

The Missouri Baptist

"Holding Forth The Word of Life"

Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXIII

St. Louis, MO • July 13, 2010

Issue No. 7

Camp Week - July 26-29 at Camp Garwood

starting with supper Monday at 5:00 p.m and ending with lunch Thursday

Camp Theme: "That Day" based on Matthew 24:36

Don Burke and Ben Kingston - Camp Evangelists

The Harper Family - Music Leaders

We will be using Disciples In Training (DIT) again this year. Each church is allowed to have one responsible youth who is capable of fulfilling various roles around camp, and a member of a BMA Church, designated as their DIT. If you do not have a youth capable of fulfilling this role, you can borrow a youth from another church to be your DIT. Please arrive at camp with your DIT ready to meet with the camp staff (preferably before supper) Monday afternoon.

We hope you bring a "load" of kids to camp with you!

The camp rules are printed on page 5 - be familiar with them and ready to abide by them, please.

The "Participation Form" is also on page 5. Each person you bring MUST have one of these filled out and signed before you leave for camp.

Don't miss out on the fun, fellowship, and blessings at Camp Garwood!

Sofilthy's Attic

by Barbara White
via Mississippi Baptist

Be Eccentric

I get a "briar in my craw" (if you don't know what that is, ask a chicken) every time I hear a youngun' say, "Well, everybody else is doing it." Well, so what? God went to a lot of trouble making us all different, our finger prints, our voices, our DNA, etc., all prove that we are different. Then most humans start at an early age trying to be like everybody else. And age doesn't seem to have much influence

on this yearning to be like everybody else. Look at clothing styles, hair styles, cars, trucks, etc. Our preacher said the other day that even adults are influenced by peer pressure to be like everybody else.

Maybe we need to be reminded of the scripture in Psalm 139:14. "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are they works; and that my soul knoweth right well."

Be an original. If that means being a little eccentric, so be it!

Partnership With BMMI

by Director Ralph Izard, M.D.

Do you as an individual, Sunday School class, study group, or a church have the same interest as the Baptist Medical Missions International (BMMI)? Our interest is to respond to the Great Commission in support of the missionary working on a mission by showing compassion to those that come to a BMMI medical clinic with their acceptance of Jesus Christ as their Savior being the end result.

Each year, several churches partner with the BMMI for medical mission trips to a country where the BMAA has a mission project. The BMMI is part of the Department of Missions of the Baptist Missionary Association of America. Therefore, we are in a position to know the needs of each mission field and what would be required to have a successful short term medical mission trip. Also, we are able to supplement the personnel of the team in the event that the church does not have the needed medical professionals for a high standard of care. A concerted effort is also made to have communications with the Ministry of Health of the proposed country and also the local medical community.

A short term medical mission trip is an exciting way to learn firsthand about a particular mission field that you support with your offerings to BMAA Missions. You are able to meet the people with whom the missionary is working and see the living conditions of the people there.

A lot of long range planning is needed for a successful mission trip. Passports, flight arrangements, tickets, hotel rooms, food, transportation, medicine, and immunizations required to obtain a visa, are all matters with which the BMMI office can give assistance.

The opportunities are great, the need is great, and I believe the time is short before the return of Jesus Christ.

To learn more about how your church can partner with BMMI to support our missionaries and carry the gospel to an unsaved and dying world, please call Doris at the Missions office (501 455 4977). I would be excited to set up an appointment to further show you and your church how you can become involved in world-wide missions. A BMMI trip will change your life forever and also the way you view missions.

REMEMBER: When you follow Jesus Christ, it always leads to people.

One-Day VBS's You Are Invited to Attend:

**Stony Point Baptist
Church, Mineral Point**
July 24th at their mission in
Viburnum.

**Central Baptist,
Union**
July 31st at Union City Park
in the JC Pavilion at the
fairgrounds. 10 til 2

+++ NEWS BRIEFS +++

Antioch, Ellington, sends Christian Greetings to our Brothers and Sisters in Christ. We had a wonderful blessing June 20th as a husband and his wife joined our church and will be baptized soon. They also had three young people with them. So we now have a young class to teach. Bro. Doyle is especially happy as he now has another man in the church. He says he was outnumbered by the women. We are still having several visitors. We are praying that more of them will come forward and be baptized soon. Keep Antioch in your prayers as we continue to do the Lord's work.

Doyle Abbey, Pastor
Minnie Asberry, Reporter

Charity, Bismarck, hosted the Washington County District Auxiliaries on June 5. What a delightful time we had and hope others did as well. Sis. Janet Price, with the help of her son, Stephen, prepared a slide show of their trip to the Holy Land. They get so excited just talking about the trip and their plan to take another in 2011. We were also excited as we imagined ourselves to be in that place when Jesus comes again. The ladies prepared special Israeli treats for refreshments, including vegetable salad, fruit tray including dates, (Edna couldn't find figs so brought Fig Newtons!!!), latke, falafel, pitah bread with egg salad or grilled chicken stuffing, humus spread, carrot raisin salad, and sabbat cake for dessert. A good time was had by all and we appreciate those who drove a great distance to be there. June 14, Sis. Carolyn met Sis. Norma from Zion and Sis. Tiny and GMA, Ciara, from Bethany for the long drive and long anticipated trip to Gary, Texas, for GMA Retreat. What a joy that was. Around 415 girls and counselors were registered with 67 queens participating in the Coronation aptly presented by Sis. Norma and Sis. Tiny with the added visual of the potter's room, a backdrop painted on a huge canvas by Tiny's son, Mitchell, showing a depiction

of Jesus kneeling over a broken piece of pottery. Very inspiring. June 18 the Church met at the home of Butch and Janet Price for a picnic complete with jalepino franks, hot dogs, all the trimmings plus homemade ice cream. I estimate about 35 in attendance. We are blessed with three baby boys in the congregation and a lot of grandchildren visiting through the summer. Our pastor and family took a much deserved vacation to Branson and other spots of interest this month. Bro. Meade filled the pulpit for him. He also spent a couple of days working at Camp. One of those days he had the HELP of two grandsons, Jimmy and Nathan. We are much in prayer for the GMA Retreat on July 16-17 at Camp Garwood as well as the week of Camp July 26-29. The Fellowship Choir had a great time singing at the Villas in DeSoto on the 26th and we also look forward to a concert at Stony Point the last of the month. A few of us are gathering at the Colonial Retirement Center in Bismarck every week to play the piano and sing for the residents there.

