

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

“Holding Forth The Word of Life”

Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXXIV

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Issue No. 1

What is your church doing on
Sunday, February 28th, 2021?

CELEBRATING WORLD MISSION SUNDAY!!

What is your church doing on Sunday, February 28th, 2021? CELEBRATING WORLD MISSION SUNDAY. Start planning now to make it a wonderful day to pray and give to missions. Invite a furloughing missionary, or ask a missionary to make a short video for you to show in church. We are the Baptist MISSIONARY Association. So, let's all pull together and put into practice our namesake!

At BMA Missions, this is who we are, and this is what we do. No one has exemplified this mission more than BMA Missionary Jerry Kidd.

In 1973 Jerry and his family embarked on a journey to spread the gospel in the jungles of Bolivia. A few days' journey turned into a three-month ordeal hampered by customs inspectors, a fuel crisis and a military coup. Traveling by car, bus, steamship and airplane, they arrived in Bolivia in February 1974. Trained as a pilot, he would spend the next ten years working with other missionaries to serve indigenous people throughout Central America, taking harrowing journeys by plane to impossible-to-reach areas.

For 62 years Jerry Kidd has relentlessly pursued the expansion of the gospel around the world. Known as the “Pastor of Missionaries,” his pioneering spirit and fearless faithfulness to share the gospel to the nations has created an indelible missionary legacy.

In recognition of his legacy as “Pastor of Missionaries,” the annual World Missions Day Offering will now be known as **The Jerry Kidd Offering**. Your gift honors his legacy and goes to expand our reach which today includes 75 U.S. missionaries and over 500 national ChangeMaker missionaries in 71 countries.



Think Globally -- Act Locally

Jeff Swart, BMAA President

Happy New Year!

On the last evening of each year, a celebration is held throughout our land. This celebration climaxes at the stroke of midnight at Times Square in New York City when multitudes of people cheer and shout “Happy New Year!” They blow toy horns and other noisemakers, laugh and embrace and kiss someone. This spectacle is repeated in succession in the various time zones from the Atlantic Seaboard to the far away islands of Hawaii.

For Americans, the new year symbolizes new opportunities, new hopes and new dreams; yet the stroke of the midnight hour simply marks the dawning of another day. Whether the year really will be “new” lies within each person. If, when the celebrating is over, we fall back into the same old life — then nothing has really changed except the date on the calendar. New Year's only becomes “new” if we make it so.

As you face the new year, I want you to understand that God is far more interested in your future than He is in your past. Some folks think God is fixated on their past, reminding them of the things they've done wrong. The simple truth is that God isn't interested in your past — He is interested in your future. God reminds us that we are to “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!” (Isaiah 43:18-19). In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul made a similar statement: “But

one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead” (Phil. 3:13).

Regardless of the failures you've had in your life this year; financial, moral, relational, marriage, etc. God is offering you a new beginning. You are not a failure because you fail, you are only a failure if you quit. You matter to Jesus Christ, and He can make the rest of your life turn out in a whole different way if you give Him the pieces. He wants to exchange His peace for your pieces.

God specializes in new beginnings because He possesses the power to change lives. God doesn't want you to turn over a new leaf - He wants to give you a whole new life if you will let Him. Give this new year to God and you will be amazed at what He can do with it. Remember, it is never too late to start anew.

Introducing Our New Missionary Family

Greetings from Saint Louis, Missouri! My name is Juan Fernandez and I am the new missionary to the Hispanic population in the Saint Louis area. My family and I are so excited to share a little about who we are and our calling so you can get to “know us” better and look forward to meeting many of you this year.

My wife Hannah Fernandez and I were married February 8, 2014 in Nebraska (almost 7 years ago) and have 2 children Victoria (4 years old) and Eleanor (2 years old) Fernandez. Some of our hobbies include spending time outdoors (hiking), travelling and experiencing new places/people, reading, and running (I am hoping to start training again for another 25k soon).



The Fernandez Family (l to r) Victoria, Juan, Eleanor, Hannah

Right now, since we are beginning this ministry - we are spending 40 days in prayer for this community and that God would lead us in everything we do. We would ask you to please join us as we pray! I have been doing devotionals through facebook live everyday and my wife also does one on Sunday mornings for women. If you would like to follow us on Facebook and see these devotionals please do so (even though they are in Spanish). If you would like to be added to our prayer list and spend these 40 days in prayer with us please contact me at [\(618\)581-8056](tel:6185818056) or pastorjuanfernandez@gmail.com and we will add you.

“We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father” 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

Thank you so much for your prayers as we begin this work in the Saint Louis area.

Bro. Juan Fernandez and family

Thank You for Giving!
May God Bless Your
Generosity in sharing the Gospel.



NEWS BRIEFS



This comes from a hopeful and reflective congregation, **Bates Creek, Potosi**. 2020 has been full of obstacles to spread the gospel and we have tried many new things. Some worked well and some did not but all had the same purpose which was to spread the gospel. We learned that even though our favorite way to worship is inside the building, we could definitely “try” some new things. We also learned the true meaning of “being” the church. Love and service can be shown to others in many ways. Our Christmas party was a “drive in” style movie complete with the pastor and his family serving as car hops to bring popcorn, hot cocoa, and treats to each family as they watched in their vehicle. This wasn’t easy. It was cold, very dark, and there was a huge dog that kept lurking. It would have been easy to give up. However, hopefully our youth was able to witness an act of love and service in less than desirable conditions. God definitely has a plan in all of this. May we all remember the blessings and the lessons God has taught us in 2020. May all of our churches be able to continue the work even in “less than desirable” conditions. May the lost in each of our communities take notice and decide to follow Him because of the efforts. We will continue to pray for the health and safety of each BMA church and ask that you remember our church as well.

