyn Meade, Reporter

Emmanuel, Sikeston, sends greetings in the Lord. Deepest sympathy is extended to the families of Sis. Wilma Fox and Bro. O. A. Robinson. They leave many precious memories behind of their service in the work of our Lord. Pastor Billy Davis and wife Donna also lost her nephew in a recent tragic death. We share their sorrow. A Mother-Daughter Luncheon was held May 8. Over thirty ladies attended and everyone seemed to enjoy it. The WMA prepared the meal. The theme was "Bloom Where You Are Planted." The program consisted of a skit by the same title, a devotional, games, special presentations, praises, and the

benediction. Special music was presented by Haley and Addi Mills, granddaughters of Bro. Richard and Sis. Jennie Mills. Beautifully decorated flower pots containing blooming flowers which served as table decorations were given as gifts to each one. Mother's Day each Mother was given a golden Mother's Day pin. Special picture frames were presented to the oldest mother, the youngest mother, mother with the most children present, the youngest grandmother, and the pastor's wife. Special Mother's Day music was presented and Bro. Billy preached a very challenging message. May 16 Bro. Mike and Sis. Connie Bolen, members of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Sikeston, blessed us with their presence. He preached morning and evening messages and they led the worship music. Bro. Billy and Sis. Donna had to be in Tennessee because of the serious illness of her sister, Mary Jo Johnson. Prayer is requested for her plus Sis. Anna Lou Freeman who will be undergoing ear cancer surgery this week. The Community Day Celebration, May 22, was very enjoyable. Several came and enjoyed good food, fellowship, gospel music, and several games and activities. Thanks to the SEMO District Churches that attended as it also was Youth In Harvest time. Concerning the Fellowship Hall Fund, we are blessed to report that Kewanee Missionary Bap-

tist Church has voted to take Emmanuel as a Missions Project. They have allocated \$6,000 to be given over the year. Also an anonymous member from their church has given an additional \$500. PTL for His guidance in this matter. Sunday, July 11, we will have a Homecoming Day, celebrating fifty-nine years of existence. Bro. Ray Thurman, a former pastor, will be the featured speaker. After lunch and a time of fellowship there will be an afternoon service with testimonies and special music. There will be no evening service. Join us if you can. If not keep us in your prayers. We serve an AWESOME GOD!

Billy Davis, Pastor
Vi Maclin, Reporter

Bethany, St. Louis, reports that our messengers attended the annual Missions Symposium and midyear meeting of the BMA of Missouri at Stony Point. The children have been practicing the songs that will be sung at Vacation Bible School June 6-11. The rain forest decorations are up and looking grand! We are planning and praying for lots of children to be in attendance and hear God's Word taught to them. We had a good Talent Time service on May 30th. Former pastor, O.A. Robinson passed away this month. We have sent a memorial offering to LifeWord Broadcast Ministries in his name. We are looking forward to the last

• See NEWS Page 4 •

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✝ From Our Workers ✝

Mid Year Report of the Director of Missions

May 15, 2010

This year we have had two major projects underway: the church planting effort in Smithville, MO and the church revitalization project at Stony Point Baptist.

Let me begin with the church revitalization project. Our support ends this month toward the salary support for Stony Point Baptist Church because the church feels it has real self support status with their pastor, Claude Evans. I received a letter from the church and it reads as following:

April 28, 2010

Dear Brethren,

Stony Point Missionary Baptist Church wishes to thank the Churches of the BMA of Missouri for the financial support for the past year.

We believe that the time has come for us to assume the full financial responsibility of pastoral support. Your help has enabled us to reach this point much sooner than we could have on our own.

It is our prayer and hope that this program will be the instrument which will allow other churches in the BMA of Missouri to reach full time support for pastors.

We ask that you remember us in prayer as we work in the Master's vineyard.

In His Service,
Pastor Claude Evans

We rejoice with Pastor Evans and the good people of Stony Point Baptist for God's blessing upon their ministry here in Min-

ask that your church would consider increasing their offering to state missions.

Pastor Evans and the good folks at Stony Point Baptist did a wonderful job hosting the mission symposium and the mid-year meeting. During this meeting, the association voted to help out two of our missionaries. A \$1000 love offering was given to Missionary Sam Husser to assist him with

personal family/medical expenses. We also approved a \$2000 offering to Bro. David Dickson for his work fund. The Mission Symposium offering for State Missions has reached nearly \$2600. Thank you for your love and care for missionaries who serve both us in Missouri and for those who serve elsewhere. May God be glorified.

Danny Kirk, Director of Missions

From the Jones...

Our "summer of Service" will begin in three days. We plan to host over 150 students and sponsors, from 9 different churches, this June, July, and August. "Did I just say that?" "Oh my, ... I'm tired already."

