

The Knots Prayer

Dear God:
Please untie the knots
that are in my mind,
my heart and my life.
Remove the have nots,
the can nots and the do nots
that I have in my mind.

Erase the will nots,
may nots,
might nots that may find
a home in my heart.

Release me from the could nots,
would nots and
should nots that obstruct my life.

And most of all,
Dear God,
I ask that you remove from my mind,
my heart and my life all of the 'am nots'
that I have allowed to hold me back,
especially the thought
that I am not good enough.
Amen

Author Known To God

January Calendar of Events

- 1 New Year's Day– Mission Center Closed
- 11 Camp Committee Meeting– Gilman City
- 12 VBS Clinic for Pastor's & VBS Directors
Mission Center– 7:00 pm
- 16 Men's Prayer Breakfast– Edinburg 8am
- 17 Sanctity of Human Life
- 18 NGR Executive Board- 7:00 pm
- 19 Women's Winter Luncheon– 11:30
- 25-26 State Evangelism Conference-
FBC– Branson
- 29-30 BSU Retreat at St. Joe

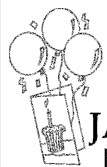
**State Evangelism Breakout Session
Frederick Boulevard Church, St. Joe
February 9, 2010**

More information to be announced soon.

NEW! Check it out at NGR Media Library-

"The Camel Rider's Journal"
More Muslims are coming to faith in Christ today than at any other time in history! Learn how thousands of Muslim-background followers of Jesus Christ are winning their families and friends to faith in Jesus Christ. For too long the Christian response to Islam has been fight, fright or flight. Today, there is a better way, You, too, can win Muslims to Christ.

Includes the DVD for this study.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Rebecca Nance
- 14 Cathie Whitley
- 18 Gene Schreffler
- 26 Iva Gail Ratliff

North Grand River Baptist Association

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Debbie Dickinson
BSU Director
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North Grand River Baptist Association

The Encourager

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Volume 35, Number 1
January, 2010

**"Churches working together to fulfill Jesus' Great Commission."
Matthew 28:18-20**



NGRBA Churches

- Alpha
- Edinburg
- Gallatin
- Galt
- Jameson*
- Jamesport
- Laredo
- Lineville*
- Medicine Valley
- Mercer
- Modena
- Princeton*
- Ravanna*
- Rural Dale
- Salem
- Shelburne
- Spickard
- Tenth Street
- Trenton First
- Union

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A Prosperous New Year!

The New Year lies before me,
A spotless, shining thing,
Bright as the promises of God,
Fresh as the breath of spring.

A year to fill with lovely thoughts,
And kindly, helpful deeds,
Losing all consciousness of self,
In prayer for others' needs.

Sybil Leonard Armes



**VBS Clinic for Pastor's and VBS Director's
Tuesday, January 12, 2010
Mission Center
7:00 pm**

Hey Partners, let's saddle up for VBS 2010 where kids will be ridin' the range and roundin' up questions like, "What is God's plan for me?" and "How can I be like Jesus?" At the end of the day, they'll discover God's Word has all the answers! The music is fun, the videos are wonderful with lots of Colorado skies and mountains. The VBS Youth literature is "Pickup and Go" with lots of excitement goin on.

You will be able to order your kits and have in time for the NGR VBS Training Clinic on March 29th at Trenton First Baptist.

North Grand River Baptist Association's Purpose- "To mutually and prayerfully support, encourage and challenge one another as churches to exalt Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, to edify and equip His disciples to serve him and one another, and to evangelize those who have yet to come to know Him personally." Matthew 28:19-20





From My Heart to Yours

THOUGHTS
FROM THE
HEART

I am grateful for the many Association ministries and events in 2009. I am very thankful for all the time, energy and resources many of you expanded to build up the Kingdom of God by serving and participating in Association endeavors. I am encouraged and excited about our commitment to the HARVESTING THE LAND CAMPAIGN which will be our focus for at least the next three years.

This year's TILLING THE GROUND prayer emphasis is a work in progress. Please let us know who your designated PRAYER PARTNER(S) is or are (Someone who will pray weekly or periodically with your Pastor and who will meet with others at a quarterly prayer summit, as well as, help us recruit 300 PRAYER TILLERS in our Associational churches to pray weekly for specific needs and to attend the prayer summits.)

Thank you for praying weekly for the designated 5 churches each church has each quarter, as well as, praying for the BSU and the NGRBA staff. I encourage each church to pray publicly for these each week.