Bryan Buckley, Pastor • Sara Buckley, Church Reporter

Greetings from **Briar, Doniphan**. Happy New Year one and all! The holidays have come and gone and now we are in 2021! We pray 2021 is a much better year than 2020. God did continue to bless Briar even in the midst of the Pandemic. As I am sure He did many others. We give God all the glory in what I’m about to say. Our youth group helped 24 families with food boxes during the holidays (both Thanksgiving and Christmas) and 72 Christmas Shoeboxes to the children in the families. Plus they gave an additional 13 Shoeboxes to a local drive here in Doniphan. We want to thank each and every one of you and your churches which have helped this past year. It is very much appreciated. Thank you to Sis. Lydia Blackshear for listening to the Lord and heading up this ministry. In the words of Sis. Lydia, all the glory goes to God! The 3rd Sunday Singing, Youth in Harvest and Prayer Breakfast have been postponed until further notice because of so many cases of the Covid-19 being in many of our communities. As of January, the Prayer Breakfast is going to re-open. On January 16th we will be meeting at The Corner Café at 9:00 am. The Corner Café is at the corner of Hwy 21 N and K Hwy just north of Doniphan. Everyone is welcome! It is a great time of fellowship with other brothers and sisters in Christ. Plus we always have a devotional and a time of prayer request from anyone there. This has included other patrons asking for a certain prayer request also. Some months we have a small craft project. I don’t know if we will have one for January or not but I do know we will for February because of Valentine’s Day. Please be in prayer for us if you are unable to attend. May God continue to bless us all! Continue to pray for our country, our leaders, our Pastor’s and the churches without Pastors.

David Grubb, Pastor • Yvonne Hill, Reporter

Happy New Year from **Stony Point Baptist Church!** If 2020 taught us nothing else, it made us remember to “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.” (Psalm 133:1) Fellowship seems to have become a much bigger word than the one we were using before this plague. The Lord continues to bless His church at Stony Point with Bro. John Earl and Sis. Joann Brown uniting with us in membership. My New Year’s prayer is simply this: Lord, make me insignificant in the eyes of this world, yet boldly ef-

fective in the advancement of Your kingdom and the world to come. Amen. God bless you all in 2021.

Claude Evans, Pastor
David Hughes, Reporter

Happy New Years from Ozark Heights Baptist Church, Potosi!

I hope this new year finds you well. A lot of people use this time to start new things! The Word of God encourages us to evaluate ourselves spiritually as well! **2 Peter 1:10-11 KJV** “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” My prayer for Ozark Heights and our Association is that in the start of this new year we will take time to evaluate our lives and repent where we must, and continue to move based on Godly obedience! The Lord continues to strengthen and give us wisdom. For in him we are made strong!

Brian Kingston, Pastor

Happy New Year From Bethel, Sikeston:

We look forward to positive things happening this year. 2020 was a rough year with a lot of negativity going on and folks getting the Covid-19. We had a few people come down with it, so we closed the church for a few weeks in December. When we started having services again we all wore masks and do social distancing, we don’t shake hands or hug, we are trying our best to stay well. Dec. 20th our youth put on a short Christmas program, “Candy Cane At Christmas” in the morning service, They did an excellent job. During the evening service we had a candle light service. Seeing all the candles lit up in the darkness was very inspiring and a reminder that we are to be a light in this dark world. Bro. Billy & Sis Donna presented

everyone with a poinsettia at the end of the service. Our Wednesday night Bible study has been on The Doctrine of the Incarnation, a very good study. Praying everyone stays well and for souls to be saved this year!! Jesus’s return is closer than it’s ever been! We pray that churches will wake up, get up and get going to do the great commission as we don’t have much time left! We covet your prayers as we continue to pray for all our sister churches.

Billy Davis, Pastor • Joan Wood, Reporter

HELLO to all from Oak Hill, Alton! We Hope and pray everyone has had a good start of 2021! We have great news to tell you. The Lord’s family grew as Dalton Davis and Sidney Logger were saved by our Lord Jesus Christ January 3rd and their Grandma, Tina Bates, rededicated her life to the Lord. They want to wait to be baptized in the creek when it warms up. Bro. Roy Nix had a battle with cancer that came back on him from six years ago. Thank the Lord, when he thought there was not any hope, the Lord blessed and he found a Doctor that told him he could do surgery. Praise the Lord, he had the surgery and is doing great! He told me “that before he went through the next step during his treatment that the Lord blessed and made everything possible!” Until next month, when I hope I will have some more good news to tell you, we will be praising and honoring our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. God Bless!!

Edward Casey, Pastor • Jennifer Williams, Reporter

Greetings from Lindsay Lane Baptist Church, Florissant.

Once again we have entered into another year. It’s 2021! Do not forget to write the new year on your documents. We praise God for His goodness and mercy. We extend our sympathy to the family of Mary Rouillard in her passing. Sis. Mary was a joy to be around and we know she is rejoicing in the presence of Jesus! We ask that you continue to lift up Sis. Rachel Leal in your prayers as she is facing some health issues. Sis. Shelia Parish is at home after being in rehab due to a shoulder injury. We praise God for healing Sis. Janet Jenkins as she spent some time in the hospital due to Covid. Our teens recently enjoyed a fun-filled evening. We thank God for them and their sponsors. Congratulations to Bro. Shane Parish for his recent promotion to lieutenant in the Hazelwood police department. Our kids, under the direction of Sis. Michelle Shell, are practicing for our Christmas program. We are so thankful for her and for all that have been helping. As we enter this new year there are a lot of things to be concerned about. But we know that in all things God is in control. Be praying for our churches, pastors,

• Continued on Page 4 •

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FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS • December 2020

General Fund:

Checking Account:

Balance November 30, 2020 \$ 38,275.06

November Receipts:

Missions:	\$	3,377.54	
Total Income:	\$	3,377.54	\$ 3,377.54
Total Available			\$ 41,652.60

Disbursements:

Director, Salary/Bonus	\$	900.00	
Trainer, Salary/Bonus	\$	2,400.00	
Secretary, Salary/Bonus	\$	400.00	
Postage/Office supplies	\$	55.00	
Webmaster/Domain fee	\$	1,336.40	
Special Missions Com.	\$	97.46	
Total Disbursements	\$	5,188.86	\$ (5,188.86)
Balance December 31, 2020:			\$ 36,463.74

Investment in BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund:

Balance November 30, 2020:	\$	107,411.56	
Interest:	\$	0.00	
Balance December 31, 2020:	\$	107,411.56	

Total of all Funds December 31, 2020: \$ 143,875.30

From Our Director...

A Page From My Heart

Dear churches of the state of Missouri,

Three months in and I am extremely excited about what God is doing!

