

JULY 2021



CONCORD COVENANT

INDIVIDUAL CHURCHES UNITED IN FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION.

*"So if the Son sets you free
you will be free indeed."*

John 8:36

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

DOM | 2
EARLS' FRONT PORCH | 3
BOOK REVIEW | 5
MISSIONS | 6
CALENDAR | 9
MINISTRY POSITIONS | 10
RESOURCES | 10-11

OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY | 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
TUESDAY | 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
WEDNESDAY | 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
THURSDAY | 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
FRIDAY | 8:00 AM – NOON

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JULY HIGHLIGHTS:

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

CONCORD BUILDERS | July 11-17
CHILDREN'S CAMP | July 18-23



JULY 25TH, 2021

@ 2:00 PM

ENON BAPTIST CHURCH

A WORD FROM OUR DOM

Dear CBA Churches,



God has really been moving in our churches and communities this summer. We are all looking forward to putting 2020 behind us and to share Christ with our families, church, community nation and world. I am hearing of great testimonies from a number of churches that the lost are coming to know Jesus as Lord and that Baptisms and disciple making is on the increase. That is the revival fire that comes from the Lord! It may not be happening everywhere, but it is happening. If you desire to see it happen where you are then start praying and continue to preach, teach, share and live the Good News of Jesus! This is true freedom. As we consider our Country's freedom with the celebration of the 4th of July, let us recognize that Jesus provides the greatest freedom: freedom from sin for all who repent, turn to Him and accept Jesus Christ as the Lord of their life.

It's easy to look from afar and become disheartened with the things going on in our nation and world. We see what sin is doing to destroy a lot of things that God and we hold dear. But please don't look at the negative circumstances and become overwhelmed. We serve an all-powerful God that can overcome all things. As a child of God, we have the joy of God's abundant blessings all the time. We are reminded: **"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."** (2 Corinth. 9:8, NIV) In all things and at all times we will have what we need, to do the good works of sharing the Gospel and hope of Jesus. The joy and freedom of being a Child of God is not that we will always be blessed with good circumstances, but instead, despite the circumstances, we are blessed by a good God that delivers us from eternal damnation if we choose to accept and believe in Jesus. It's not about things, policies or politics; life is about eternity. Life is freedom through Jesus.

Sometimes in life things don't go well. We get overwhelmed with the circumstances and feel as if our circumstances are a measurement of God's love. That is so far from the truth.

I had the opportunity to attend a VBS night at High Point last month. A good friend and a servant of the Lord, Elisey Pronin, who serves the Lord in the Ukraine, was in the United States. Pastor Heber Mena invited he and his family to share with High Point. Pastor Elisey shared that he once served as a pastor of a growing and dynamic church in eastern Ukraine. In 2014 a war broke out in the very city he lived and pastored. The church was destroyed and many in his congregation were killed, wounded or lost everything they had. It was a bleak and difficult time, and many became refugees. The circumstances were challenging and overwhelming.

Pastor Heber then asked how God helped him through this difficult time. Pastor Elisey's response was simple but profound, *"God doesn't love us by circumstances, He loves us by the Cross."*



*"God doesn't love us by circumstances,
He loves us by the Cross." - Elisey Pronin*

Pastor Elisey's quote reminds me of something that Paul shared with us in Philippians: *"¹²I know how to make do with little, and I know how to make do with a lot. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being content—*

whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need. ¹³I am able to do all things through him who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:12-13, CSB)

What a beautiful reminder. The secret to joy and contentment is not found in circumstances. It is found in Jesus and specifically the freedom that Jesus provides us for all eternity through the power of the Cross! Have you found the secret of being content in any and every situation? Let me reveal to you the secret...It's all about Jesus and the Cross. For Jesus brings us freedom. As we prepare to celebrate 4th of July, may we celebrate not only the freedom of the United States but something even greater, freedom from sin through the power of the Cross. "...He loves us through the Cross."

God's blessings to you as you continue to Build the Kingdom of God.