Continue to saturate all the homes in at least a 5 mile radius of your church building. Pray tilling will make a difference in individuals receiving God's Word and having healthy Spiritual fruit come forth from their lives. Keep praying that at least 3000 precious souls will be truly "born again" by the end of 2012.

Remember the more you pray for specific individuals, the more you will be committed to share God's Word and love with them.

Looking forward to seeing you at the various events we are having this month.

Thank you for all the cards, gifts and well wishes during the Christmas season. You are such a blessing to us.

For His Glory,
E.J. Barnes

State Evangelism Conference- Branson, January 25-26, 2010

Guest Speakers-

Charles Billingsley, Chuck Kelley, Ron Herrod, Jerry Pipes and Larry Wynn

Breakout Sessions-

The Art of Giving an Anointed invitation; Connect 3: The Power of One Sunday School Class; CROSS Missouri with the Gospel!; ERC- Evangelism Tool for the Twenty-First Century; Flourishing in Bi-Vocational Ministry; GPS:(God's Plan for Sharing); Guiding Children in Their Faith Commitment; N2O Sunday- How to Pull Off a "Baptism Sunday"; Interfaith Evangelism: Witnessing to Cults and World Religions; Praying- First GPS Milepost; Sports Evangelism; Today's Youth-Can We Reach Them?; Worship..."Sundays Will Never Be the Same Again!"

November 09 Reports	Monthly Inc.	BSU Inc.	SS	MW	EW	DT	WMU	Bapt. Men	Youth Kids Ministry	Bapt.	Ltr/Other
Alpha	\$ 316.06		15	20	12						
Edinburg	\$ 604.38	\$ 71.10	48	81	55		12	15	22		
Gallatin	\$ 500.46	\$ 50.00	100	114	45						
Galt	\$ 101.00	\$ 25.00									
Jameson			10	12							
Jamesport	\$ 25.00		33	52	25						
Laredo	\$ 526.39	\$ 150.00	25	40	12		6	5			
Lineville	\$ 196.12	\$ 39.22									
M. Valley	\$ 48.34	\$ 25.00	14	16					9		
Mercer	\$ 258.00	\$ 25.00		51	12				12		
Modena	\$ 81.96		8	15	5						
Princeton	\$ 716.10	\$ 50.00	105	155	54	22	25		123		
Ravanna	\$ 112.10		13	15					8		
Rural Dale	\$ 637.48	\$ 50.00									
Salem	\$ 224.14		36	38	14						1
Shelburne	\$ 464.92	\$ 50.00	35	48	21	20	10				
Spickard	\$ 143.00		11	18							
Tenth St.	\$ 795.31	\$ 132.55									
Trenton FB	\$1,219.69	\$ 203.28	109	153	39				70		
Union			63	106	41	81				5	
Total	\$6,970.45	\$ 871.15	625	934	335	123	53	20	244	5	1
Chilli, FBC		\$ 43.00									
MBC		\$ 460.00									

Seminary Checking	\$316.62
Seminary Savings	\$2,040.90
Minister Benevolent	\$1,135.93
Belarus	\$6,273.15
BSU-November- Income to Expense	
Beginning Balance	\$1,264.48
Income	\$1,374.15
Total	\$2,638.63
Expense	\$1,716.25
Ending Balance	\$922.38

November 2009 Account Records	
Beginning Balance	\$18,672.00
Income	\$11,477.55
Total	\$30,149.55
Expenses	\$13,235.20
Ending Balance	\$16,914.35
Line Items in General Checking	
Beginning Balance	\$16,914.35
Designated	\$8,471.75
General Fund	\$8,442.60
NGR October- November 2009	
Income	\$21,711.51
Expenses	\$26,333.41
Difference	(\$4,621.90)



Edinburg— On Friday, November 20th, we had our combined evening services with Shelburne and Dockery Chapel churches. There were songs and devotions from each congregation. Fellowship followed the services. There were 81 in attendance.

We had our Thanksgiving dinner after services on Sunday, November 21st.

On Saturday, November 28th our Children's Church went to the Leafgreen Tree Farm and selected and cut a tree for their sanctuary. They observed the tree shaker at work and watched as the tree was netted. They were presented a candy cane and told the story of the "Candy Cane". Afterwards they returned to the church and were served hot chocolate and cookies. There were 7 in attendance.

For our 5th Sunday evening services we had a meal and "Name That Tune" was played.