Because of the deadline for material for the paper, we do not yet know the outcome of the Missionary committee vote, at the time I am writing this article, but I do very much hope, pray, and expect support to be approved of Bro. Juan Fernandez. The local Meramec Association has already begun support.

Bro. Juan hopefully will be planting a Spanish-speaking church under the auspices of Bethany Baptist Church. Bro. Juan and his wife joined Bethany a couple of weeks ago and the church has already voted to allow them to use the facilities and be the mother church of the church plant. We are excited about the possibilities and probabilities of that.

I ask you to pray for Bro. Juan. It's been awhile since we've been able to say that we have a missionary working in the state of Missouri with both the state and a local association supporting.

This is similar to the church plant in Nixa, in that the national work was the impetus used to get it started, so please pray for both of these churches. It's my understanding that the church in Nixa is now full support so we praise God for that! Now this mission is getting started, so please, please, please pray for them.

I am hoping to be in touch soon with those who have reached out to me to come and present the mission work of Missouri.

I have two churches already that have requested a visit. It is my intention to take up to one Sunday evening per month

to go to other churches. I am also open to getting several churches in an area to meet together for a Saturday night meeting to lessen the need to miss a Sunday from Bethel's pulpit. Let me know if you would be interested in setting up such a meeting.

I served on the national missionary committee during Bro. Grady Higgs' term as Director, and I saw him turn around a program through prayer. Now, I don't believe that this department needs turning around as much as we need men and fields to go to and those challenges will be met through prayer. Will you join me in daily seeking the throne for men and fields and finances to reach these goals for the Glory of the Lord?

PS:
We had a wonderful meeting last evening (Tuesday, January 5th) on the conference call. I am so appreciative to Bro. Claude Evans and all the churches' missionary committeemen that participated. We had a unanimous

Note From Meramec Association

The Missionary Committee of the Meramec Landmark Baptist Association met at Friendship Baptist Church-St Clair on December 10, 2020. They approved partnering with the BMAA and BMA of MO to begin a Missouri Hispanic ministry coordinated by Bro Juan Fernandez. The Meramec Missionary Committee approved sending an offering of \$20,000 to the BMAA to help support Bro Fernandez and the Missouri Hispanic Ministry for the year 2021.

Michael Hearst, Clerk

Some Conclusions

From Covid-19

by Dan Carson, Director BMA of Arkansas Youth Department
via *The Baptist Trumpet*

I did my best to avoid it, but on December 28th, I received my official diagnosis. It has been a crazy week, full of ups and downs. Let me start by saying that I don't wish this on anyone.

The biggest headache is that this past Sunday was the first Sunday that I missed church since the beginning of this pandemic. The idea of missing church made me panic a little. How would the church get online? How would the tech things get accomplished that I have been responsible for? Who would fill in for me? Those types of questions tell me that I haven't done a good job at training others to make sure that my roles are fulfilled.

Our job and role in ministry should be a constant giving away of our jobs. That should be at the top of our list as ministers of the gospel and leaders in the Lord's church. Why is it important?

• **It is Scriptural.** God calls us to equip the saints for ministry. In Ephesians 4:11-12 (ESV), the Bible tells us, "And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." Ministry takes on a number of different forms in the modern church. We need tech people, musicians, teachers, small group leaders and more. Show your people different ways to utilize the gifts that God has given them.

• **It is logical.** Simply put, we can't do it all by ourselves. You may be one of the most talented people in the world, but it is impossible to do all that God has tasked us with alone. My lead pastor and I don't try to do it all by ourselves, but I know that I need to be more aware of including more people in the work of ministry.

• **It allows others the opportunity to receive a blessing.** One of the greatest things about serving in the church is the feeling of satisfaction and blessing that one receives by being used for the kingdom. By insisting on doing everything ourselves, we rob others of their blessings. We don't want that to be our legacy as we go forward.

Delegation is the business word to describe what I'm talking about. However, in biblical circles, equip is the better word. We are called to pour into our brothers and sisters in Christ, so that when we aren't available to serve, someone is ready to stand in the gap for the kingdom. Ultimately, it is about making disciples. **Are you making that a priority in your life and ministry?**

positive vote as we voted to support Bro. Juan Fernandez as our missionary from the standpoint of we are going to support him to the tune of \$28,000 a year from the state association. The Meramec local Association will also contribute support as both associations work in cooperation with the BMA of America. Please pray for Bro Juan and His family as He seeks "men of peace" and their families to build the kingdom work in reaching Hispanics in the St. Louis region.

Ben Kingston, BMA of MO Missions Director

• **NEWS From Page 2** •

and one another. May God bless and keep you.
Brian Meade, Pastor • Kathy Chapman, Reporter

Happy New Year, from Zion, St. Louis! We trust all had a wonderful time celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ over the Christmas season. We pray the new year will be filled with God's blessings. We grieve for those that have lost loved ones and friends this past year. Our hearts are heavy for our sister churches that have been affected by the corona virus. Our prayer is their health will be restored and the Lord be glorified. The Sunday before Christmas Zion met after services at Wesley Roger's (old Ponderosa) in Arnold for their Holiday dinner. Good food and sweet fellowship was enjoyed by all. We appreciate Bro. Callahan taking the time to video each Sunday message and sending it out over Facebook. Bro. Baker is bringing timely messages from the Book of Revelation. If you can't be in services with us physically at Zion, tune in to Zion Baptist Church on Facebook. The Baker's daughter, Brenda, had been here since before Thanksgiving and just returned back home after Christmas. We at Zion enjoyed her visiting in the services. There have been a couple with health issues lately but all seems to be on the mend and back in church. We desire your prayers as we strive to be a lighthouse in the Oakville area. Come visit if in our area. Zion prays for each of you, please remember us. Until the Lord comes, may we all be found faithfully serving Him.