The good part is that God will bless in the same way that He did last year. We will serve in many of the same ways that we have in the past but with a few new ones thrown into the mix.

| FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS • May 2010 | | | |
|--|---------------------|--|---------------------|
| General Fund | | | |
| Balance April 30, 2010 | | | \$ 11,585.67 |
| May Receipts: (Churches) | \$ 1,272.93 | | |
| (Withdrawal from Savings) | 10,000.00 | | |
| (Mission Symposium) | 1,519.07 | | |
| Total Receipts | \$ 12,792.00 | | 12,792.00 |
| Total Available | | | \$ 24,377.67 |
| Disbursements: | | | |
| Director's Salary | \$ 700.00 | | |
| Mission Symposium Expenses | 500.00 | | |
| BMAA Partnership | 1,500.00 | | |
| Advisory Committee | | | |
| (Smithville Trip) | 791.74 | | |
| Stony Point Assistance | 1,250.00 | | |
| Domain Name | 60.00 | | |
| Sam Husser (Love Offering) | 1,000.00 | | |
| David Dickson (Work Fund) | 2,000.00 | | |
| Total Disbursements | \$ 7,801.74 | | \$ 7,801.74 |
| Balance May 28, 2010: | | | \$ 16,575.93 |
| Certificate of Deposit | \$ 65,176.76 | | |
| Certificate of Deposit | \$ 22,794.67 | | |
| ING Direct Savings | \$ 10,782.48 | | |
| Total in CD's: | \$ 98,753.91 | | |

eral Point. The North Lake mission project in Smithville, MO continues to be blessed of God. Jamie and Rebekah Jones are doing a great job in reaching out to their community and disciplining the families that God has given them

Our mission advisory committee along with members of the Meramec Association advisory committee made a trip to Smithville this past month. We were impressed with the progress that is being made and were made to realize that this is truly a field ripe unto harvest. Let's continue to pray for the Jones family as God works through them.

Our finances continue to hold steady. Our average monthly offering since October has been \$3,173 while our average expenses have been \$3,913 per month... a \$740 deficit. We are appreciative of the special mission offering this year and

• BMA of MO From Page 1 •

who missed these wonderful services. Stony Point was an excellent host and treated us royally. This was truly a "Mission Symposium" that glorified God and what He is doing around the world through Missions.

Saturday Morning, May 14, the Messengers and friends of the BMA of Missouri Churches gathered at Stony Point at 9:00 for our midyear business meeting.

Moderator Ray Thurman asked Bro. Gaylord Harvey to bring a devotional.

This was followed by the Kenneth Gibson Seminary Student Grant Fund report given by James Hoffmann. The report noted that there were no offering received from the churches during the first six months of this associational year. A total of \$103.98 was received as interest on a CD. There were no expenses during this period and the total on hand is \$24,426.85. Bro. Hoffmann reported that there is a seminary student that we will be helping, at the request of the Seminary President, with a total of \$1,000 as provided in our bylaws. Missouri preachers are encouraged to look into this program to help them further their education. Contact Bro. Hoffmann for more information.

Bro. Jerry Adams gave the Camp report in the absence of Camp Director, Chris Polk. His report reminded us to set aside some time to come to Camp Garwood and help with the work that needs to be done before time for our camp July 26-29. The financial report showed that we have a balance of \$58,458.80 in all camp funds. A large portion of this balance is insurance money that hopefully will be used for improvements on the facilities.

We plan to serve through painting, pumping gas, mowing, picking up trash, providing meals to the homeless, and helping a few neighbors with some odd jobs.

All of these jobs will be done with one with goal in mind... "To share the love of Christ" with everyone we can, by whatever means we can. Using our hands and feet to serve others helps us to accomplish this goal.

I ask that you pray for our "Summer of Service". Pray that God would bless in a great way. Pray that God would save many souls, lead us to families that would host a Bible study in their home, and lead us to those who need a life change.

We will be focusing on II Corinthians 5:16-21. I have a three fold prayer, centered around this passage, specifically for the young people who will serve with us this year. I pray they begin to see others in a different light, that they understand the meaning of reconciliation, that they become ambassadors of Christ with a message of hope, and that they learn many ways in which the message can be shared with others.

Compelled by Love,
Jamie Jones

Bro. Jerry Adams also gave the Moral Action Report and encouraged all our churches to be involved in supporting morality and moral issues on the national, state and local levels.

Bro. Dennis Baker gave the Missouri Missionary Baptist Loan Association report which included the recommendation of an amendment to the operational guidelines of the loan association. He also noted that Heritage Baptist Church in Farmington had paid their loan in full and that Cornerstone Baptist Church in Raymore, Missouri, has reduced their loan amount to \$49,600. The total funds available in the Loan Association is \$274,828.94.

The proposed change in the Articles of Cooperation was adopted and now item 9 reads: "All fees incurred in the securing and release of property shall be collectable by the Loan Association from the loan applicant. Fees are defined as bank, recording, attorney, survey, inspections, architect, and any expense associated with securing, building, and releasing property. The Loan Association can pay such fees, but the expense will be added to the applicant's loan balance."

Bro. Jamie Jones gave the
• See BMA of MO Page 4 •

• **NEWS From Page 2** • week in July when we will have State Camp at Garwood. Our pastor's mother, Sis. Irene Hoffmann is seriously ill and your prayers on her behalf are greatly appreciated. James Hoffmann, Pastor
Carol McDonald, Reporter

First, Potosi, sends greetings. Our revival with Bro Dickson was twofold: a revival for our church members and a look into a missionary's life in other parts of the world. The GMA's presented a delicious meal for the Mother's Day breakfast and it was well attended. For Heritage Days in June we have been asked to wear old-fashioned clothes and bring photos of past members or events to display. Bro. Calvin's SS class is beginning a new video study based on the book "The Jesus I Never Knew" by Phillip Yancey. There will be a new study for the ladies with Sis. Jaclyn Rowe later. Some members are donating items for the Parkland Resource Center. The Charli Anna Foundation is still raising money for families who have infants with serious health problems. In May, the Junior High Retreat at Logan Valley Retreat Center in Ellington was well attended. They spent their time learning to work in groups and learning to trust each other for their safety. C.O.W. meeting will meet in homes this summer. They will hang out, take a brutally honest look at practical Christianity. Senior High Bible study at the youth pastor's home each Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. on the book "Don't Waste Your Life" by J. Piper will begin June 8. The community was shocked at the sudden death of Steve Yount, Superintendent of Valley RVI Schools. Prayers and Christian sympathy were held for them. Students are preparing for camps and fellowship with other churches. Jamie Haguwood, Pastor
Beverly Simpson, Reporter