Until we meet,
Lee Miller, Pastor
Carolyn Meade, Reporter

Mt. Zion, Ellington, is blessed to visit with you again. May 30th, our visitors were Pastor Brian Meade and family. They had been visiting with Brian's parents, Bro. Albert and Sis Dianna. We had a wonderful service. They took turns in bringing God's word to us. Bro. Josh, their son, is very talented. He played a hymn on his harmonica and one on the piano. We enjoyed it all. We were glad to have David Harmon with us also. After the service we gathered in the dining hall for a delicious lunch. June 13th, Bro. Gerry Joiner and wife Sis. Janet blessed us with their presence. Pray for them as they are having health problems. We are happy to have Sis. Dianna back. Answered prayers are wonderful. June 20th, we recognized the fathers on their day along with our heavenly Fa-

ther. We enjoyed an inspiring message. June 27th, a lunch is planned after service then we will go to the nursing home for an uplifting message and fellowship with the folks there. Until next time - God offers us water in our wilderness. Someone out there needs you. If you see someone that doesn't have a smile give them one of yours. God bless!

Emory Shelton, Pastor
Mary Marcher, Reporter

Ozark Heights, Potosi, says, "Hello and God Bless to all our Sisters and Brothers in Christ!" The harder we work the further behind we seem to be. Bro. Brian and Sis. Dawn had a weekend off and Bro. Ron Eye filled the pulpit both services; as well as taking care of services at Potosi Manor. Bro. Chris Mosier also assisted with Bro. Gary's Sunday school class and both did a tremendous job. We are very blessed to have these men of God ready to assist as needed with so many on vacations. Welcome back to all. I also got to fly to Minnesota to visit with my grandchildren. Our VBS was a big success, lots of little ones were taught the about a trip to Egypt by the great teacher Joseph. They were taught to forgive things that bother them and to love family no matter what! Sis Connie and Gerri did a fantastic job preparing and building sets with a lot of help from all. After refreshments were served the children with their teen and adult leaders lead the youth out to many exciting displays and fun filled opportunities. Such as; one evening they had a petting zoo with donkeys, ducks, rabbits, and chickens; in which, the children were thrilled. Thanks to all that contributed and brought these animals. Our church was represented in the Moses Austin Parade along with providing a BBQ at the General Dollar store. Thanks to all that helped. We had a great Father's Day; we look up to our men! We were so sad at the passing of our dear Sis. Dorothy Lawson; the church had a dinner for

support of the loss in the Lawson family. We give our sympathy and prayer support to Sis. Dorothy's family. Our dear Sis. Gurlean Lawson is in need of our prayers, as is Sis. Geraldine Warden who has recently decided to move into the Baptist Home in Ironton. We miss you!

From the youth reporters: I now have 2 young teen assistants to help with the report from a youth point of view; this month's contribution is by Sis Elisha McGuire. We (Ozark Heights Youth Group) went to help out our Smithville mission in June. We enjoyed the trip and had fun at Smithville and we learned a lot. It was really good to see that others are working for God, too!

Brian Meade, Pastor
Georgie Brokaw, Reporter

Ohlman, Bunker, reports that Summer is in full swing, and that means it's time for Vacation Bible School. Every teacher is working hard to prepare for her class of young people. We are hoping for around 50 kids. It will be July 19th through July 22. We have an exciting project going! We have created a "building fund" to raise money for a building for the youth of Ohlman. In the short while that it has been in effect, God has given us great results! The wonderful thing about this, is that He has sent the young people to the church, making a need to make room for them. Please pray for our church and

Her people, as we have had a lot of sickness and we do know that prayer is the great healer. Terry Sharpe, Pastor
Vernis Barr, Reporter

Lower Doe Run, Ellington, reports that we started June by asking for the 1st Sunday of June off, so we could make a trip to Texas to see family. The church was very gracious in allowing us to do so. Bro. Leonard Compton filled the pulpit the morning and evening services on June 6th. Our pastor has been preaching from the book of Romans for several weeks now. And it has been so good. Unless the Lord changes his mind, he intends to preach/teach the entire book. We've been studying the book of Acts in our Wednesday night Bible Study. It, too, is very good and very enlightening. We have set our one day VBS for July 17th, from 9:30 - 3:00 p.m. We have set our ages from 4 years old through the 6th grade. Our theme is a western one. If you know of any children in our area, please contact us, and we will try to do our best to bring them in and minister to them. We honored the men of our church on Wednesday night the 23rd. We made them a spaghetti supper. There were approximately 20 people present. The best news of all is that one of our young ones gave her heart to the Lord on the 30th. She has her whole life to live for God now. We have the

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✝ From Our Workers ✝

From Our Director....

This month we celebrate Independence Day and we are so glad that we live in a land where we are afforded both rights and choices.

Sometimes a free people can take for granted that freedom and forget the source from which their freedom was won. On a spiritual plane, Paul addressed this very problem in the book of Galatians. The Galatians, who

once took hold of the freedom found in Christ, had now become enslaved again to the law of Judaism. Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. Galatians 5:1 [NKJV]

Paul would go on in the book of Galatians and teach them that they were called to liberty...to freedom. Now, not a freedom to do anything as they pleased, but a freedom to choose God as the source of salvation and the freedom to choose to serve God as Lord.

Please note the following freedoms that we have in Christ:

1. I am free to stop sin from setting up a base of operation in my life.

For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. Galatians 5:13 [NKJV]

The word "opportunity" means "a starting point" and was used to describe a military base where all decisions were made and operations were carried out. The word "flesh" is

not referring to the body, but to the sinful inclination of fallen man. So Paul is saying do not let our Freedom in Christ be a base of operation where we

carry out our sinful desires without fear of consequences.

2. I am free to love others by serving them.

We not only oppose the flesh, but we move up to another level and with love we serve others. "...but through love serve one another." Galatians 5:13

Jesus is our best example and made the point clear that we love best when we serve others: For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

3. I am free to fulfill the moral law of God.

For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:14 [NKJV]

God's ethical laws have not changed from the Old Testament to the New Testament. Adultery, stealing, and lying are things we ought to avoid. Being a Christian does not mean that I have a license to ignore the moral law. On the contrary, the Holy Spirit that indwells us will lead us to do our best morally. Paul tells us that

because of our Christian freedom we can do things that we could not before. True liberty produces self-control, service to others, and obedience to God.