Dennis Baker, Pastor • Norma Womble, Reporter

Bethesda Landmark, Park Hills celebrated Christmas by having a Thanksgiving/Christmas dinner early in December. The fellowship was enjoyed by all members, visitors, and the kids, who enjoyed painting Christmas ornaments. December 21st the youth performed two plays. The first was called, "The Road to Bethlehem." It told the story of a rich business man, Art Kenton, played by Zach Dane, discovering that Christmas is not about riches or money. When Art experiences a life-threatening situation, he seeks God. Mary Christian, played by Courtlyn Dane, and Joe Christian, played by Ashton Dane, show Art the true meaning of Christmas, and that it is better to give than receive. The second play, performed by the youth and adults, reenacted the Christmas story while it was read from the Bible by the narrator, Dana Dane. Mickel Marler was Mary and Ashton Dane was Joseph. Shae Marler was the shepherd and he herded his daughter, Halle Marler, who played the lamb. Ella Marler and Kinzlee Hassell played the angels, and Courtlyn Dane played the role of the Christmas star. Finally, Alan Dane, Zach Dane and Michael Marler played the three wise men. We are happy to announce that we started the new year with three candidates for membership. The Hassell family had been visiting Bethesda, and on January 3rd they came forward for membership. Nicole Hassell joined by statement and her husband, Brandon, and son Austin, are awaiting baptism. Bro. Alan Dane and Bro. Leonard Knight filled the pulpit in the month of December while we are still searching for a pastor. Ashton Dane, Youth Reporter

Ohlman Baptist Church, Bunker missed getting news in the December paper about November because basically the whole month of November was a big cancellation! For three weeks the Bunker School District was not holding in person classes due to several of the administrators being diagnosed with the Covid or were in close proximity to others with Covid. When the school is closed, we do not have our Wednesday night youth classes. This was a hard decision because Wednesday night is the only time that many of these kids from the community get a small chance to hear the gospel. Then to make matters worse, Bro. Larry May Sr. was hospitalized for almost two weeks with the Covid virus and on a ventilator. Other

members of the church family were also battling illness. With that, we cancelled Sunday church services for two weeks. Thankfully prayers were answered and Bro. Larry as well as the others are almost back to a full recovery. Our first Sunday back in the church was the Sunday following Thanksgiving. We wanted to meet and give thanks and praise to our Lord for getting us through a difficult three weeks. We are also thankful for the members that stepped in to fill the gap, especially Bro. Gary Morgeson while Bro. May was unavailable. Both men have seen and experienced the stress of finding men to fill the pulpit on Sundays. Continue to pray for them and Ohlman in this need. December 2nd we tried to get back to normal with having the Wednesday night classes. The kids were just as excited as the teachers to be back together. Again, others had to step in to fill gaps such as Sis. Juanita May driving the van while Bro. Larry May, Jr drove the bus to town to pick up several kids. Sis. Marybeth Widger who has been visiting helped out in the kitchen. Bro. Gary and Glenda Morgeson along with others were prepared to oversee the devotional time, teach the classes and/or just help with the classes, especially the smaller kids. It does take a village to maintain the outreach ministry of the church. We had our monthly business meeting and auxiliaries December 6th. The ladies, along with a few from other churches put together thirty-five gift bags for the residents of the Brent Tinnin Manor in Ellington, MO. We want to thank not only our ladies but ladies from First Baptist Bunker, the Windmill Florist in Bunker and the Dollar General store in Lesterville for contributing items or funds to purchase items for these bags. December 15th a couple of the ladies did a door delivery to the staff who were very appreciative. We are looking forward to see what God has in store for Ohlman as we begin a new year. Janet Widger, Reporter

New Testament, Sullivan rejoices over several things that the Lord has done in our NTBC family! In early December, Pastor Josh had the opportunity to lead a young lady to the Lord who had been attending our church for a while. She was raised in the Catholic church in the Philippines, and didn't know God's simple plan of salvation from the Bible. She knows now and she prayed recently to receive Christ as her Savior. She is now going through personal discipleship and is learning about Baptism and many other basic truths of Scripture. Please pray for Manilyn. Her husband passed away recently and she is raising two children on her own. On Sunday, December 27th we had one of the men in our church come forward to follow the Lord in believer's baptism. Bro. Randy had come to our church several years back. He had been baptized and joined the church. Since then the Lord helped Bro. Randy realize that He had not been scripturally saved. So Bro. Randy received Christ as his Savior and followed the Lord in believer's baptism. We praise the Lord for the work He is doing in Bro. Randy's life! We are looking forward to what God has in store for our church in 2021 as we continue to follow Him! (Luke 9:23)

Josh Wright, Pastor

Bethany, St. Louis, rejoices as God answers prayers and blesses us with His Word, His strength, His love and good fellowship among our church family. As most other churches, we have been hit hard with sickness and other things that affect our attendance, but it is encouraging to see our people meet the challenges with faith in God and love for one another. We are excited as God has led Bro. Juan Fernandez to the St. Louis area to minister to the growing hispanic population. He and his wife, Hannah, have joined Bethany and the church unanimously voted to support this ministry by offering our worship facilities as a place for him to base his ministry. He and his wife have already started a facebook ministry in an effort to make contact with individuals that are interested in knowing more about God and His love. Please pray this ministry reaches many for Christ. Bro. Juan is a missionary of the BMA of America and the BMA of Missouri and the Meramec Association have both voted to give financial support to assist this effort.

James Hoffmann, Pastor

Looking for information

The following note was sent by Bro. Rodney Dunlap to see if someone might know where he can find a personal vehicle:

Merry Christmas, everyone!

On this Christmas afternoon, I'm literally shopping for a 12 or 15-passenger van of a rather specific nature. I'm just seeing if anyone knows of a possibility of one in close proximity before pursuing one completely unknown from a long distance.

This van will be used to pick people up for church, but it will not be the church's van. It'll be ours, titled to us, and used by us at times outside of picking people up for services, and so here are the specifics we need:

1. 12 or 15 passenger.
2. Ideally, with a tow package, as it might at times be used to pull a 16-foot cargo trailer.
3. Not trashed out, worn out, or rusted out (We've found those options already in our local area.)
4. We know they don't come cheap, but would like something ten years old or less, 150,000 miles or less, and under \$10,000.