Friendship, Harviell, sends greetings in the name of our Lord! In the past month, a fence has been put up on the acre of land that was donated to us. The first Sunday in May, our

Seniors were recognized and presented nice Bibles with their names on them. Our Seniors are Cody Vincent, Mary Jo Riley, Lawrence Heacock, and Alexandraiah Cummins Bollman. We also had 2 Kindergarteners who were recognized as well: Ryley Cage Armes and Erin Fiske. Bro. Jesse Cate has preached at Shiloh in both services for the past 2 weeks. May 22, The Harper Family was truly a blessing and was enjoyed by all. June 6th is "Bring a Friend Day" and we will be having a fish fry after the morning service. The kids are getting EXCITED about church camp.

Ernie L Cate, Pastor
Thelma Dunlap, Reporter

Antioch, Ellington, sends Christian Greetings to all of our Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Sis. Betty Abbey asked me to extend a special "Thank You" to all the ordained help who came to the ordination service. We also thank all others who came. We really appreciate you and enjoyed the fellowship. We have missed our study of Daniel the last two Sundays but hope to start on it very soon. Sis. Betty Abbey needs your prayers. She is having some test made and we are praying she gets good reports. The Lord continues to bless Antioch with visitors. May 16th we had 14 and May 23rd we had 18 visitors. Pray for us that we will continue to do God's work and that He will continue to bless us. Doyle Abbey, Pastor
Minnie Asberry, Reporter

Lower Doe Run, Ellington, reports that Bro. Roy Williams had carpal tunnel surgery this past month. He went back to the Dr. this past week and they've removed all bandages and he's doing well. Travis Hampton had a bad accident here in Ellington a couple of weeks ago and spent several days in the hospital. He had a badly burned arm and they have already done skin grafts. He has been to church the last two weeks. Pray for him that he will accept Christ as his Savior and make other parts of his life right with the Lord too. Sis.

• **BMA of MO From Page 1** • ALIVE Committee report noting that this year's conference will probably be back in the St. Louis area. The dates for the conference are December 30 - January 1. The ALIVE Treasurer's report revealed a balance of \$ 2,196.38.

Bro. James Hoffmann gave the Missouri Missionary Baptist report. He thanked all the church reporters and others who send regular articles for publication. The editor's financial report revealed a starting balance in October 2009 of \$5,257.70 with receipts through March 2010 totaling 10,150.44, giving a total of \$15,408.14.

Diane Carson has been too ill to attend services for a couple of weeks, but is hopefully on the mend. Please pray, too, for Robert Leach, who has had a serious infection. He is home now, but will take a while to heal completely. We have been so blessed! We had a booth at Ellington Spring Fever Days. Many contacts were made, Guide to God New Testaments were given out, along with tracts and Roman Road bookmarks. The Sunday afterwards, we had three young couples to attend because of being asked by those from our booth. Also the second Sunday afterwards, those were back, along with a couple of ladies that had been contacted during those days, too. We have started a young adult class which we had been hoping to have for a long time. Because of the young couples coming, we also have children. It is wonderful to hear children's voices in our building. If you could only know what a wonderful blessing this has been to us. We have been a congregation of older people, we have been encouraged of late. We had 8 ladies attend our WMA meeting again this month. Sis. Valarie Fish will be speaking at our WMA on July 1st, @ 7:00 p.m. We would like to welcome those of you who would like to come. Valarie is the 2010-2011 President of the national WMA and has authored her first book, "Get Real." Denver Page, Pastor
Sharon Page, Reporter

The expenses during this time were \$9,077.33, leaving a balance of \$6,330.81.

The Missionary Committee met during a break in the business of the Association. Director Danny Kirk gave his report (printed on page 3). The Missionary Committee adopted the recommendations of the Special Missions Committee to give Bro. David Dickson \$2,000 for his work fund and Bro. Sam Husser a love offering of \$1,000 for family medical needs.

Following the Missionary Committee meeting the association voted to adopt their recommendations.

The State WMA report was given which included the following recommendations for additions to the BMA of Missouri Missions Handbook section D on Salaries and Benefits.

1. The expenses of the Missionary wife to attend the WMA of MO Retreat and the WMA of the BMA of America retreat to be paid from the Missions Department budget. (Note: Each group is only having their retreat biannually. This would be only one retreat each year.)

2. The expenses for the children of the Missionary to attend the annual BMA of MO, GMA and Galilean retreat as well as the National GMA and Galilean retreat be paid from the Missions budget.

An additional recommendation was also included that stated: Seeing as for the past three years, the BMA of MO Men's Retreat received a supplemental offering from the BMA of MO Missions Fund, should this continue in the future, we recommend that the WMA of the BMA of MO be given equal compensation to supplement the WMA sponsored ladies retreat from the Missions Department budget.

All these recommendations were approved by the messengers.

It was announced that June 26th has been set as a work day at Camp Garwood. We were reminded that each church needs to designate an older teenager as a "disciple in training" from their church for Camp

DiscipleWay Seeks Success Stories

The content management team for DiscipleWay is inviting input from pastors and Christian education leaders who have had success with providing hands-on training in spiritual disciplines of the Christian life.