I am thankful that I live in a land such as America. We enjoy freedoms that other nations can only dream about. At the same time I realize that our nation as taken much for granted, has turned its back on God, and is in jeopardy of losing that freedom under God's possible judgment. Like our nation, we need to take inventory of our spiritual citizenship and ask ourselves are we making the right choices in our lives. We are free, by the blood of the Lamb, to be obedient to His Word and to serve and love others. Are you living a life of liberty as an ambassador for Christ?

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Special Prayer Requests from the Mission Field

Dear friends:

We are having difficulties recovering from one attack after the other.

First, one of our team members in Egypt was thrown in jail for "opening a place of worship without license." Getting a license is next to impossible. We would need a presidential decree.

Our Mauritania Church planter is under the threat of

A Reminder of God's Blessings

by James Hoffmann

On our way home from my mom's funeral last month my wife and I stopped by to visit my Aunt Dorothy Goldschmidt and share with her some of the memories and blessings God had poured upon our family through my parents and their dedication to Him. As we were talking Aunt Dorothy showed us a list of people who were baptized at the same time my parents, Ed and Irene Hoffmann, were baptized in 1932 by the Independence Baptist Church in Neelyville, Missouri.

We were reminded once again of God's blessings as we saw many names we recognized and have been acquainted with over the years. Many of these have gone on to be with the Lord. I share this list with you, knowing that some of you will recognize some of those listed and many of you will rejoice with us in God's blessing in giving us a heritage of Faith that has brought us to where we are today.

The following list was recorded by Mabel (Gayle) Hoffmann, Church Clerk. Bro. R.L. Powell baptized these 62 individuals for Independence Baptist Church, at Ringo Ford in August 1932.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Lela Mae Seratt | 32. William Berry |
| 2. Ona Morrison | 33. Etta Stanley |
| 3. Ernest Morrison | 34. Bert Bullis |
| 4. Minnie Goldschmidt (Hopper) | 35. Lorene Penrod |
| 5. Alma Morrison | 36. James Atwell |
| 6. Edwin Hoffmann | 37. Carl Smith |
| 7. Irene Hoffmann | 38. Ernest French |
| 8. Walter Hoffmann | 39. Allie Ferguson |
| 9. Ollie Hoffmann | 40. Ona Surlet |
| 10. Otis Harris | 41. Mrs. Rich |
| 11. Earl Eagen | 42. Harvey Henthorne |
| 12. Arthur Markel | 43. Elizabeth Burson |
| 13. Laura Gayle | 44. Erline Griffin (Hoffmann) |
| 14. Joe Burson | 45. Walter Henthorne |
| 15. Kathrine Tolliver | 46. Hazel Burrow |
| 16. Lorena Stout | 47. Alice Gryder |
| 17. Dorotha Dawes | 48. Lena May Rich |
| 18. Ruth Moss | 49. Reva Fickertt |
| 19. Blanch Gatlin | 50. Geneva Fickertt (Stanley) |
| 20. Beulah Asher | 51. Dolly Davis (Parrish) |
| 21. Alfred Henthorne | 52. Thelma Atwell |
| 22. Clyde Berry | 53. Florence Surlett |
| 23. Effie Lawrence | 54. Calvin Townsend |
| 24. Arven Lawrence | 55. Buron Dowdy |
| 25. John Morrison | 56. Addie Rich |
| 26. John Atwell | 57. Cora Moss |
| 27. Henry Schuerger | 58. Mrs. Ed Walters |
| 28. Norman Burson | 59. Ed Walters |
| 29. Vanita Wells | 60. John Alexander |
| 30. Anna West | 61. Lily Gryder |
| 31. Emma Langley | 62. Beatrice Wells |

death with his family after a colleague was shot to death on the street in broad daylight.

Today, the word came out that all of our Baptist churches in Syria are to be shut down except maybe 2. They use apartments in apartment buildings. From now on no churches are allowed in apartment buildings. This was an Achilles' heel for us. It is an illogical law but none-the-less a new law.

We really need prayers. Our

work in Syria is at stake. Could you please send out a prayer gram to every email address you have so we can repel this satanic attack through the power of prayer?

Please share this with other Baptist papers. I will be forever grateful. It is crunch time and the victory is the Lord's.

Christus Victor,
Your Workers in the Middle East
(Names ommitted on purpose)

• **NEWS From Page 2** • obligation to disciple her and encourage her in her Christian life. Her name is Makenna Chilton. Remember her in your prayers. Please remember Sis. Helen Morris in your daily petitions to the Lord. She is having some serious health problems. She is such a blessing to our church. Please pray for Bro. Denver as he has plans to go on a mission trip to Bolivia in August. There are several men from Meramec Association that are planning to go. They will be mostly on the Rivers of Blessings boat. He is looking forward to it, and has about everything in order. Denver Page, pastor
Sharon Page, reporter

Friendship, Harviell, voted to start a WMA at our June Business Meeting. We will be hosting the August Youth In Harvest and would like to invite everyone to a Back to School Lock-in August 13 (after YIH) We are counting down the days to church camp. A French Harp Solo by Sis. Nadine Cate was enjoyed by all. Our Youth are excited about the Youth In Harvest program and are working very hard on their black lite presentation. Everyone is getting real excited about camp this year. We have several that are planning on attending that are not saved. Join us in prayer that they will be saved at camp! Ernie Cate, Pastor
Thelma Dunlap, Reporter

Bethany, St. Louis, had a great Vacation Bible School which was a wonderful week for all involved. Sis. Debbie Johnston led the team of dedicated members in bringing the gospel message to the children. Many young lives were touched this week. Our fifth Sunday Talent Time blessed us with many using their talents to praise the Lord with songs, readings, testimonies, and playing instruments. The ladies meeting was hosted by Sis. Betty Briley at her home. Delicious food and fellowship was enjoyed by everyone. Sis. Blanchard and our GMA's travelled to Gary, Texas for the National GMA Retreat. Our deepest

sympathy is extended to Bro. Hoffmann and his family as his mother, Irene Hoffmann, went home to be with the Lord early in June. We are looking forward to a wedding shower on July 11th for Bro. Clayton McKibbin and his fiancé, Kinsey. We pray the Lord's blessing on this young couple's marriage. We are also looking forward to State Camp at Garwood July 26-29.