In Christ,

Bro. Alan

THE EARLS' FRONT PORCH:

Hello, I am Paula, wife of your Director of Missions, Alan Earls. I will be sharing a little about us over the next several months. So welcome to our porch.

Back home in Kentucky my Mama and Daddy always taught us to love God and to love people and it wasn't just Godly people we were to love.

Growing up we had new neighbors move in next door who were really different. But my Mama didn't miss the opportunity to teach us about Jesus' love for all!

They were the Grey Family. The senior man was Jess. Jess looked like he was about 100 to me. He had a wooden leg and no hair. His wife Anna Bell was one of the largest women I'd ever seen with a very loud and demanding voice. They had one son who was mentally and physically challenged they called Junior. He was pretty close to Mama and Daddy's age. Junior had never been allowed to go anywhere or do anything because of his handicaps.

The family was up in age and played their TV so loudly they couldn't hear us knock at the door. When they finally heard us and they would yell "what are doing out here – get in here" which I never wanted to do...but Mama said we had to be neighborly and love them.

As a young girl I was afraid because I had never been exposed to anyone like them. My Mama always made us take them fresh vegetables from our garden and homemade pies and cakes. They would always try to pay us, but we would have no part of it. After all that is what neighbors do.

Every day we would hear Anna Belle yelling at Junior to cut the grass, pick up rocks or sweep the porch. One day I saw him mowing and sweating so much I was afraid he might pass out. Mama said I could take him some water and cold cloth. I was kinda scared but she assured me it would be fine, so I did. He stopped mowing and tried to say thank you.



He proudly wore the cool cloth and drank his water. But before I could even get back to my house, I heard Anna Belle screaming at him to get back to mowing cause the grass couldn't cut itself.

The next morning, I had a sweet little flower in the water cup and a note on my front porch which I couldn't really make out. I took it to Mama, and she said it was a thank you from Junior. How very special he took time to say thank you. I was so glad I didn't wimp out and took him the water.

The difference sharing a cool towel and cold water touched him and let him know we cared. The next week we asked if he could go to church with us. Mama and Daddy were all about taking people to church. So, we all piled in the backseat of Daddy's old Chrysler (way before seatbelts) and off to church we went.

Junior sat by my Daddy and listened intently in the service. He covered his ears during the singing, and I got in trouble for laughing with my siblings – because I really wanted to cover mine too that day.

Junior went to church with us faithfully for the next two years. He was always dressed and waiting out by Daddy's car every Sunday morning.

One day I remember him talking to the pastor after the service. Daddy walked him home that day. It seems Junior had accepted Jesus. He didn't understand everything, but he knew about sin and what it was like to do bad. He wanted Jesus to be the boss of his life and personal savior.

Daddy came home from the Greys that afternoon a little upset as Jess and Anna Bell had told him they wouldn't allow Junior to be baptized, but even worse he couldn't go to church with us anymore.

Daddy told us baptizing didn't save Junior. He assured us Junior's prayer of repentance is what saved him. He said Junior got to go hear the word and repented and that was the most important thing we could have done for him.

Junior waved to us each Sunday morning as we left for church. It was hard to see him and not take him to church. But we had to honor his parent's wishes. He passed away my freshman year of high school; however, I know one day I will see Junior again in heaven.

Mama and Daddy were sure great examples of another of my favorite verses – Matthew 22:37-39 which says, "Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

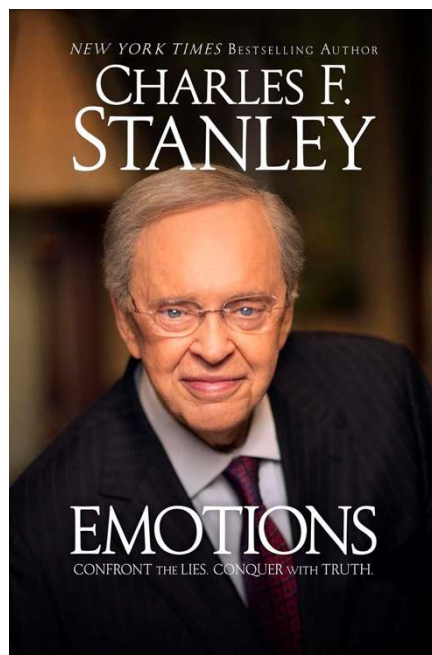
Which neighbor do you need to take water or a cool towel to today? Have you realized God puts people in your life for a reason and sometimes even a short season? Have you invited people to worship with you at your church?