What we are attempting to accomplish here is selling our van - which is beyond the point of needing to be replaced--and my Dakota pick-up, and then buying a van that will serve the dual purpose of still being able to pick up people for church like our current van is doing, but also of being able to pull a loaded down 16-foot cargo trailer if need be (something my 1/2 ton work truck won't do), and then pairing it with some kind of economical car that will be an everyday driver for work/school/grocery store/etc. If you can point us to anything, thanks so much! Rodney Dunlap

No Rules, No Punishment, Leads to Anarchy

by Dr. John M. Adams • Executive Director, Moral Action

Proverbs 29:2 “*When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.*” It seems today that the wicked are ruling. So many true Christian believers are disillusioned. So many watch as the streets are filled with violence and corruption. Anarchy is defined as “a state of disorder due to the absence or non-recognition of authority. Synonymous words are revolution, disorder, chaos, mayhem and mobocracy. There seems to be a lack of punishment and a lack of obedience to the laws of the land.

Punishment for wrongdoing is operative in this world although man has not faced his responsibility in performing it. Paul the Apostle has summed up the principle in the words of Galatians 6:7; “*For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*” This axiom of truth is far-reaching, invading all of creation.

• The Basis for Punishment

Historically the basis for punishment in our society has been man’s belief in God – the God Who is Sovereign over the universe, the God Who has revealed Himself as moral, having a standard of right and wrong with punishment for the wrongdoer. This punishment is not based particularly on its being a deterrent to wrongdoing, but rather as the wage for wrongdoing. Romans 6:23 bears witness in these words, “*For the wages of sin is death.*”

Today the philosophy of unbelief with its rejection of the living and moral God and the exaltation of man to a supremacy that is subject to no higher power than himself is demanding a hearing in our land. Such a belief is not new, having always been present; but our intellectual climate and our growing freedom of expression have provided man with liberty to accept or reject the declarations of Scripture.

Our concept of right and wrong and the punishment of wrongdoers will be determined on the basis of our belief or unbelief in the living God. Humanism does not believe in God.

Believing that God is and that He alone is the Director of this universe, we must submit to His dictates; and in the realm of punishment we must obey His commands. God rules according to His standard of right and wrong. This includes punishment for wrongdoers!

• Manifestations of Punishment

It is Observed in Creation

Punishment is seen in the operation of natural law. Violation of these laws have their results. To jump off a cliff, expecting a reversal of the law of gravity, in no way stays off a broken body. Punishment is also manifest when one tampers with the animal kingdom. To antagonize the “king of the jungle” would be to receive a recompense of reward.

It is Observed in the Societies of the World

As societies develop, they include regulations and punishments. Even those which fall under the caption of being freedom fighters, a term which implies deep concern for the common man, have punishment – severe punishment – for all who do not conform to the rules. It is difficult to conceive of a society continuing which does not incorporate into its life a system of punishment for offenders.

It is interesting to note that before the Pilgrims landed on the shores of the new world, they covenanted to be ruled by a document which would control each member of the company.

It is Observed in the Scriptures

Believing that God has spoken and that the Bible is that message, we shouldn’t be surprised to find many passages dealing with the subject of punishment.

Punishment Inflicted Directly by God.

Consider the following examples: **Cain:** (Genesis 4:11-16). When God made His pronouncement, Cain responded, “*My punishment is greater than I can bear.*”

The Flood: (Genesis 6:1-8:22). Rejection of God’s warning resulted in the removal of that society. When the door of the ark was shut, there was no change in the announced punishment.

Sarai: (Genesis 12:17). In protecting His “chosen,” God inflicted punishment on Pharaoh’s house although his offense was in ignorance!

Ananias and Sapphira: (Acts 5:1-11). As a definite and shocking example of God’s righteous indignation toward lying – and that to God – these two met immediate physical death.

Punishment Administered by Man.

(Genesis 9:1-7) Disrespect and destruction of human life were the first offenses to be placed under man’s jurisdiction. Capital punishment was to be the consequence of murder. This principle continues throughout Scripture, being affirmed in the New Testament by Christ and the Apostle Paul (Matthew 22:21; Romans 13:1-14).

Exodus-Deuteronomy, “*If we knew, we would do,*” sums up Israel’s appeal to Moses (Deuteronomy 5:27). This prompted God to give the Law, coupled with specific punishments for those who failed to comply. A careful analysis of Scripture will reveal the severity of punishment accompanying the Law.

• Responsibility in Punishment

Man’s responsibility in punishment is divided between the family, the church and the state. When each is diligent in the task, the entire society functions with a measure of peace and prosperity.

The Family

Being ordained of God, the family stands as a very important part of God’s plan for mankind. Although some sociologists don’t accept the family as an absolute, God does. He calls for a man to leave his parents, cleave to his wife and, living together, rear their children according to God’s rules (Genesis:24; Matthew 19:6)

Children Need To Be Trained.

No child comes into this world programmed to do that which is right (Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:23). Right actions are the result of right training, beginning the first day and including God’s plan of salva-

tion. Life must be directed if it is to develop the kind of character acceptable to God and one that will function in society. In order to accomplish this task there must be a penalty for disobedience (Proverbs 22:15; Ephesians 6:1-4).

Children Need to Understand Punishment.

Abraham must have been an example of this kind of parent (Genesis 18:19). Having made clear to the child the difference between right and wrong, the rewards and penalties must also be clearly presented (Proverbs 22:6).

Parents Must Carry Through in Punishment.

Consider Proverbs 13:24 and 23:13, 14. When rules are established and broken, it is the parents’ responsibility to administer the punishment. If children don’t learn this lesson at home, will they learn it in society? If we neglect our responsibility as parents, can we rightfully criticize state officials who have become soft in administering punishment?

• The Church

It is an established principle in Scripture that all who are born-again believers are to be identified with a local church. In this communion there are certain rules laid down by God, including the discipline of the offenders.

The Guiding Principle (Matthew 18:15-17; I Timothy 3:1-16). A church congregation is responsible to maintain a good testimony in the community. This is possible only when each individual member keeps the rules. If sin is allowed to reign and situations are overlooked which scream for correction, the church is failing in its responsibility.

• The State

The state with its rule is ordained of God. It has been authorized to administer punishment on wrongdoers to protect society (Matthew 22:21; Romans 13:1-14). This is a basic principle in the structure of our government.

According to Scripture, governmental officers are just as responsible to God as are gospel ministers. They are commissioned by God to “carry the sword.” They are guardians of human life and are to use all means available to maintain decency and order including capital punishment of those committing deliberately planned murder.