James Hoffmann, Pastor
Carol McDonald, Reporter

Kewanee, Kewanee, sends greetings to all of our sister churches and hope everyone is staying cool. It seems the hotter the weather gets, the busier we get. Kewanee has had a busy two months, and I am either going to have to start doing the newsletter every month or take better notes. My memory is just not that reliable! The landscaping project is finished and it looks wonderful! Thanks to Hop and Sue Jackson, Jackie Vaughn, Phyllis Wescoat and Flea McMillen. I apologize if I forgot to mention anyone that helped. On Mothers day the mothers received a pen, book, and a pink carnation. Special mothers recognized: Josephine Fowler, most mature mother: Sarah Wolverton, youngest mother. We had a threeway tie with most children present and they each had 3 children present, they were: Gloria Taylor, Randena McMillen, and Kiley Adams. Evelena Fowler was the grandmother with most grand and great-grandchildren present. Good job Jerry Redden, Jacob Johnson and Jason Taylor for making this a special day for all us mothers. We would like to congratulate Bro. Flea McMillen as President of Life-Word. Bro. Flea looks forward to serving the Lord in this ministry and he covets the prayers of all of us. We would like to thank Sis. Debbie Nowell for doing our church bulletin. She is doing a great job! Bro. Sam and Sis Marcy Faulkner invited the church to their home June 5th for a fish fry. Bro. Jim Kerr and wife enjoyed the afternoon with us. It was good eating and good fellowship! Thanks Sam

and Marcy! Bro Jim Kerr filled the pulpit on June 6th. We had a dinner and a short service after lunch. It is about a 6 hour drive for them so we dismissed services for Sunday night. Our p.m. service on June 13th was our VBS kickoff. Boy, did we have a wild bunch of cowboys and cowgirls, not all of them were kids! We had a good time with horse shoes, barrel racing, mining for treasures and a cold potato game. Sis. Christina Taylor, VBS director, could not get enough YEEHAWES at Bible School. She was wonderful and the kids had a great time! We had an average of about 30 children each day and 20 workers. Our offering, \$305 went to Camp Garwood. It was a very exciting week and the seed of Gods Word was planted through classes, missions, crafts and songs. A special thanks to all who helped. Taylor Poore and Makenzie Palmer, granddaughters of James and Gloria Taylor, did our missions each day. They were a great team and the kids loved them. Parker and Tyler Sprouse were too old to attend but they came and helped wherever they were needed. Its great to have Christian teenagers who devote their time for God's work. We had our VBS program on Friday night and the kids did a great job. From the youngest to the oldest, you could tell they had a fun week. Our Fathers Day committee, Christina Taylor, Kristi Bond, and Lisa Cox, read poems and handed out flashlights to every father in attendance. Caleb Houston was recognized for having youngest child present, Arlene Clark was the father who had been saved the longest, 58 years, and Alex Fowler had the most grand and great-grandchildren present. Taylor Poore and Lisa Cox provided us with special music. The WMA is getting ready for the Christmas Shoeboxes. We are also going to provide the school teachers within our church extra items needed for school, as some of the students do not have them. Also, Shelly Johnson, school nurse, is in need of good used shoes for elementary age children. If anyone is

interested in helping, you can contact the church. Please continue to pray for us as we seek a pastor. We know God has a man and a plan for us. It is the prayers of all the church members and our sister churches that keeps the church united and anticipating great things from our God! May God bless each one and may you always feel His loving arms around you for He is always with us. Debbie Houston, reporter

Stony Point, Mineral Point, says, "Hello to everyone!" Just a very short note to let you all know that there will be a one-day Vacation Bible School at our mission church, Emmaus in Virburnum, Saturday, July 24th. If you should happen to be in the area, please stop by. We would also like to invite everyone to join us at Stony Point at 6:00 p.m. July 31st as the Fellowship Choir will be lifting up their voices in praise to our Lord. Hope to see you there. Claude Evans-Pastor
David Hughes-Reporter

Emmanuel, Sikeston, is getting ready this week to celebrate Homecoming Day July 11. Bro. Ray Thurman, a former pastor, will be the guest speaker. We hope to renew old acquaintances and celebrate fifty-nine years of the Church's existence. Praise the Lord! We offer sincere sympathy to Bro. Billy and Sis. Donna and their family in the recent death of her sister, Mary Jo Johnson. She fought a brave battle against cancer and then God took her to heaven. No more suffering. She lived in Tennessee and Bro. Larry Tucker filled the pulpit on Sunday during that week. His sermons were inspiring and challenging. A special "Thank You" to the Grandview Missionary Baptist Church, Springfield, Missouri, for the \$250 love offering to help our Fellowship Hall Building Payoff Fund, and their kind words of encouragement and prayers. A spaghetti supper and special music was held in June that added over \$500 more to the Payoff Fund. God is good. Wednesday evenings we have had a great study in the book of

Hebrews which is about to end. We are looking forward to a new book to study. Bro. Billy is a very good teacher. We have a long prayer list each week and probably you do also. So let us pray for one another. Billy Davis, Pastor
Vi Maclin, Reporter

Central, Union, is hosting a one-day Vacation Bible School July 31st at Union City Park in the JC Pavilion (at the fairgrounds). "Surfing with the Savior" is the theme and title of our event. It is FREE and available for children ages 4 to the 6th grade. The event will begin at 10 a.m. and ends at 2 p.m. We are praying for the opportunity to minister to many children and families in the Franklin County area. Amy Matthews, Reporter

Called Home

Mary Irene (Smith) Hoffmann, 96, of Bronson, Texas, and formerly of Missouri, was born August 17, 1913 and died Monday, June 7, 2010, at Twin Lakes Rehab Care Center in San Augustine, Texas. She was a member of Pineland First Baptist Church at the time of her death.

She and her late husband, Ed Hoffmann, were members of Bethany Baptist Church in St. Louis, Missouri, for many years and were charter members of Friendship Baptist Church in Caseyville, Illinois, before moving to Texas in the 1970's.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ed Hoffmann; a daughter-in-law, Betty Hoffmann; and granddaughter, Janet Hoffmann.