Until we visit again don't miss opportunities to be a true neighbor – one who will give a ride and share Jesus in our communities.

Blessings,

Paula

EMOTIONS: CONFRONT THE LIES, CONQUER WITH TRUTH BY CHARLES STANLEY



Emotions are a part of everything we do and attached to every event in our lives. Positive or negative, emotions affect our attitudes, our relationships, our self-esteem, and even how we remember past events. In this book, Charles Stanley (In Touch Ministries and Pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta) addresses our emotions. He uses struggles from his own life and from his ministry as examples of how we can live at the mercy of our emotions and the profound effect they have on us.

Stanley begins by reminding us that in order to have fellowship with God, we must have a relationship with Jesus. "If you cannot trust Jesus enough to save you, then nothing I write here will do you any good," (Stanley 2013, p. 13). He tells us to choose how we feel we must make a choice and have the desire to address the negative emotions that plague us before we can begin the process of eliminating the hold they have on us. Stanley systematically goes through the most common emotions that we struggle with beginning with fear. He says "...those who've studied anxiety have concluded that it is universal—experienced by people of every culture and age group, during every era of history," (Stanley 2013, p. 70). After establishing how fear and anxiety affects us all, he proceeds to address the

most common emotions, rejection, bitterness, guilt, and despair, and shows us how to root them out of our lives and how to replace them with God's word. Stanley concludes with a beautiful reminder of God's purpose for all of our lives. "Instead of feeling fear, bitterness, rejection, guilt, despair, pain and death, His [God's] desire is to produce 'love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness [and] self-control' (Gal. 5:22-23) in you. He wants you to overflow with the fruit of the Spirit and make you a beautiful reflection of the Savior," (Stanley 2013, p. 278).

Each chapter concludes with a list of study questions designed to help you on this journey through your emotions. This book would be useful both for personal study and for group study with the caveat that the group study would probably work best with a small group of individuals with a high level of trust, perhaps led by a pastor or other strong believer with a sensitive heart. As a side note, I found this book in a local resale shop; it cost me a little over a dollar. Good books are everywhere if we are looking for them.



This book review was submitted by Sarah Kennedy. Sarah is a member at Mt. Olive Baptist Church. If you have a book or study you are interested in having reviewed for your ladies' group, please contact the CBA office (office@cbamo.org).

MISSIONS CORNER:

MISSIONS PARTNERSHIPS

HOW CAN MY CHURCH BECOME INVOLVED IN A PARTNERSHIP?

As you probably know, your church has several mission opportunities within your own church and community, state, nation and world. The very first step is prayer followed by proper spiritual preparation and learning about the field for which you will be serving. We always encourage our churches to reach out and share the hope and salvation of Jesus within their own communities. If you have a community mission project for which you would like help, please let your sister churches know. They may very well feel led by the Lord to help you.

So how can you be praying about how God can use you on the mission field?