Growing Softness in Punishment

Today’s softness in punishment reigns from the home to the church to the state. It appears that all too frequently the offender received greater protection than does the offended! The older generation, observing the moral breakdown, blames the younger generation; and the younger generation, beholding the hypocrisy of the day, blames the older generation. Yet all the while there is a philosophy which is sapping the very heart of our great nation.

Why Such Softness Against Crime

God and His Word are excluded. Once God’s Word controlled the decisions of our government and our courts. Punishment was meted out as the just penalty for crimes committed.

Walter Lippmann saw this change coming in his day. In his book, *The Preface to Morals* (1929), he showed that a switch from the living and true God to the created god of the liberal mind would change the moral standards and stamina of America. His conclusion is apparent today!

To teach that man is the product of evolution without responsibility to the supreme God and that there is no destiny beyond the few days of this life which is destined to annihilation, is to foster an attitude of “eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die.”

Once again to the Scriptures, we find that when “*the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn*” (Proverbs 29:2). The designation “wicked” in this text is used in the Old Testament of those who walk apart from God’s Word and His authority! Without question the answer to our plight in regard to honest punishment for crimes committed will be realized only through a spiritual revival which enthrones God and His moral standard of right and wrong!

WMA & GMA NEWS

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Remember Our State Auxiliaries Meet March 6th at 10:30 a.m. at Landmark Missionary Baptist Church in DeSoto, MO

**The State WMA and Brotherhood
will meet at the same time**

**All men and women are encouraged to attend and
get better acquainted with our Brothers and Sisters
from all over Missouri!**

Where Do You Dump Your Trash?

by Gina Harper wmaofms.com via Mississippi Baptist

Sometimes life has a way of weighing you down...in one sense it is a good way to stay grounded. But for a person that likes to fly, that's like having a broken wing. I'm usually the person that can find the silver lining in any cloud, the one that doesn't mind the storm, because I know that when it blows over, everything will be refreshed on the other side.

Here lately though, it seems as if I've taken on the roll of a garbage truck. I'm driving around and without realizing it, I've lifted the trash from the lives of others and now the truck is full and I can't find my way to the landfill. I know that sooner or later I'm going to run out of gas and I don't want to be stuck holding this rubble. I don't want to dump it in some place that isn't built to accept it; I know that just creates a bigger mess in the long run. I guess I'm hoping that a rescue truck will come along and ease my load, either by filling my tank back up and providing me with directions, or by hauling me and my load to the landfill.

I guess I'm lacking direction right now. Perhaps I've been relying on the wrong map. Sometimes I feel like I'm reading the right map, but somehow I'm doing it all wrong. It's kind of like having a GPS and putting in the zip code incorrectly. Now I'm way off course, and I lack the resources to get back on track.

This is when I realize I can't do it on my own. I have to rely on someone else to assist me. I need someone else to help me find my way. It's hard for someone like me, so independent, to admit that I need help because it's beyond my control.

It's hard to become the needy one when you've only ever been the strong one. The one that does the jobs that no one else wants to, like picking up the trash in other peoples lives. I don't mean physical rubbish, but rather the worries and struggles and pain that they are suffering from. I have to allow someone to pick up my load and haul it away for me. Maybe it's not my job to carry it all the way to the landfill, but just to be there to get it out of the hands of those that can no longer carry it themselves.

I am reminded of scripture, Psalm 55:22 says, "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved."

We have to stop carrying things that we weren't meant to carry!

No Time to Treat Men Wrong

There is a time to work and play,

A time to eat and sleep;
A time to study and to pray,
A time to laugh and weep;
A time for fellowship that's sweet,
A time for sacred song;
But never is there time to treat
A human being wrong.

There is a time to lift men up
And help them on life's road;
And time to drain their bitter cup

And share their heavy load;
A time to bless them with our grace
And boost them all along;
But never is there time and place
To treat our fellows wrong.

There is a time to help men seek

The God who saves the soul;
A time to show them that the meek

Shall reach life's highest goal;
A time to help them turn aside
And leave the wicked throng;
But never does our God provide

A time to treat men wrong.

Walter E. Isenhour



POUND IN A PURSE



Dear Church Ladies of Missouri BMA,

Kewanee Baptist and First Baptist of Matthews would like to invite you to our event, POUND IN A PURSE. We did this last year and it turned out to be a GREAT fundraiser for our WMA National Project. This year our project is CAMP GARWOOD!

What takes place at this event is you get to bid on a purse of your choice and inside this purse will be a pound of something. This is done in a silent bidding fashion and at the end of the bidding you will be able to reveal what's inside!

This will take place at Matthews' fellowship hall on March 13, 2021 from 11AM to 3 PM.

We will be serving a lunch and our speaker this year will be Deanna Wisely George.

Please let us know if you plan to attend and how many ladies from your church. This is not a WMA event, this is an event for all ladies from our churches.

We look forward to seeing as many ladies as possible. We love our camp and what a great way to support it.

Your Pound in a Purse Committee

Respond to Terri Adams 573-380-0331 or TAdams@hotmail.com

Brothers.... Dealing with men's issues
and Promoting the Fellowship & Growth
of Men in the BMA of Missouri

Faithful Till Death

Revelation 2:8-11

by Dennis Baker, President BMAMO Brotherhood

It costs to be a dedicated Christian, in some places more than in others. In the midst of persecution and poverty the Lord's evaluation of the Smyrna church was that she was rich and encouraged her to be faithful unto death. The church of Smyrna was poor in material possessions because of not being able to secure employment due to strong labor unions that did not respect their Christian values. Other religions considered them atheists because they did not worship God like they did or because they worshipped a different god.

Included in American history is God's blessings on His churches to have the resources to not only evangelize the people of America but to be able to send God called individuals into other countries so that they can share God's blessing of salvation through Jesus Christ. But as the Lord's churches move forward, Satan is rising up strong opposition from governments and religious organizations. Biblical values concerning family, marriage, morals, and death are being challenged in our schools and courts. The current economic situation is not only affecting the family budget but the budget of the local churches.

As the Lord's churches move forward how will they respond to these increasing pressures? Do our Mission, Focus, and Core Value Statements still have any value? Are we willing to be faithful unto death?

In John's day, Caesar was looked upon as a god and anyone refusing to say, "Caesar is Lord" would be subject to execution or at the very least excluded from the labor unions. Being excluded from the labor unions resulted in unemployment and poverty. The large Jewish community was accepted by the Roman government, but they did not cooperate with Christianity.