She is survived by two sons: Don (Thelma) Hoffmann and James (Mary) Hoffmann; three daughters: Ola (Art) Smith, Mary (Louis) Shults, and Minnie (Earl) Gillam; a brother, Perry Lee Jr.; two sisters-in-law: Erlene Hoffmann and Dorothy Goldschmidt; 15 grandchildren; 35 great-grandchildren; 18 great great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were in Jasper, Texas, led by Pastors Don Falke and James Hoffmann.

**BMA of Missouri
State Camp
July 26-29, 2010**

Camp Rules & Regulations

Please be familiar with these and come to camp prepared to abide by them!!

Baptist Training Service Assembly of Missouri

We recognize our camp grounds as a place where we are privileged to come and enjoy religious services, Christian fellowship, and wholesome recreation. In light of these aims we respectfully ask that those in attendance adhere to the following rules and regulations as adopted by the BMA of Missouri. These rules are established and enforced for the honor of our Lord and safety of our campers.

Goals and Aims

1. To introduce our lost campers to Jesus and lead them to an eternal saving knowledge of His love.
2. To worship our Lord in a natural and comfortable environment.
3. To encourage spiritual growth among the campers.
4. To encourage young people to become active participants in the church and our associated work.
5. To have good Christian fun.

Camp Rules

1. That each church sending minors under the age of 18 provide proper adult supervision for them, at least one male for the boys and at least one lady for the girls.
2. Conduct on the camp grounds must reflect Christian standards.
3. The use of tobacco is prohibited anywhere on the camp grounds.
4. All campers are expected to be under the tabernacle when services are being conducted unless special permission has been granted.
5. All campers are expected to attend class unless special permission has been granted.
6. When "lights out" has been signaled all campers are thereby confined to their quarters for the night. No one is allowed to wander the campground thereafter.
7. No camper, or campers are allowed to leave the mowed areas designated for campers.
8. The use of tape and CD players is permitted only between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. or the time designated by the trustees. All music must be "Christian" music and be played at a level that only includes those in the immediate area.
9. The camp trustees are entrusted to enforce these rules and their authority must be respected. Anyone who refuses to adhere to these rules may be dismissed if proper counseling fails.

Dress Code

1. Shoes must be worn at all times outside the camper's sleeping quarters.
2. T-shirts and caps worn must not promote alcohol, tobacco, or display undesirable messages. No caps or hats are permitted under the tabernacle at any time.
3. Knee-length shorts are permitted during daytime activities.
4. Pants or dresses expressing modesty must be worn during evening worship.
5. Overall neatness of dress must prevail at all times, expressing godliness, being modest in nature.
6. Sponsors are responsible to enforce the camp dress code upon campers within your own church group, and are accountable to the camp director to enforce said rules.

***Camp rules and dress code adopted by the
BMA of Missouri, May 15, 2001.***

Additional Non-adopted rules

- 1) No cell phones during worship or class times.
- 2) Sandals and flip flops are not considered safe footwear.

**BMA of Missouri State Camp
July 26-29, 2010**

Activity Participation Agreement

Activity Information

(To be completed by the activity sponsor)

Name of sponsoring organization: _____
 Address: _____ Telephone: _____
 Name of sponsor's coordinator: _____ Telephone: _____
 Description of activity: _____
 Date(s) and location of activity: _____

Participant Information

(To be completed by participant or authorized guardian)

Name of participant: _____
 Address: _____ Telephone: _____
 Name of emergency contact: _____
 Telephone (daytime): _____ Telephone (evening): _____

Is sponsor authorized to approve medical treatment? Yes No
 Is participant covered by personal/family medical insurance? Yes No

If yes, name of insurer: _____
 Policy or group number: _____

Participation Agreement

In consideration for the opportunity to participate in the above activity, the Participant (or parent/guardian if Participant is a minor) acknowledges and accepts the risks of injury associated with participation in and transportation to and from the activity. The participant (or parent/guardian) accepts personal financial responsibility for any injury sustained during the activity or during transportation to and from the activity. Further, the Participant (or parent/guardian) promises to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the activity sponsor or its agents, employees, volunteers, or any other representatives (collectively referred to hereinafter as the "Sponsor") for any injury related directly or indirectly out of the described activity or transportation to and from the activity, whether such injury arises out of the negligence of the Sponsor or otherwise.

If a dispute over this agreement or any claim for damages arises, the Participant (or parent/guardian) agrees to resolve the matter through a mutually acceptable alternative dispute resolution process. If the Participant (or parent/guardian) and the Sponsor cannot agree upon such a process, the dispute will be submitted to a three-member arbitration panel of the American Arbitration Association for final resolution.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
 (Participant or parent/guardian if participant is a minor)

**Want to Make
a Gift That
Keeps Giving?**

The LifeWord Foundation provides that opportunity. Your gift is never spent, it is invested and only the earnings are used to help carry the gospel around the world. Your gift keeps giving until the Lord returns. For more information, call the LifeWord Development Office at 501-472-2183.

**Deadline Nears
For Holy Land
Classic**

The registration deadline for joining this fall's Holy Land Classic sponsored by Disciple-Guide Church Resources and hosted by Kirk and Toni Shelton is August 15th. Holy Land Classic is an eleven-day tour of some of the most prominent Biblical sites in Israel including Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Jericho, Nazareth, Sea of Galilee, Megiddo, and Masada. The trip

also includes an overnight stay at a Dead Sea Resort.

"Toni and I are extremely excited about this trip to the land of the Bible," said Shelton, Pastoral Ministries and Church Growth Consultant for Disciple-Guide. The trip, scheduled for November 2-12, 2010, has participants from Texas, Arkansas, and Mississippi. Included in the group are several BMAA pastors and wives.

Anyone interested in joining the group must act quickly. For more information contact Kirk Shelton at 972.935.6898 or kirk@fellowshipforney.org.

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

"Leaving a Trail.....Lessons on Influence and Legacy

October 8-9, 2010

Zeno's - Rolla, Missouri

by Janet Widger

It has been a year since we started planning the 2010 Missouri WMA sponsored Ladies Retreat! I told you that time would fly by. Now you have less than TWO months to pay the reduced rate for your registration. If prepaid by September 1, 2010 the cost is \$50 (includes all 3 meals). After September 1, 2010 the cost will be \$60.