DiscipleWay is the name of a new discipleship training program under development by the departments of the Baptist Missionary Association of America. The program centers on seven basic spiritual disciplines and offers classroom instruction as well as hands-on training.

The combination of content-based and experience-based training gives DiscipleWay its uniqueness among available materials on the market today.

DiscipleWay will offer seven weeks of training in each discipline, including Bible Study, Praying, Worshipping, Giving, Witnessing, Serving and Leading.

The team would like to include hands-on ideas that have worked for pastors and other teachers in any of the seven disciplines. Send submissions to

Dr. Philip Attebery
BMA Seminary
P.O. Box 670
Jacksonville, TX 75766-0670
attebery@bmat.edu

Curriculum materials have been submitted by the seven teams of writers and are currently in the editing stage. The program will be tested in selected churches of various sizes and environments beginning this Fall. Target date for the launch of the program is April, 2011, at the annual session of the BMA of America.

this year.

Following our business session Bro. David Dickson explained the new work he would be doing as a missionary encourager and then brought a message from God's Word.

Stony Point served a delicious lunch and the fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Family Ark Ministries

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

Worried About Anxiety??

Anxiety can be debilitating. Everyone has their times when they worry. But this is far more involved than that. Anxiety feels like you are being ripped apart inside. You focus so much mental energy on worrying that it leaves you drained. You worry about worrying too much. You beat yourself up over this. It wreaks havoc on your sleep. It leaves you as an emotional wreck. You lay awake worrying about things. During the day, you have obsessive thought patterns. At its' greatest depth, anxiety can become an anxiety disorder. If you develop this, you can suffer from panic attacks, and be so anxious that you begin to not function out in society very well. Crowds can bother you. You worry about death all the time for yourself or a loved one. This is not something you can just snap out of like some people think.

So, now you know that you are not crazy. What a relief, because it sure feels like it some days. You can put the bat down and quit beating yourself up. Now you can begin to start work on attaining victory over this constant, daily need to worry. Remember Romans 8:37. "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." You can, with the help of Jesus, overcome this problem in your life. You must believe in your heart that it is truly possible to attain victory. It may not seem like it because you have lived with it so long, but there is nothing impossible with God, as it states in Luke 1:37. This is the first step. Believe that it is possible to attain victory.

You probably also wonder where anxiety came from. No secular psychotherapist will tell you this, but God gives us all personalities. You can watch a bunch of kids playing, and you can pick out which kids are going to grow up and be the anxious ones. Your personality was given to you by God for a reason. Don't fight it. Learn to use it for good. People who worry a lot or who are anxious generally have personalities that are very caring. Most worry warts are caring people. You are a loving person. You also are a very observant person. If you were not paying attention to all that was around you, then you wouldn't worry so much. If you didn't care so deeply about those around you, then you would not be anxious. While it is not healthy, nor holy to live in a state of anxiety, it stems from something good within you. You are a loving, caring person.

Learn to breathe deeply. When you start feeling stressed out and anxious, take some deep breaths. At the same time, do some spiritual deep breathing. Find some scripture and memorize it. Find something that offers you comfort. I like Philippians 4:6,7. I like Psalm 46:10 and verse 1. Hebrews 13:5,6 Philippians 4:13. Romans 8:37. These are ones I repeat when I am stressed out. Please feel free to use your own scripture or you can use these. Putting your mind on God being in control will help immediately. The deep breathing will also help. I call this physical and spiritual deep breathing. It helps.

Build in a panic floor. This is not the worst day ever. God has always caused you to survive every day so far, no matter what happened in your life. His grace has brought you safe thus far, and His grace will lead you home. Just tell yourself that no matter what happens, you are still saved. You are still going to heaven. God is still for you even if others are not. This leads into the next item to help you work on your anxiety.

Control your thinking. You may not realize it, but all humans have control over their thinking. We are creatures of habit. We all have habits in the way we think, and the way we perceive things. This will be the hardest battle. The battle for your thought

life. Satan wants your thought life and so does God. That is why scripture tells us to take every thought captive to the Lord. II Corinthians 10:5. It takes persistence and work. You have to re-frame your thinking. As an example: This problem I am facing is a growth opportunity. It is a grace event. God will give me the grace to get through it. I will be a stronger person because of it. Because there is an empty tomb, I can face tomorrow. I may not know what tomorrow will bring, but I know the one who holds tomorrow in His hands. He loves me. He accepts me. He loves me more than I love myself. God wants me to be successful in life for His glory. He will meet all my needs. Because of the resurrection, Christ has all power and all victory for all time. Because Christ is in me, I now face every problem from a position of victory. Victory in Jesus is not just an old song. It is a way of life for me. Nothing can defeat me. Not even death. I will live forever in heaven. You may know these truths, but you must start believing them by repeating them over and over again until it becomes part of you.

Pray. Pray for a specific fruit to be born in you. The fruits of the spirit listed in Galatians 5 include peace and joy. Ask God to develop those in you. Don't get frustrated when it doesn't happen instantly. It takes time. One day at a time. Strive for gradual improvement, then steady improvement, and finally to consistent improvement.

All of those statements up above are not feel good counseling statements that man came up with. They are Scripture from the inerrant truth of God's Word. Dwell on these. Increase your prayer life. Linger in your prayers. With God's help you should be able to get a grip on your anxiety. God bless you on your journey.

New Email Address

BMAA Hispanic Church-Planting Coordinator Buddy Johnson has a new email address. It is abudjohn@att.net

'Walk' Offerings Moving on Up!