Polycarp, a disciple of John and pastor of the Smyrna church suffered a martyr's death in 155 AD, at the age of eight-six, because of his faith in Jesus Christ. Polycarp when under threat of being consumed by fire if he refused to recant responded by saying, "Thou threatens the fire that burns for an hour and in a little while is quenched; for thou knowest not of the fire of the judgment to come, and the fire of eternal punishment, reserved for the ungodly. But why delayest thou. Bring what thou wilt." When the authorities tried to persuade Polycarp to recant his faith by asking, "Now what harm is there in saying "Lord Caesar" and offering incense, and so on, thus saving thyself? Polycarp responded by saying, "Eighty and six years have I served Him, and He hath done me no wrong; how then can I blaspheme my King who saved me?"

As end-time pressures increase persecution will also increase. I Peter 4:12-13. In my opinion Polycarp was not a super Christian but a man who genuinely loved his Lord and Savior. As I think about what it means to die for my King, and Savior, I wonder what would happen to my family if I were called by the Lord to die for my faith. How would God provide for my family's needs? The best answer I ever received was from one of my seminary professors, Dr. Hal McNeil.

As we studied the life of Polycarp in his class, someone commented, I wonder if I could stand for my faith in Christ and die for Him? Dr. McNeil responded by saying, if God were to call on me to die for Him, He would give me the grace to do so.

We should be encouraged by the reassurances that God is in control!

Be faithful unto death.

Church Health

by Larry Barker, Director of
Operations North America
BMA of America
Missions Department

Doing the Right Things

Leaders certainly have a desire to do things right and correctly. It is easy to even become obsessed with an unhealthy pursuit of excellence. Perfection can become a curse that drives us to focus on unrealistic expectations. A great definition of excellence is doing the best you can with what you have. You should always strive to do things well and do them right but more importantly you must also ask yourself if you are doing the right things. What if the things you are doing right are not really the right things you need to be doing?

The scriptures challenge us to seek first the kingdom of God. There is something special about things that are first because of the order in your life. You always remember your first car, your first job, your first child and your first house. You can also recall the first time you met the one who would become your husband or wife. These are firsts because of their chronological order but there are also things you make first because of their importance and the priority you place on them in your life. Are you placing first the things that matter most?

Do you want things to be different? Do you have a desire to improve, develop and grow as a leader? What small changes could you begin making today that would change tomorrow? In a recent Healthy Church Podcast interview Dr Steve Crawley said that the best critique of the bad is the practice of the better. What practices do you need to begin immediately that will make you a godlier leader? Nobody else can vicariously take care of your walk with Christ. Only you can abide in Christ, which produces the abundant life and fruit of the Spirit.

Doing the right things begins with better practices that give you the discipline to remain committed to them. All too often goals remain nothing more than pipe dreams because you never develop a systematic game plan to guarantee they

Seven Prayers for Pastors for a New Year

by Thom S. Rainer, founder and CEO of Church Answers,

As we move into 2021, may I suggest we churchgoers spend more time in prayer for our pastors? Could we commit to a few minutes a week specifically praying for these servant leaders? Frankly, I have never seen a season where pastors have withstood attacks at the level they did in the previous year. Perhaps one of our first lines of ministry should be praying for our pastors.

While I could provide a lengthy prayer guide, let's begin with these seven prayers. I really believe we could see our churches renewed if we fervently prayed for the renewal and protection of our pastors.

1. Protection in spiritual warfare. This prayer covers most of the other prayers, but I think we should be specific here. The enemy seeks to destroy the witness of churches by attacking pastors. "Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

2. Their families. Families of pastors are under attack every single day. Pray for their spouses. Pray for their children. Many pastors have left vocational ministry because their families have been attacked relentlessly.

3. Protection from critics and naysayers. One church member told me she is not that critical of her pastor. She mentioned that she has a few "constructive" comments about three or four times a year. I reminded her she was one of 300 members in the church. If she was representative of the other members, the pastor would be subject to about 1,000 criticisms in a year.

4. Preaching ministry. Pray for pastors in the preparation of their sermons. Pray for them as they preach. Consider asking two or three members to pray in another room in the church while they preach.

5. Rest for pastors. Pastors would be fine if they were omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. But we often forget that every time we have an expectation of a pastor, that single expectation is multiplied many times throughout the week by other members with other expectations.

6. Leadership clarity. Among the items on the lengthy list of expectations of pastors is the expectation to be a leader of the church. That means pastors need clarity from God on where and how to lead the church. That means we must pray for God to give them that clarity.

7. Encouragement. I have conversed with more than one church member who sees his or her role to be keeping pastors humble with barbs and criticisms. On the other hand, I am immensely grateful for those church members who seek to be encouragers to pastors. May their tribe increase.

As with many of us, 2020 was a difficult year for many pastors. Let us take the turning of a calendar year to be reminded of one act we can do to make our church and the world a better place.

Would you join me in praying for our pastors?

It will make a world of difference.

become reality. In Atomic Habits James Clear said, "We don't rise to the level of our goals; we fall to the level of our systems." Goals are great things to have but a clear realistic plan to accomplish them is even of greater importance. You may know where you want to arrive but what vehicle will you use to get there?

So, how do you make sure you are doing the right things and not just doing things right?

• Evaluate your personal walk with the Lord. Is it thriving or just surviving? You cannot expect anyone else around you to be

• See *DOING* Page 8 •

News from Todd & Tina Cox

BMAA Missionaries at StonePoint Church North GA

2020...what can I say? It is been a crazy year to say the least. We have all used and overused some words this year such as: Unprecedented, Pandemic, COVID-19, Coronavirus, and more! I know you all experienced many things as a family and at your local churches.

First and foremost, we know that God is still on His throne and in control! Praise the Lord!! We also are very thankful for you, our prayer and financial partners. Without your prayers and gifts and the Lord's multiplication math, we couldn't do what He has called us to do. Thank you again!!

As the year kicked off and as we headed into March, we were trending towards excellent growth headed towards year 4 as a church. Based on our attendance numbers, we were all set to launch to two services towards the end of March. And then...the pandemic hit us all! We had to close our doors to the public just as many other churches did. This obviously put a halt on two services. Thankfully, we had already been streaming our services live to Facebook for a couple of years so we were ahead of the curve and were able to help many churches get going as they started online streaming.