I know most of you want a bargain, so please prepay your registration. You can mail the check made out to the MO WMA to me along with a list of your ladies and the church name. Mail to Janet Widger, 7409 Rupert Ave., Richmond Heights, MO 63117

Make your hotel reservations early as well to be placed in the main building. Call Zeno's directly at (573) 364-1301.

I would like to make one clarification - this retreat will not be all about "scrapbooking" as some of you have inquired about. Our speaker Jerene Reddin will briefly touch on "scrapbooking" as a way for you to begin "LEAVING A TRAIL BEHIND YOU." She will further encourage us as she speaks about "Lessons in Influence" and our "Legacy".

To fully participate, she requests that each lady bring a "rough draft" (written or typed) of their salvation experience. Just write down the "where and when" along with any other details that you can remember. It can be a page or a paragraph. Remember it is a rough draft, not the final product.

Also ladies, to participate in the "hands-on" activity, Jerene suggests that each lady bring a scrapbook or journal - it does not need to be big or expensive, a good pen and correcting tape or liquid. Also, bring your choice of scrapbooking supplies such as scissors, glue, paper, templates, and embellishments. She also invites "scrapbookers" to bring a sample scrapbook in order to share ideas.

Last but certainly not least - BRING YOUR BIBLE - you will use it every session!

In Memory of Sis. Wilma Fox

In the May issue of the *Missouri Missionary Baptist* we ran an article about God calling Sis. Wilma Fox home. She was a faithful servant of God for many years and the wife of the late Glen Fox longtime pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

An offering was recently received from the WMA of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Poplar Bluff in memory of Sis. Wilma Fox along with the following note.

A Faithful Member of Mt. Zion WMA of 50 Years

She was a Charter Member February 15, 1960, and served in all phases of the WMA over the years. She was a wonderful teacher who made the study of God's Word come alive.

She was active in local, district, state and national meeting, ably representing Mt. Zion WMA.

Grace Fondren, President
Dorothy Goldschmidt, Reporter

Family Ark Ministries

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

Marriage: Whose Side Are You On?

Part One: The Man's Side

Part One in this series on the marriage is actually for women to read. It is from the male perspective. Keep it in mind that this article is written for the masses, and speaks in generalizations. It may not be true for you and your marriage. But allow the Holy Spirit to lead you into truth and understanding. For if it be found that there is even a hint of truth in this article about you and your personality, then you must wear that shoe. If it is absolutely not true about you; then don't get smug. Get humble, and help other women around you. There are so many hurting marriages. We Christians need to all minister to one another and bear one another's burdens.

Finally, don't ask your husband if this is true about you. Guys don't answer those kind of questions. They don't want to get into trouble. He may even refrain from being totally honest with you. He doesn't want to hurt your feelings, or get you mad at him. So, read it and pray and identify any areas you may need to work on. The purpose of this article is to not

make you feel bad, but to open your heart and mind on ways to improve your marriage. That is the goal. A better marriage. One that pleases God and gives honor to His plan for man and woman in the holy state of matrimony.

There are two chief areas that most women struggle with and should avoid. These are nagging and controlling. They can be relationship killers. They must be avoided.

1) Nagging. I already hear the deafening roar of women across the land. "I wouldn't have to nag if he would just listen." I'll work on him in another article. Please stop being so quick to blame others for areas in your life where you could improve with God's help. You may not even be aware that you are nagging. You think you are just being helpful. You see an obvious problem, and it is so easy to correct. Or you have a need, and all he needs to do is help you. The problem is how you present it to him. Read Proverbs 21:9,19; 19:13.

Which came first the chicken or the egg? Which came first? The fact that he won't listen to you, so you must nag to be

heard; or the fact that he has learned to tune you out and not listen because you nag so much? It doesn't matter. What matters is that your marriage has a communication breakdown. That is what you must focus on. Nagging doesn't work. God made us men. He knows how we operate. This is why the Bible tells women to not nag. When you nag, you are going to drive him further away. He will get very frustrated with this. He doesn't really want to hurt you, so he ignores you for protection and self-preservation. The more you nag, the more you drive your husband away from you. I Peter 3 tells you to win him over "without a word" but instead with a gentle spirit.

Find different means of communicating besides the constant verbal reminders. Never remind him of what he needs to do in front of others. This is embarrassing to a man, and he resents you for bringing up things like this in front of others, even family members. Don't use words that make him feel inadequate or falling short in some category. You are attacking his ego now. Don't emasculate your husband. If you go on and on and on about something; like Sampson, he may finally cave in after his spirit is vexed; but he resents you for it and you have cut away at his masculinity. Again, it doesn't matter if you think you have done this or not, what matters is how he perceives it. He will perceive that he has caved in under constant pressure from you, and some of his identity as a man has been clipped.

Leave helpful reminders. Set clear expectations and boundaries. Establish better communication skills between you two. Let him know how you really feel, and how you really need something done. Then, drop it. Give him space to do it in. If he continues to ignore what has

In Loving Memory of Sister Wilma Fox

One of God's Great Servants

*We say "Good-bye" to our precious friend,
Who remained a faithful Christian, to the end.*

*She lived her life for Christ, our Lord,
Serving Him daily through His Holy Word.
She raised her family in church and Sunday School,
Attending all services, letting God's hand rule.*

*Playing the piano, singing or teaching,
Giving all diligence to the pastor's preaching.*

*She was always ready to do God's Will,
Welcoming people to Mt. Zion, our pews to fill.*

*Studying God's Word was always good,
Believing God's truth, with faith -- she stood.*

*Taking the led in our State or National work,
Doing her best -- never a duty to shirk.*

*She was a wonderful pastor's wife,
With her friendly, happy attitude all of her life.*

*She has touched the lives of many members,
In her loving ways, which we will always remember.
By the memory of her Christian life she lived in the past,
We know she's with Jesus our Savior, in Heaven at last.*

Dorothy Goldschmidt - April 30, 2010

Meramec Banner

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

Meramec Landmark Baptist Association

Jesus Camp 2010

No More Excuses!!

Dates:

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

Teen Camp: Wednesday, July 21-24, 2010

Camp Packets can be downloaded at www.meramecassociation.com

• **SIDE From Page 6** •

been requested within a reasonable time frame, then there may be deeper marital problems than nagging and poor communication. You may need to seek Biblical counseling.