The latest offerings received for the 2009 LifeWord Walk for the World have now pushed the total up to the second highest ever in the 30-year history of the fund-raiser, according to an announcement from Diane Ward, national coordinator.

The total for the 2009 Walk now stands at \$423,262, topping the previous second place of \$423,000 set in 2003 and is only \$2,959 away from an all-time high of \$426,221 received in the 2007 Walk.

The national coordinator said that is too close not to issue a challenge to break the record this year.

"Surely there are some churches who have not given an offering to the Walk this year who would like to help us make this a record-breaking year," Ward said. "All Walk offerings received by June 30 will count toward the 2009 Walk. The fiscal year for the 2010 Walk begins July 1, and some exciting plans are in the works."

Walk for the World offerings are used to pay for the production and air time costs of LifeWord broadcasts and the development of new programs. LifeWord currently broadcasts gospel programs in 32 languages and more than forty formats to almost 100 countries every week. Responses from listeners averaged 226 per day, seven days a week, in 200

Offerings Reflect Growth

The growth of the annual Walk is obvious in a statistical comparison of the three decades of its history.

| | <u>High</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Average</u> |
|--------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1980s | \$373,822 (1985) | \$2,278,100 | \$227,810 |
| 1990s | \$390,399 (1999) | \$3,307,743 | \$330,774 |
| 2000s | \$426,221 (2007) | \$4,044,994 | \$404,499 |

Freedom Offering

July 4th or 11th, 2010

for

Moral Action BMA of America

Dr. John M. Adams, Executive Director
www.macbma.net

Please take a special offering as we build
this needed moral agency.

From small to large, every gift is needed and appreciated.

Mail offering to:
Moral Action • P.O. Box 305 • Mantachie, MS 38855

Participation Encouraged

Dear B.M.A. family,

We ask each church to participate in our 2010 Moral Action Freedom offering.

We also will be giving the opportunity to memorialize or honor our brave soldiers. Please send us their names at the address in the above announcement.

We must seek God-sent revival to America, so help us on July 4 or July 11.

Dr. John M. Adams
Moral Action
Executive Director

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 Ladies Retreat

Remember to make your reservations for the Ladies Retreat, October 8-9, 2010 at Zeno's in Rolla, MO.

Reserve your rooms directly with the hotel at 573-364-1301.

Send your registration fee by September 1, and the fee will be \$50. After September 1 the fee is \$60. This includes three meals. Send registration check made out to MO WMA with your name, address, phone number, and name of church to: Janet Widger, 7409 Rupert Ave. St. Louis, MO 63117.

Pray for our speaker, Sis. Jerene Reddin as she prepares for the retreat.

We hope to see many new faces this year as you invite your friends to join you for the great time of food, fun, and fellowship in God's Word. For more information contact Janet Widger, Terri Adams or Paula Reece.

National WMA 2010-2011 Project

In April, the National WMA chose for the 2010-2011 theme, "Go Quickly and Tell" from Matthew 28:1-8, 16-20. How appropriate for our National project which includes "DiscipleWay" and "I Am A Woman Ministries." The theme for last year "No Limits" still rings in my mind as we prepare for the promotion of our project. Our goal is \$80,000. There truly are "No Limits" to what God can do thru the WMA's in our churches. Sabrina Clayton, in the morning program at our April meeting said "It's all about me, it is our time. I add my own phrase "If it's to be, it's up to me." What we do can make a difference. God will supply the means for us to reach our goal. How can we reach people if we don't "Go Quickly"

Our two projects are:

I Am A Woman is an Arab ministry by Arab women and for Arab women with the focus of reaching out to Muslim women. It was born out of a vision to see women empowered to be all that they can be and to know and accept themselves in the image of the One who created them.

DiscipleWay - Disciplines for Maturing in Christ. Unlocking your Churches potential, thru Bible Study, Praying, Worshiping, Giving, Witnessing Serving and Leading.

We are preparing material and brochures for mailing. In June your church should receive information concerning these two projects of the National WMA. Please prayerfully consider making a goal and working towards achieving our National Goal of \$80,000.

National WMA Promotion Committee
Ruby Poteet, Renna Hight, Linda Thomas

Editor's Note:

The following article submitted to me by Charles Costas, our missionary in the Middle East, explains more about *I Am A Woman Ministries*. It is included in this issue so you can be informed of the importance of supporting the WMA project this year.

I Am A Woman Ministries

Changing the Arab World, One Woman at a Time

Ras Beirut Center, Hamra, Lebanon

www.arabworldwomen.org

Overview of the Ministry

Born out of a vision to see women empowered to be all that they can be, and to know and accept themselves in the image of the One who created them, *I Am A Woman* is an Arab ministry by Arab women and for Arab women, with the focus of reaching out to Muslim women.

We align ourselves with God's vision to be a means through which God communicates with the Arab woman to be reconciled with herself, God, family, and community... and to know that she is unique: loved by God, and able to love and be loved.

I Am A Woman Ministries (IAW) exists to care for the Arab woman holistically by helping her recognize her self worth through teaching, empowering her through practical training, and encouraging her to positively impact her world.

The Lord has provided *IAW* with the opportunity to reach out to the women in our community. Our utmost goal is to share Christ with all the ladies that come to *IAW*. However, this cannot be done quickly, we need to build solid, trustworthy, and caring relationships which takes time. Therefore, we use different means through teaching them different life-skills and various courses.

Opening up a new world of enjoying fellowship with other women as well as training in practical skills, the *IAW* Center can be found in the heart of Beirut, where all Arab women of all ages, from all backgrounds are welcomed and loved.