1. **Pray about meeting needs within your Church's community.**
2. **Pray about joining missions already happening within the Association:**
 - » 3MT
 - » Concord Builders
 - » Children's Camp
 - » Sending a VBS team to help other CBA churches that may be struggling with finding enough volunteers
3. **Pray about joining statewide missions.**
 - » Disaster Relief
4. **Pray about out of state partnerships.**
 - » Opportunities in Montana
 1. Your church could partner with a specific church in Montana:
 - Schedule a week-long mission trip in Montana to assist and serve your partnering church
 - Invite your partnering church to come to Missouri and help your church for VBA or another special mission in your community.
 - Work with your partnering church to put on a conference or retreat for Men, Women, Deacons or other leadership.
 2. Your church could partner with other CBA churches to minister to Montana together.
 - » Your church may develop a special team for Christian Sports clinics or VBS/Backyard Bible Clubs.
 - » Partner with Vision 3:16 or The Abundant Journey.
5. **Pray about participating in international missions.**
 - » El Salvador
 - » Ukraine
 - » Mexico
 - » Note: if you do not possess a passport, you will need to have one.
 - » Please review the following MBC website to assist you in your preparations:
<https://www.mobaptist.org/partnership-missions/>

MISSIONS & PARTNERSHIPS FOR CBA CHURCHES

Opportunities in Montana:

Bro. Alan will be leading a CBA Vision Trip for August 15, 2021 – August 21, 2021. If you or your church is interested in joining us for this partnership exploration, please notify Bro. Alan as soon as possible at alanearls@cbamo.org

Missouri Baptist Children's Home:

Is your church looking for a mission project or developing an on-going ministry that will make a huge difference in the Kingdom of God and in the lives of children and hurting people? Please consider exploring a partnership, mission or ministry with the Missouri Baptist Children's Home.

For more information on the Missouri Baptist Children's Home or how you can become involved, please visit:

<https://www.mbch.org/common/downloads/public/pub00307.pdf>

<https://www.mbch.org/index>

The Missouri Baptist Children's Home and its affiliates are making a lasting difference in the lives of children, youth and families. If you are interested in hosting an official representative to speak at your church, please contact Kenny Vawter, Regional Representative at (573) 241-1113 or Kenny.Vawter@MBCH.org

Bless Every Home:

Some of you may remember Dr. Phil Hunter. Dr. Hunter served as the Evangelism Director for the Missouri Baptist Convention in the 1980's. He lives out of state but called me recently to share about a ministry entitled *Bless Every Home*. Perhaps you have heard about it or you and your church are participants. *Bless Every Home* is an opportunity for individual members of your church to register as "lights". Once registered they will receive an email each day of 5 neighbors in their own neighborhood. They will be asked to lift those specific families up in prayer. The hope and prayer is for revival and that those unsaved families in your neighborhood will be prayed for, find opportunities to build relationships with them, share Jesus and work with them to become disciples. You can learn more from their website: <https://blesseveryhome.com/> I hope to work with Phil and the man that God used to create this ministry, Chris Cooper. As I learn more, I will share with you. Please pray and if you have questions, please contact me and we will discover the answers together. This could be a wonderful follow-up to "Who's Your One". If you are not aware of the "Who's Your One" campaign, please let me know and I would be glad to share more. It is exciting to be workers with God to share the Gospel of Jesus. *Bless Every Home* and *Who's Your One* are two great resources to "make Disciples..."

PARTNER IN PRAYER

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCHES WITHOUT PASTORS, THE MINISTER LEADING IN THE INTERIM, & THE MINISTER GOD IS PREPARING TO LEAD THEIR CONGREGATIONS:

CENTERTOWN (Interim Shawn Higgins)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ELSTON

FIRST BAPTIST JEFFERSON CITY

LUPUS (Interim Billy Bolden)

MT. OLIVE (Interim Alex Earls)

PRAY FOR OUR NEW PASTORS IN THE ASSOCIATION AND THE CHURCHES THEY LEAD & SERVE:

MT. PLEASANT, CLARKSBURG – REV. TOM ESTES

PLEASANT HILL – REV. MARK PLAZA

PRAY FOR SUMMER ACTIVITIES - THOSE ORGANIZING THEM AND THE LIVES THEY WILL TOUCH:

CONCORD BUILDERS

CHILDREN'S CAMP

VBS' THROUGHOUT OUR ASSOCIATION

THE ABC'S OF SALVATION

Salvation means to be saved from something. Biblically, salvation means to be saved from death. Below is a simple explanation of what this means.