2) Controlling. You just want your family/marriage to be good. It is obvious to you what needs to be done, and you are going to insist that it be done your way. This is a disaster in a marriage. I am not saying that it isn't just as wrong for men to be controlling, but generally speaking, more women have problems with this than men. You cannot control other people. The quicker you learn this, the happier you will be. You can control your response to others. You can role-model the behavior you would like to see. You can communicate needs and desires. But the more you pull on a chain around a man's neck, the harder he is going to dig in and jerk the other way. You can't control men. You can't nag them into deeper spirituality. You can't control them to be the head of the home. Pray and let God change him. It is your job to love your husband. It is God's job to change him.

Part Two:

The Woman's Side

In part one we discussed how wives should avoid nagging and controlling tactics on their husbands. Now, I will address the issues from the woman's side. What do men need to work on. I will remind you that these articles are written for the general population. They may not apply to you and your particular marriage at all. But please remain humble enough to allow

the Holy Spirit to speak to you if there is any truth to be found in your personal life in this area. If you never struggle with any of this, then you need to look around and help minister to other men. Maybe you should start a men's group at church because there is an abundance of men who do struggle with these issues. Our goal is to improve our marriages. Our goal is by having better marriages, we can give God more glory. He designed marriage, and we need to be the kind of man that lives in such a way as to give God glory from the way we treat our wives.

Meramec Missionary Committeemen Meeting

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

Where: Charity Baptist Church, Columbia, MO

The two big areas that most men need to work on is pride and anger, and they go together. Men with a great deal of pride, have a great deal of anger.

1) Anger. Anger is a secondary response to some other emotion. If you want to deal with your anger, then you have to see what is driving it. Is it frustration? Is it fear of failure? Is it fear of rejection? Is it fear of not being the dominant one in your relationship? Are you too stressed out? You have to step back and identify what are the triggers for your anger. What sets you off? Often times you get so angry at your wife, when she is just a convenient target. The real root source of the anger is something else. Find what that is so you can deal

with it. Fear drives most anger. It doesn't mean you are afraid of something. It means like fear of failure, rejection or not being seen as masculine.

Communication is the key to dealing with your anger. You two have to sit down, and you have to actually be strong enough to tell her what the problem is that you have with her. Then, you have to both make adjustments. You must communicate in prayer to ask God to help you. Ask God to deliver you from exploding anger or anger that you hold inside that becomes wrath. Work out solutions that work for both

of you. It is called negotiating with your mate.

Learn to pick a weird number and count backwards from there for 30 seconds. Pick 1,624,501. Now start counting backwards. You will have to stop and think about it. This is good. It takes the edge off your anger. Take time outs. When you start feeling it rise up in you, ask your wife for a time out. Go outside and walk. Even at work, if you can walk down the hallway or some place, it will relieve enough tension to not explode. Tell her honestly, you need some space. Then, pray and go dig in the yard, hammer some wood etc. Don't be destructive. Just get the "arrugggh" out of you. Then, come back and talk about it.

Meramec Landmark Baptist Association
Financial Report • June 2010

Balance May 31, 2010	\$ 5,809.87
Total Receipts:	\$ 3,613.45
Total Available	\$ 9,423.32

Disbursements:

Danny Kirk	1,100.00	
Director's Expenses	144.30	
RLF Transfer	249.00	
Brotherhood Mutual	609.16	
Boliva Trip Sponsorships	2,000.00	
Total Disbursements:	\$ 4,102.46	\$ (4,102.46)
Checking Balance, June 30, 2010:	\$ 5,320.86	

Revolving Loan Fund Balance \$ 118,375.87*

*\$10,000. was taken from RLF account and loaned to the Meramec Retreat Center for capitol expenses.

From Our Director...

During the first week of June, three of our churches, New Testament, Sullivan, Ozark Heights, Potosi, and Lindsay Lane, Florissant, traveled to Smithville, MO to help our church planters, Jamie and Rebekah Jones with some community service projects. It was a joy to work with some of the new people who comprise North Lake Church. It is our prayer that these efforts will continue to be a blessing to the community and that North Lake will gain a reputation that it is a church that cares.

Our association voted to encourage our men to go on a foreign mission trip to Bolivia with a matching grant of \$500 if they are supported financially by their church. As of this writing, four men have been blessed by their churches and received the necessary funding to receive the matching funds. Pastors Jamie Hague-wood, Brian Meade, Brad Banderman, and Denver Page are making plans to leave on August 8th and taking a 10-day mission trip on the M.S. Arrington Riverboat. We look forward to hearing a report of their adventure at our annual meeting in September.

Our next opportunity for our association to fellowship together will be at our annual Jesus Camp, July 18-24. The theme for this year's camp is "No More Excuses." The camp committee has been hard at work in preparing the campgrounds, putting together newer and safer bunk beds, and putting new lighting and fans in the tabernacle. These necessary capital improvements are costly despite all of the volunteer labor. I would ask your church to please consider receiving and sending a special offering to offset these expenses.

2. Pride. Pride is what causes our sin. Pride is our flesh. I am not talking about being proud of some accomplishment. You can be proud of your kids. You can be proud of running 2 miles, getting a job completed and it looks good, etc. Pride is sinful when we think too much that our life is about us. We get easily frustrated when others infringe upon my time, my money, my plans, or my life. The more "me" is in there, the more pride we have. Marriage is about "we" and not "me." You don't make independent decisions anymore. You include your life mate. She is your equal. You are to be the head of the home. That may be part of your anger and frustration. You have allowed your wife to be the head

of the home. God wants you to be the head. But you are to be a servant leader. You are not to be a ruthless dictator. Head of the home does not mean you make all the decisions, and if she doesn't like it - tuff. You seek everyone's input so that you can make the best decision. Christ served and died for His bride. Husbands according to Ephesians 5:25 are to do the same thing.

You might live by I Peter 3:7. Let all of your actions give honor to the wife. How do I know what is honoring? You get your knowledge according to Scripture. Scripture tells you how to treat others. You can be in this same passage of scripture and verses 8-16 gives good advice on how to treat your

• See **SIDE Page 8** •

BMA Theological Seminary

Charley Holmes, D.Min., President

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Visit our Web Site: <http://www.bmatsem.edu>

Fishing Story

The week of June 7-11, 2010, Dr. Charley Holmes, Dr. Philip Attebery and Bobby Gilmore (EE coordinator for Arkansas and a member of Springhill Baptist Church in Greenbrier) taught a seminary extension class on the Central Baptist College campus. Among the twenty-plus students was B. J. Sullivan.