We occupy an entire floor of the Ras Beirut Center in the busiest section of the city, located on a bus line to make us accessible to all women. During a typical day, you will find the *IAW* Center full with an average of 45 women who are here to learn various life skills. For us at *IAW* the highlight of the day is when all the classes take coffee break together to hear a speaker share a presentation of a topic pertinent and applicable to women: some fun, some serious (health issues, marriage or family matters, spiritual issues, personal growth, etc.). We use these break times to share the gospel at least once with any woman who comes to the *IAW* Center.

IAW maintains a small but growing library from which the women can borrow Christian resources. We also offer, at no cost to the ladies, various Arabic Christian resources from local ministries (such as Campus Crusade for Christ, etc.) on a variety of spiritual topics, and Arabic Bibles as well.

Our staff consists of both national and foreign Christian women, as well as partnering with local existing ministries, who together form the *IAW* Team who share their skills and their lives with the ladies. We encourage our staff to form personal relationships with the ladies, which has proven very effective. A trained, professional counselor is a part of our staff, available to help those women who are dealing with abuse, depression, or other issues. We believe that we have the answers to the questions women are asking; as we share the Great Hope that we ourselves at *IAW* have found.

I Am A Woman Ministry is a unique, first-of-its-kind ministry in the Middle East, a Center exclusively for women where an environment of acceptance is fostered, where women come to share their lives without fear, persecution, or threat. The challenges and obstacles we face reaching out to the Muslim population of women are huge, however we believe in Him who can do more than we can ask for. And He has!

What We Offer

Weekly Classes

Some of the practical training skills offered weekly at *IAW* are:

- Arabic Literacy for Illiterate Women

- Beauty Care (skin, manicures, pedicures)

- Computer Internet Usage

- Computer Skills Training (word, power point, etc.)

- Conversational English

- English Language Courses - Level One, Two, and Three

- Fine Arts (painting, crafts, crocheting, beading, etc.)

- French Language Courses

- Hair Styling

- Makeup Application

Seminars

IAW also offers Seminars for training and instruction to better women's lives on topics such as:

- Building a Better Family

- Child Rearing

- Conflict Resolution

- Counseling

- CPR Training

- Helping Your Child Be a Better Student

- Marriage Issues

- Nutrition and Diet

- Women and the Law - Knowing A Women's Rights

Conferences

IAW also conducts Arab-to-Arab conferences in other Arab countries such as Egypt and Sudan. Our recent conference in September 2009 attracted over 350 women with subjects such as:

- Accepting Your Body

- Dealing with Daily Stress

- Depression and Women

- Homemaking as an Art

- Lies Women Believe

- Spiritual Growth for Women

Recent Highlights

- Fall Seminar

Following our seminar entitled "The Value of a Woman and Marriage Enrichment," a woman who had been attending counseling sessions with the *IAW* counselor asked for some private time with our speaker from Jordan, who led her in accepting Christ as her Savior.

- Bridge Building

One of our teachers invited

- See *IAW* Page 7 •

Meramec Banner

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

• IAW From Page 6 •

her students to her apartment where they enjoyed a Christmas party. A bridge of love was built with the Muslim ladies, and misconceptions about what Christians really believe were broken down.

• Graduation Ceremony

Two times a year a graduation ceremony is held to encourage the women who completed the courses. They are encouraged to bring their families and friends to cheer them on, and watch them receive their certificates. Seventy-five women came for IAW's winter ceremony, all excited and enthusiastic to see what the program included. Apart from distributing the certificates and introducing our courses, three of our students gave a short life testimony on how the center has affected their lives. Our speaker from the USA, shared a powerful message about Jesus forgiving her sins, and taught her to forgive those who had abused her.

One lady exclaiming: "There is a secret in this place. I feel loved!" Another one added: "The people here showed me that I have value as a person!"

• Staff Training

Our staff, as well as some local Believers attended the training Reaching out to Muslims, and How to Disciple a Muslim Background Believer.

Meramec Missionary Committeemen Meeting

When: Saturday, August 7, @ 9:00 AM

Where: Charity Baptist Church, Columbia, MO

• Mother's Day

In Lebanon, Mother's Day is celebrated in March. About fifty-five ladies gathered to celebrate Mother's Day at IAW. The program included games led by our staff, poetry and songs presented by some of our ladies from IAW, and our Lebanese speaker who spoke about the importance of motherhood and how God perceives it. She also stressed the fact that to be a good and successful mother, one should have a personal relationship with God. Then, she proceeded to share her personal testimony and how God has changed her life. A woman who has recently enrolled in one of our classes kept saying with tears flowing from her eyes: "this place has changed my life. You gave meaning to my life!!" Around 30 spiritual books and DVDS were taken.

• Website

We are thrilled to announce the addition of *I Am A Woman's* new website:

www.arabworldwomen.org

Touching Lives

• Laura is our makeup teacher. She started with us

with a lot of enthusiasm. During one of our morning talks, we discussed the fact that God is the only One who knows the future and no one else. After the lessons ended she stayed behind to ask many questions. We read to her verses from Bible and she realized the fact that though she was a Christian, she had never accepted Jesus is the One and Only Savior. She accepted Him into her heart. She is now a very supportive member of staff and attends the staff meeting during which we pray for our students.

• A woman involved in our English classes: "I love the Center! I would come every day if I could!"