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

A – Admit

Admit what you have done wrong and ask forgiveness.

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

"The wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23)

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

B – Believe

Believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose again as a payment for your sins.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures." (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

"But God demonstrates His own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

C – Confess and Choose

Confess and choose to allow God to be in charge of your life.

"Then said Jesus unto His disciples, 'If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.'" (Matthew 16:24)

"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." (Romans 10:9)

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

If God has drawn you to Himself and you are ready to accept Jesus as Lord and the love He offers; say and mean the following prayer:

Dear God, I know I'm a sinner. Please forgive me of my sins. I turn from sin and turn to Jesus. I believe that Jesus is God the Son who died and shed His blood on the cross for the payment of my sins, was buried and that He rose from the grave three days later. Father, I want Jesus to come into my life. I want Jesus to be my boss and Lord. Thank you for saving me. In Jesus name, Amen.



UPCOMING DATES

JULY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Final Day of 3MT	2	3
4 Independence Day	5 Office Closed	6 Revelation Bible Study @ 10 am	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
CONCORD BUILDERS TEAM MISSION WEEK AT FORTUNA BAPTIST						
18	19 Newsletter Deadline	20	21	22	23	24
CHILDREN'S CAMP @ CAMP CEDAR CREST (SANTA FE, MO)						
25 Executive Council Meeting @ 2 pm Enon Baptist	26	27 Revelation Bible Study @ 10 am	28	29	30	31

Office Closed – the CBA office will be closed July 5th in observation of Independence Day.

Revelation Bible Study – Join us at the CBA office on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 am to noon as we study the book of Revelations. The cost of \$20 is to cover the printed materials. *There will be no study on July 13th or July 20th due to scheduling conflicts with summer activities.*

Pastor's Roundtable – There will not be a July Round Table due to scheduling conflicts with summer activities.

Newsletter Deadline – If you have an item you wish to have in the June issue, please send it to office@cbamo.org no later than Monday, July 19th.

Executive Council Meeting – The July Executive Council Meeting will be held at 2:00 pm, hosted by Enon Baptist Church. Please make plans to attend!

MINISTRY POSITIONS:

BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR

FBC of Elston, MO is a vibrant small church just outside of Jefferson City is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Send resume to churchinfo@fbcelston.org or mail to FBC Elston, 1204 Rt. T Jefferson City, MO 65109. Visit us at www.fbcelston.org.

BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR

The First Baptist Church of Lesterville, Missouri, is presently seeking a bi-vocational Pastor. I am reaching out to the associations hoping that you may know of a Pastor who would be interested and who may feel led to our church. We are seeking a Pastor who preaches and teaches the Word of God, makes prayer a priority, is involved with ministries of pastoral care, young adults-children, and involved with church outreach programs. Must be aligned with the SBC and in agreement with the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. Interested Pastors may send their resume with references and link to video sermons to Montereyfarm@yahoo.com. CDs and DVDs can be sent to FBC Pastor Search Team, 12763 Highway MM, Middle Brook, MO 63656.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES:

VBS Materials

Summer is coming! Traditionally, the association orders a VBS kit that is available to churches to borrow. If this is something that your church would be interested in, please email Alicia Amos at office@cbamo.org as soon as you know what dates you would be interested in reserving the kit for.

Block Party Trailer

If you are planning a summer outreach event, VBS celebration, etc...the CBA Block Party Trailer is available for churches! It contains a bounce house, popcorn and snow cone machines, as well as a variety of games and evangelism tools. Requests will be taken on a first come, first served basis. Please email Alicia Amos at office@cbamo.org for more information.