On Tuesday B. J. led a team witnessing in a city park. Upon arrival they noticed a man in his early twenties playing with his son and daughter. After introductions, the man began sharing some details of his life. He was from New Orleans and had met and married a girl from Conway and returned to Conway to settle into family life. They noticed that he had gang-related tattoos on his hands. His family had recently attended a church in Greenbrier; however, he couldn't recall what church it was.

When asked about his spiritual life, he stated that he thought he would go to heaven some day because he was changing for the better and becoming a good person. The team proceeded to share the gospel with this gentleman, and he asked a few questions along the way. It was apparent that he was glad to hear that Christ forgives even sinners like him as he made references to the way he had lived on the streets of New Orleans. While sharing the section of the gospel presentation concerning Christ and the forgiveness we receive through His death, burial and resurrection, the team could see a growing yearning to know more.

After the presentation, but before he was asked if he would like to trust in Christ for eternal life, his wife walked up. The team introduced themselves and they asked her what church they attended. She said they attended a Nazarene church in the Greenbrier area. They talked to her about her children and her job and then explained what they were doing. B. J. asked her two questions seminary students are trained to use to diagnose whether someone knows Christ. She stated that she had trusted in Christ alone for eternal life.

B. J. then asked her husband if he would like to trust in Christ. He said, "Yes," and they began to clarify what this meant. During this process the team noticed that the gentleman's wife had tears running down her face. She was wearing sunglasses, so it was a little difficult to notice at first. After the man prayed to accept Christ, he asked his wife if she was okay.

She then told the seminary students that she had prayed that very morning that her husband would accept Christ. It was obvious that she was in awe of God's answer to her prayer. The team was elated that God had answered the woman's prayer by providing them with a divine appointment to share the gospel. It seems that many times our classes' number of divine appointments grows as they become dedicated to their preparation.

Would God give you a divine appointment to witness if you prepared and made yourself available to Him?

• **SIDE From Page 7** •
spouse. If you keep sucking the life right out of marriage with your pride and anger, then you are not honoring her, and verse 7 says your prayers will be cut off. The worst place for a Christian man is to have his prayers cut off from heaven. You can control your anger. All things are possible with God. You can get rid of your pride and not be

so easy to fly off the handle at her if you will work on your own self-esteem. Know true manhood as defined by the Bible, and not by American society. Manhood is not a competition. It is an acceptance of a responsibility by God. A man shows how much he thinks of himself deep down, by how he treats his wife. She reflects his inner being.

Part Three: God's Side

Both husband and wife should work on improving their shortcomings. Everyone of us can work on being more Christ-like. Especially in response to our life mates.

For the marriage to really take off and flourish however, it is important for all married people to understand that there is no side we should take. I set up this series based upon what I hear at marriage retreats. When I go over the foundational role and responses of husbands and wives found in Ephesians 5:21-33, both sexes say, "well whose side are you on?" The men, many times, just want me to address what the women need to do. And the women, many times, just want me to address what the men need to do. The problem is selfishness.

Selfishness is the cause of 100% of all divorces. There are no sides in marriage. The two of you need to die to yourself and become one. If you are one, then there are no sides, there is but a whole. I guess if I am going to be on anyone's side it would be God's side. God has clearly stated what his thoughts and plans and commands are in marriage. He gives a very detailed plan for man and woman in Ephesians 5. The problem is not the institution of marriage. It is just as good as the day God gave it to us in His Holy Word. The problem is the people in the marriage. Marriage is not a give and take relationship. That makes it almost an animal like relationship. The spouses talk like: "I will give this to you, but I expect this in return. If you don't give me what I want, when I need it, then I will just leave you and find someone new." If you are on your 2nd marriage or beyond, I don't want to focus on the past. I am just saying that we need to make this marriage focus on Christ, and not each other. It doesn't matter what happened in the past marriage, it matters that I make this marriage all that it was designed to be by God. This article is not to decide who hurt who in the last

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. -7-

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-

Jerry Jolly has resigned the pastorate of the Highland Hills Baptist Church at Highland AR effective June 20. He is available for revivals, conferences or Sunday preaching appointments as the Lord leads. He can be reached at 1-870-932-8293 or 1-870-930-4309 or jerryjolly@suddenlink.net. -7-

marriage. It is designed to have you get this marriage under Biblical authority and to make it last a lifetime for God's glory.

All marriages can last if we work at it. All marriages have problems. But if BOTH husband and wife are willing to let God do whatever it takes to reconcile the relationship, God can do it. Nothing is impossible with God, Luke 1:37. Our marital fights and arguments are because we are selfish, James 4:1-3. Here is the good news.

God is on your side. If sides are to be had, aren't you glad that God is on your side. Satan is on the other side. Satan wants every married couple to get divorced, or to be miserable together. God's heart is for you two to have a wonderful marriage. It won't be perfect, but it can be good. Marriage was God's idea. He will give you all the grace you need to get through it. He will give you strength, courage, wisdom, energy, love, patience etc. Whatever you need, God will pour it out on you. Just seek. Just ask. But then really believe He shall bring it to pass. Maybe you two are trying too hard on your own to make your marriage work. God said in Psalm 37:5 to commit your ways to him, trust him and it will be "HE" who brings it to pass. It won't be you. It will be him. And God can do it. The world may tell you that it is hopeless. Some days the devil may throw a bunch of junk into the pathway of marital bliss so you will stumble. But never

forget that God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and all the angels in heaven are cheering your marriage on.

Romans 8:31, "If God be for us, who can be against us." II Cor. 10:4, "Our weapons of warfare are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds." Romans 8:37, "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Memorize scripture to get you through the rough spots. Stop fighting each other, and stand united and fight the one who is coming against you. Sometimes you may forget that it is Satan who is prowling around in your house seeking whom he may destroy.

I John 4:4, "Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world." No matter what Satan can throw at your marriage to destroy it, God can throw more at you to save it. Seek Him. He wants you to have a good marriage. He can whip Satan right out of your life if you ask Him to do it. James 4:10 states, "Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up." Both of you humble yourselves and never stop working on doing better in how you treat each other. God will lift you up. Scripture does not say He will think about it. It states that God SHALL lift you up. Never, never, never give up. Who's on your side in marriage?

God is!!!