• Amira is a veiled mother of five who is allowed by her husband to come to the Center after she drops her youngest children off at school (because the IAW Center is "women only" it is a safe environment). Amira is often found waiting an hour in the lobby for the Center to open. As she walks through the door of IAW, her entire face lights up! One of our English teachers relays that Amira excitedly reveals how after many years of not leaving the house except to take the kids to school, do shopping, etc., she is finally doing something for herself. Each week her smile is bigger, her eyes less downcast, her confidence that she is special and has an important life-giving role in her home is demonstrated in her attitude.

• A local wife and mother: "The Center is helping me to improve my life in my home. I learn something new and encouraging every time I come."

• via Charles Costa

Meramec Landmark Baptist Association Financial Report • May 2010

| | | |
|--|----------|-------------|
| Balance April 30, 2010 | \$ | 7,018.77 |
| Total Receipts: | \$ | 2,150.17 |
| Total Available | \$ | 9,168.94 |
| Disbursements: | | |
| Danny Kirk | 1,100.00 | |
| Director's Expenses | 531.81 | |
| BMA of MO (Partnership) | 500.00 | |
| RLF Transfer | 274.00 | |
| Brotherhood Mutual | 609.16 | |
| Advisory Committee Travel Exp. | 344.10 | |
| Total Disbursements: | \$ | 3,359.07 |
| Checking Balance, May 28, 2010: | \$ | 5,809.87 |
| Revolving Loan Fund Balance | \$ | 128,081.14* |
| *Friendship Baptist Church Loan has been paid in full. | | |

From Our Director...

This past month I was joined by Brothers Ted Hurley, Jim Ford, and Wayne Gibson in a field visit to Smithville, MO. Members of the BMA of Missouri advisory committee also participated in this 2 day mission to encourage the Jones Family and to observe firsthand what God is doing in this Kansas City suburb. All of the committee members were delighted and impressed with the progress being made in this church planting effort. Bro. Jamie is preparing for a full summer season of student volunteer missionaries. During the first week of June, the Meramec Baptist Association will be represented by 3 youth groups from Ozark Heights, New Testament, and Lindsay Lane. These three churches worked together well last year and much was accomplished. Please continue to pray for these mission teams and for the Jones Family. Along with their regular schedule of Bible study and worship, they will be hard at work utilizing several mission teams throughout the summer. They will need grace, strength, creativity, and wisdom from on High...lift them up in prayer!

Jesus Camp will be here before we know it. Dates are July 18-24 and the theme this year is "No More Excuses." I do not remember the author, but I remember reading the definition of an excuse: "It is the skin of a reason stuffed with lies." Ouch! Like last year's camp, there will be a single speaker for the younger kid's camp during the evening services. Bro. Jeff Richards will have three opportunities to share God's word in a relevant fashion with the 1st to 6th graders. During the morning hours, Brothers Larry Creasy, Mike Cooper, and Wayne Gibson will use God's Word to dispel the habit of making excuses.

During the Teen camp we have a small army of preachers who can "kick the stuffing out of any excuse." Here is the lineup: Pastors Brad Banderman, John Dover, Brian Meade, Charles Idleman, Jamie Haguewood, and Jim Ainley. They will be preaching on the following subjects:

Excuse Me: Why am I on this planet and why should I care what the Bible says?

Excuse Me: I am going to Heaven, so why is that not enough?

Excuse Me: I have my own life to live and besides, I do not know enough about the Bible to be a witness to others.

Excuse Me: My family is weird, my church is boring, and my youth director is bald, etc.

Excuse Me: This Christian stuff is too hard. Why can't I just go to church and live my life the way I want to?

It sounds like camp is really going to be exciting this year. Please note that registration packages will not be sent out (Let's save a few trees), but you can go on line at www.Meramecassociation.com and download all of the registration forms.

So let's stop with the excuses and make plans to attend Jesus Camp. The food, fellowship, and fun will be great and being challenged by the Word of God is the best part of all. See you at camp!

Meramec Landmark Baptist Association Jesus Camp 2010

**NO MORE
EXCUSES!**

Theme for this year's camp

Camp Dates:

Jr. Camp: Sunday, July 18-21, 2010

Teen Camp: Wednesday, July 21-24, 2010

Camp Packets will be emailed or they can be downloaded from the Meramec Association Web Page...go to www.meramecassociation.com and click on Jesus Camp 2010.

Make Plans Right Now to Attend and Bring Your Young People!

BMAA Arrangements Committee Invites Suggestions

The arrangements committee of the BMA of America invites suggestions for meeting locations for 2013 and 2014. Potential locations must have convention center or hotel facilities with a meeting room capacity of at least 1500, and have at least 500 hotel rooms that can be blocked for the meeting.

Suggestions should be sent to committee chairman Charles Attebery by e-mail (charles@lifeword.org) or by regular mail (606 Carol Ave., El Dorado, AR 71730). The deadline for submitting suggestions is July 31, 2010.

Some "I Want" Thoughts For Your Consideration

by Tony M. Cleaver

"Memory care"—I want some of that.

I saw a billboard advertising "memory care" along with other services in a certain residential center. At my age, I want some of that. The last few months I note I need to be reminded of many things. My wife would share a hearty "Amen!" at this point. I think all Christians need memory care regarding:

The special people of God: (1 Corinthians 11:24; Philippians 1:3) God has always worked through His people. It is the people of God that have made my life what it is today. These special people shared the Gospel with me, educated me, loved and nurtured me. I want some of that in remembering them.

The poor: (Galatians 2:10) In my abundance, I can easily forget there are those not in simple need but in great need. The gift of giving is a grace. I ask the Lord to touch my pocket book and check book to let me give to those who are in need not only with money but also with time and heart. I want some of that remembering the poor.