On Sunday, December 13 we had our Christmas program. "*The Christmas County Spelling Bee*" was presented by the children and youth of the church. Many songs were sung, including solos by several of the children. There was a good crowd in attendance.

On Friday, December 18, we did our Christmas caroling, singing at the Eastview, Sunnyview and Bristol Manor Care Centers. We also caroled at five individual homes. After caroling we returned to the church for hot chocolate and cookies. There were 23 carolers and 5 who stayed at the church and prepared the treats.

Galt— On December 18th we provided free babysitting for the community so that the parents could have a date night or do shopping. Our Christmas Program was "*There is a Name I Love to Hear*" on December 20th.

Medicine Valley- A combination Thanksgiving/Christmas Dinner was observed on Sunday, December 6, following the morning services at the Baptist Chapel at Newtown. Special services Sunday, December 20 will have included the pastor's annual Christmas message and a Children's Christmas Program during the morning worship time.

In recent weeks, evening devotional services have been at the Chapel rather than the Ministry Center following practice for the children's Christmas program. Sunday evening services will not be conducted after the first of the year. They will be resumed at the Ministry Center some time in March or April.

I would be available to speak on Sunday evenings January thru March at any church desiring to hear more about the mission "*in your own backyard*" or to share information concerning church planting in the Missouri Baptist Convention.

Our food drive in the Newtown/Harris area was quite successful with over 400 items donated. In November we distributed food to 42 client households containing 129 people.

In the week of December 14-18 we are expecting to distribute Christmas Food Boxes to some 70 to 75 households, an increase over the 59 households assisted last December.

The Home Bible Study Group meeting at our home in Humphreys on Tuesday nights regularly runs 10 to 12 people in attendance. We are presently involved in a study utilizing Bruce Wilkinson's "*The Dream Giver*" along with the Exodus account of Moses in the fulfillment of the dream of returning the Hebrew people to the Promised Land.

My own God-given dream at present focuses upon the development of additional Home Bible Study Groups as a means of saturating our areas of ministry with the Gospel. At present, it appears we will be beginning a second Home Bible Study group in January, this one to involve families in an area to the south of Reger.

Medicine Valley continued-

We are also beginning to do initial work toward the development of a third group involving a group of families in Newtown. The subsequent development of additional groups will depend on the involvement of additional volunteer group leaders.

Much prayer support is needed and is critical to the further development of these ministries. We need people praying for hearts to be open to the reception of the Gospel message. Prayer is needed asking God to send forth workers. Prayer is needed that He will move people to provide additional funding, particularly for the development of full church-type ministry at Humphreys.

Our humble gratitude is extended to those who maintain a prayer burden for the lost in our area. Our thanks is extended to all those who have and who continue to support us with your prayers, hands on labor and financial contributions. May the good Lord continue to bless in your work and ministry as you continue to serve Him.

Lewis and Mabel Rogers
Church Planter Missionaries
Under the Home Mission Board

Jamesport— We provided desserts and helped serve the December 2nd BSU luncheon.

Children from our church were allowed to shop free at the Mustard Seed for parents for Christmas. Afterward ladies at the church wrapped the gifts and served hot chocolate and snacks.

The "*Light of the World*" cantata was well attended that was presented on Saturday evening, December 19th and on Sunday, December 20th during the morning worship service.

Mercer— We are planning our Christmas program on December 27th and the Lottie Moon Offering was on December 20th.

Princeton— We have hired an Interim Pastor, Bro. Chuck Miller from Ridgeway. His wife is Carol and their seven children are Elizabeth, David, Anna, Luke, Rachel, Rebekah and two month old Sarah. We welcome Bro. Miller and his family to our church family.

There were 50 Christmas Shoe Boxes filled and delivered to Chillicothe on November 18.

As a mission project, our church members made 60 dozen cookies for Bro. Guy Thomas who is doing a truck stop ministry in Kansas. On December 11th we made 50 dozen cookies for the truck stop ministry in Kansas.

A Christmas Candlelight service will be held on Christmas Eve.

Trenton First- The Awana's went Christmas caroling at Sunnyview and Eastview nursing homes on December 16th. They returned to the church for cookies and hot chocolate.

We hosted the annual Vesper Service for Trenton High School on December 6th.

Ray and Marleen Johnson coordinated a Christmas dinner for members of the church and guests who did not have a place to go for Christmas dinner.

I try to avoid looking forward or backward,
And try to keep looking upward.