For the Church Institute through Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

The CBA office is excited to introduce you to a new initiative from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (MBTS). It is called For the Church Institute or FTC Institute. MBTS through FTC Institute is offering free online courses for who may be seeking theological education. These courses are **offered free of charge to anyone within your church that is interested in theological education but is not necessarily after a degree or paying a lot of money**. You are encouraged to click on the link below and see what you think. You do not receive seminary credit, however, upon completion of the course you do receive a certificate and are eligible for Continuing Education Credit. For more information, please visit <https://ftcinstitute.squarespace.com/>

CHRISTIAN COUNSELING

The Concord Baptist Association is proud to announce a new partnership with Still Waters Counseling, LLC. Still Waters Counseling provides Christian counseling through a Licensed Professional Counselor in the Jefferson City area. Rhonda Myers, MA, LPC is now available to pastors and churches throughout our association. She currently offers Christian Counseling at the Concord Baptist Association office on Friday mornings. If you are aware of anyone in need of Christian counseling, please contact Rhonda Myers by cell phone at (573) 680-3718 or email for an appointment at stillwaterscounselingmo@gmail.com

TECHNOLOGY, MINDS AND RELATIONSHIPS

Recently, Kelly, my husband and I were commenting on how our dreams were strange and after briefly analyzing them, we realized they were being influenced by the amount of time we were spending on our phones while riding or driving on vacation. Playing video games, opening maps, looking at Trip Advisor, talking to Siri, taking pictures, and other behaviors had seeped into even our dream world enough to influence us.

As we enter of form of post-COVID world, with the role that technology played in our lives during this last 1-2 years was essential, it must be evaluated how it will evolve to be continued to do so. As of 2020, 97% of Americans own a mobile device of some type according to Pew Research Center. Now think about how the brain reacts to the device. With texting, You Tube, social media, and games, all this is stimulated the same part of the brain pleasure center that excretes the hormone dopamine, also known as the reward chemical. When we do a task, celebrate little wins, eat good food, do good self-care, are a part of a worship service or unfortunately, use cocaine, it lights this up. All of these are what activate dopamine. Mobile devices are the easiest form of "drug" we have. With COVID, our dependency, became even more so, and the effects of that will be subtle and measurable for years. With the right observations, we can make sure our own lives are not being influenced by technology in a negative way.

Relationships are particularly vulnerable to technology. "By the age of seven, many children born in the U.S. will have spent one full year of 24-hour days watching screen media." The need for attachment bond in children is vital to give them the roots they need for strong relationships in later years in developing trust. If they do not have these, there is no trust or bonds. There are also much higher incidence of ADD/ADHD as well due to the stimuli of the brain. Another issue is for youth. "A 2013 study of high school students found that nearly 20% of participants reported they had sent a sexually explicit image of themselves through a cell phone and more than 25% forwarding that image...with 40% receiving an image." As we fight the battle to protect the minds of our youth, it is harder to present to them what healthy relationships are if images of unhealthy are sent so discreetly. Parents need to be able to feel empowered to have dialogues with their youth, so the awkwardness is removed, and the enemy is wedged out. As 2nd Peter 1: 3-4 states: "His divine power has given us everything we need for a goodly life through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness." Not to mention the chasm that couples have nowadays with busy schedules and the demands of work and parenting. W. Jesse Gill suggests a daily time called "Face to Face TV" Here's how it works: Turn off the screens--all of them--TV, iPad, phones, etc. then using a play on words, do this:

Face to Face: Gaze upon the faces of your loved ones face at least 20 minutes a day. It shouldn't be awkward or weird. Enjoy the view. Laugh. Smile. TALK.

T: Touch - Show affection and tenderness to your spouse, your children.

V: Vulnerable - Share your needs with one another and invite loved ones to do the same.

This is how to build attachment and closeness, strengthen bonds and learn about each other. It literally regrows brain cells in what is called neuroplasticity, in what the technology breaks, similar to trauma. This will heal one socially, spiritually, physically, and emotionally.



This article was submitted by Rhonda Myers, M.A., LPC. She is a licensed professional counselor with certification in Christian Counseling with 20 years of private and agency experience. Her practice is Still Waters Counseling of Missouri where she provides services from the Concord Baptist Association office, as well as televisits. She also consults and speaks at events. For assistance, please contact her at (573) 680-3718, email at stillwaterscounselingmo@gmail.com or find her on Facebook.