After being closed to the public for almost 3 months, we were able to open back up for in-person services in June on Father's Day. We went ahead and launched 2 services when we reopened to allow for social distancing and growth. We were thankful to be able to meet back in person but the pandemic and closure certainly hurt our growth.

In September, after much prayer, we decided to go from two services back to one service due to the lower numbers returning in person and the taxing on our worship team and volunteers. Within a month we began growing again and things were looking promising. Unfortunately, around Thanksgiving, many in our church, including all of our staff, came down with COVID-19. We closed the doors again to in-person services for 3 weeks and I preached online only. We are all better now and were able to reopen for in-person services again December 20th.

We also lost two special women in our church this year. In March we lost Nan Brown to her battle with cancer. Nan started coming to our church about 6 months after our launch and came to help her aunt find a church. She ended up falling in love with us and us with her. We were able to hold her funeral at StonePoint a week before the shutdown.

In November, we lost the wife of our former worship leader to cancer as well. Rebecca Rothenberger was a sweet young lady and mother of 2 boys. She gave her life to the Lord while at StonePoint and was baptized on our 1 year anniversary. She battled lung cancer a year and was in remission when the cancer came back very aggressively. Our church continues to minister to the Rothenberger family and has help set up a college fund for the boys.

Praises from 2020 - StonePoint is still reaching people, preaching the Word, discipling others, baptizing believers, helping in our local community, nationally and internationally!! We know God is still in control and He is still faithful so we must continue to be faithful to what He has called us to do and we know He will provide as we continue to step forward in faith! This year, we have helped more people and more ministries than ever before.

Locally, we have helped families affected by the pandemic through sickness or job loss/reductions. We still partner with The Place which provides food, clothing, job assistance, and financial assistance to those in need. We partner with Family Promise which helps local families that have found themselves homeless. We continue to provide backpacks for students in need as well as providing presents for children in need during Christmas. This year, we provided 40 electronic Bible

Sticks to military personnel that didn't have a Bible.

StonePoint is also partnering with the Risner Family in Romania, as well as sponsoring children in need in Indonesia and other areas. We are a Mission Church living out the Mission and supporting other Missions!!

God has worked mightily in the lives of many people since we moved to Georgia and starting meeting people and holding Vision Casting meetings in our house. What started from our family is now over 40 families representing over 100 people that call StonePoint home in 4 years is amazing!!

We have had nearly 60 Baptisms and many of those have been entire families! We've seen over 20 professions of faith, and countless lives have been changed! Marriages being healed, and families being restored through accepting and giving forgiveness. People have been released from the bondage of sin and the shame of their past. We have also seen the miracle of God's healing touch as several people have been completely healed of many things!! Praise God and help us celebrate Life Change for Christ!! We Are Thankful for YOU!! Because of your faithfulness, StonePoint has been able to reach out to many people in North Georgia. Your investments have also helped us invest into the lives of hundreds of different people that have come through our doors. Lives have been transformed by the power of Jesus. People have been Saved, Baptized, Rededicated their lives, Addictions have been broken, Marriages have been healed and restored, families have gotten control of their finances, people have asked for and given forgiveness and shown grace. All this has happened through the combined efforts of everyone's prayers and financial support and willingness to get involved and make a difference. Thank you for making a difference!!

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 until a request is received to remove it.

Matt Barker of Nixa, is available for pulpit supply or as the Lord leads. Contact him by phone (501-408-9500) or by e-mail: mattbarker1988@gmail.com

Douglas Brand, a member of Fellowship Baptist Church in Potosi, MO is available for pulpit supply or as the Lord leads. He also has experience in music ministry. Contact him at (573) 315-0930, (573) 315-0931 or dbrandministries@gmail.com.

Caleb Houston, youth minister of Kewanee is available for weekend revivals, youth events, and pulpit supply. Contact him at 573-521-7826 or calebhouston@yahoo.com.

Denver Page, a member at Landmark, DeSoto, MO is available for preaching as needed. (636) 942-3503

If you are a preacher and a member in good standing of a Baptist Missionary Association of America church and would like your name added to this column please contact the editor using the information on page 2.

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spiritually vibrant if you are not. Have a place and time to seek the Lord early and do not waver or stray from that commitment. Get a great devotional book, be sure to journal and S.O.A.P. the scriptures you are reading into that journal. Develop a prayer list of your family, friends, members and lost people to cry out before God on their behalf every day.

- Protect your time with your family. Don't forget that the family that prays together stays together. Have a family altar time and pray a prayer of thanksgiving over every meal. Discipleship begins at home and it is not as much a class as it is daily answering questions, loving and encouraging each other and leading them well in their walks with Christ. Validate daily that who they are seeing at church is who they are seeing at home. Have fun as a family - figure out ways to laugh and play together. Your family is your first ministry.

- Remain thankful for who the Lord is. Psalm 34:8 says, "Taste and see that the Lord is good. How happy is the person who takes refuge in Him." There is a direct correlation between how thankful you are and your well-being. Regularly thank those around you for their help and the contribution they are making in your life and in the ministry of the church. Send out some handwritten thank you cards letting them know how much you appreciate their walking this path with you. Everyday think of someone you need to thank and then thank them.

- Remain humble and view leadership more side by side than top to bottom. Biblical servant leadership is far more horizontal than vertical. Dr. Steve Crawley shared this on our podcast by alluding to an "off the chart" level of humility "coupled with an uncommon level of perseverance. A humble leader but one who cannot be dissuaded from accomplishing the mission." Realize you do not have to carry the burden alone. God never intended for you to. Paul told the Galatians to "bear one another's burdens."

The pressures of leadership right now are intense. There is decision fatigue, opinion fatigue, and the fatigue of uncertainty. During this time the answer has really not changed. Love the Lord and pursue Him daily. Love your family and make sure you are, first, leading them well. Remain humble and thankful for the opportunity to glorify God through your life and ministry. Be a team player by finding others who will help you carry the burden and load. Remain thankful to God and others and let people know how much you appreciated their contribution.

I Corinthians 15:58 (HCSB), "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."