"I have set the Lord always before me.

Because he is at my right hand,

I will not be shaken.

Psalm 16:8



BSU-MBC Collegiate Ministry

The NCMC BSU ministries of Wednesday Lunch and Sunday Night Alive, reached a multitude of students this semester. We averaged about 90 per week on Wednesday's, with 116 as our highest number, and 25 per week on Sunday nights, and our last SNA ministering to 45 students. We were blessed to minister to 7 international students this semester as well. Six of those students are returning to Chile this week, and our prayers for them are that "God's Word shared with them will bare much fruit."

We took 17 students and 4 sponsors to the fall retreat, which is the largest number since I have had the privilege of working with the students. We passed out 1,000 gospel tracts and 100 gospel bead key chains at MO Days, and served 55 students on Sunday before Thanksgiving. We also brought in evangelist John Hill for that evening worship who used his skills to share the gospel with the students. We also purchased in October for \$198. a very much needed built-in microwave that accommodates large containers of food.

Because of the increase in number of students we have been ministering to, the BSU budget, for the month of December, is now in the red by approximately \$285. So, my request to my church families is this, "Please make the BSU budget a matter of prayer for this coming semester." What we have done in this BSU ministry has only been accomplished by your prayer support and financial giving, and I realize this is the worst time of year to share this need with you. However, I also know that our Father owns the cattle of a thousand hills, and if He wants this ministry to keep ministering to students this next spring term, then He will also show us how to accomplish that. Thank you for all your food contributions, your money contributions, your physically serving students sacrificially, and your persistent prayers to the throne of Glory for this work. I pray that the star-breathing God of the Universe will choose to continue this work in a God-size way.

Because HE is worthy to receive the REWARDS of HIS SACRIFICE!!!

Diann



What a blessing the Men's Prayer Breakfast have been this last year. There were 29 men present in December at Trenton First. Bro. Denny Chesnut shared with us scripture and a devotion on waiting on the Lord's timing.

I would like to encourage you to come and join us on Saturday, **January 16th, 2010, at Edinburg Baptist Church.** We

begin at 8:00 am. What a great way to begin your day and weekend- in prayer and fellowship with other men in the association.

Robert Hutchinson
Men's Prayer Coordinator



Looking Forward to the New Calendar Year!

Joyous New Year!

The Council decided to cancel the December Christmas Celebration due to the weather. Any items your groups or church still has for Chaplain Man Singh can be brought to the Mission Center as soon as possible. As a January project the Associational WMU has ordered a case of KJV Bibles. If any of your WOM groups or any individuals would like to donate toward the cost of the Bibles you can bring your donations to the January 19th luncheon or bring to the Mission Center in January.

Our January 19th New Year Celebration will be at 11:30 am at the Mission Center, weather permitting. How about a soup and chili luncheon?

If your WOM group or church has not completed the survey, please do so as quickly as possible and bring it to the January luncheon or have it to the Mission Center in my mailbox by the end of January.

Looking forward to February, it's time to start planning something special in our churches for WMU Focus Week February 14-21. If you need ideas, the WMU Yearbook 2009-2010 is an excellent source. See pages 27-28. If you don't have a yearbook, call me, or Debbie can order one for you.

February 14th is also Valentine's Day, a celebration of love, which our missionaries certainly model for us! We'll carry the Valentine theme over to our February 16th Program and Prayer Luncheon. We will also include WMU Focus Week in our program. Ladies, be prepared to share how you are celebrating WMU Focus Week in your church.

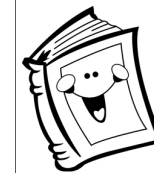
New Year Blessings,
Bev Martin

Executive Board Meeting Monday, January 18, 2010 Mission Center at 7:00 pm

On Agenda

- Elect 2 members from floor to serve on the Executive Committee/Personnel Committee.
- Vote on E.J.'s housing allowance change

All leaders please have reports submitted by January 12, 2010.



Many Devotional Books to begin your new year with for the entire family-

**January 4-16 take another 10% off
Already discounted Devotional Books**

Check out the
BOOKSTORE

God Sightings One Year Bible- \$9.00

The Beginner's Bible and Case \$15.30

Special Purchase- While They Last
NLT- Girl's, Boys or Student Hardcover
Life Application Study Bible- \$17.00

Selected KJV Study Bibles- 45% off
SRP- \$69.99 to \$79.99

Now- \$36.10 to \$44.00