The special God day: (Exodus 20:8) The youngest at Passover asks "What is special about this...?" The special day we remember the resurrection of our Lord and Savior is a unique, once a week God day. It is not profane, secular, or normal. It is of God. I want some of that remembering the special God day.

The origin of life: (Psalm 103:14) Contrary to some beliefs, God made his own dirt. From that dirt, he made me and those who occupy this planet with me. I have only limited time in this skin suit. It is true only those things done for Christ and His Church will last. I want some of that remembering of my life process.

The ones coming now: (Ecclesiastes 12:1) The faith of Christianity is passed from one generation to another. It is done one person at a time. It is my business as a mature Christian to see that the next generation knows about the death, burial, and resurrection of the Messiah. I want some of that remembering about evangelism—even regarding people unlike me and my culture.

The body and blood of Christ: (Luke 22:19) I may have many things on my mind. I might have many weighty events at my work. No event is more important than my remembering the body and blood of my Savior. I want some of that remembering as he offers the gift of eternal life to me through His sacrifice.

I Want to be Included as a Friend

Everybody wants to be included as a friend. No one wants to be left out. I too want to be included as a friend. Feelings get hurt easily in elementary school over friendships. As we progress along in life, we come to understand we have very few real friends over our life span. Abraham was included as a friend of God (James 2:23; Isaiah 41:8; 2 Chronicles 20:7). How does one get to this status of ultimate friend?

He was an altar builder and worshipper of God (Genesis

12:8). Yes, he built many altars and at that point he worshipped God. Significant events took place before that altar time. Usually the conclusion to this landmark experience was the worship of God. I want to be a friend of God as an altar builder and worshipper.

He got his money right with God (Genesis 14:20). The New Testament book of Hebrews makes much of Melchizedek. So did Abraham. He paid his tithe to that representative of God. I want to be a friend of God by getting my money right with Christ and His Church.

He believed the unseeable of God (Genesis 15:6). He was willing to walk toward something that God said was there even though he could not see it with sight, measure it by standards, or comprehend it through intellect. This is something that not all are willing to do as they are called to be God's friend. I want to be the friend of God by walking by faith toward the unseeable.

He laughed at the mysterious from God (Genesis 17:17). Old men don't have children, much less their old wives. He laughed at this along with his wife (Genesis 18:12). What great pleasure to be enamored and buoyed along by the mysterious! I want to be the friend of God to smile internally, even laugh out loud at the mysterious moving of God.

He focused on his family for God (Genesis 21:3; 23:2; others). Isaac meant everything to him. He showed concern by his actions. Sarah meant everything to him. He demonstrated his concern by actions. I want to be a friend of God by demonstrating my focus for my family by my actions.

Being chosen last, or not chosen at all for the team, in elementary school, hurts. Losing a friend in elementary school hurts. As we mature, let us remember it is God who chooses us as His friend because of our behavior and commitment to Him. Abraham was God's friend. I want to be a friend of God like Abraham. Does my behavior merit such status as ultimate friend?

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.

Ray Thurman, is available for pulpit supply or to serve as a interim pastor as God leads. You may contact him at 573-438-2195. -2-

Tim Bell, a member of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Sikeston Missouri, is available for pulpit supply. Contact him at 573-471-5063 or 573-475-0517 -5-

Rocky Houston, a member of Kewanee Baptist Church, is available for supply or however the Lord leads. Contact him at 573-748-5879 after 4:00 p.m. -5-

As Handy As A Button!

Charles Reddin, Adult Editor, DiscipleGuide

When old-timers used a labor-saving tool for the first time, they would say, "Now, that's as handy as a button." When you read the adult Sunday School materials from DiscipleGuide Church Resources for the summer, you may resurrect that old expression. Not only is the material itself as practical as a button (maybe even Velcro), but it also recommends some extra "buttons" you can obtain.

The title of the quarter is "Many Members, One Body." It progresses in three stages. (1) The first lesson focuses on the Bible's comparison of the local church to a living human body. (2) Lessons 2-4 outline the "steps" to becoming a church member: salvation, baptism, and fellowship. (3) The remaining nine lessons offer guidance in following New Testament instructions to treat "one another" in specific ways in the church.

The normal Compass Curriculum products include Bible exposition in Compass, interactive Bible studies in Compass Point, teaching plans in Compass Teacher, printed teaching visuals in Compass Resources, and electronic versions of these products in the Compass E-Kit.

One of the extra "buttons" is the DiscipleGuide tract "The Roman Road." Compass Teacher suggests that teachers give copies to students with lesson 2, on salvation, for personal reading and for passing on to others.

Another extra tool is DiscipleGuide's booklet containing The Doctrinal Statement of the Baptist Missionary Association of America. It is recommended as a handout with lesson 4, on church fellowship, since doctrinal unity is an essential part of fellowship.

A third "extra" is a spiritual gifts inventory. At least two are available as free downloads, and you can find links to them at DiscipleGuide.org. (On the home page, type links in the search box, click on links, and scroll down to Spiritual Gifts Assessment.)

This study in "Many Members, One Body" emphasizes the Bible's practical teachings about the church throughout. It spells out:

- How a new church comes into being
- How to become a member of a church
- How to be saved
- How to be baptized and why
- How, in extensive and specific detail, to relate to one another in the church

The tract and booklet mentioned above can be ordered along with church literature or separately.

All these products are listed on the "Quick Order Forms" that are linked to: DiscipleGuide.org's home page, or you can call 1-800-333-1442.