

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

“Holding Forth The Word of Life”

Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXXIV

St. Louis, MO • September 14, 2021

Issue No. 9

Annual Meeting Reminder

The 94th Annual Meeting of
The Baptist Missionary Association of Missouri
Will meet October 9, 2021

at
Faith Baptist Church
2310 Muegge Rd.
St. Charles, MO
at
9:00 A.M.

Each Church is allowed up to 3 messengers
Church letter forms are in the center of the
2020 Minute Book

If you need a copy contact Don Burke, Clerk
704 Valley Rd, Potosi, MO 63664
573-210-6493

From the Office of Host Pastor
Justin Arender

Faith Baptist Church of Saint Charles is thankful for the privilege of hosting the 2021 BMA of MO Annual Meeting. Saint Charles, the county seat of Saint Charles County and the home of the first Missouri State Capitol, is a bustling city of over 65,000 people. There are ample activities to occupy one's spare time, including historic sites, beautiful parks, walking trails, and a plethora of dining and shopping options. Saint Charles and the surrounding areas also have a large selection of hotels. Our church is on Muegge Road, located in a hollow. When entering our address (2310 Muegge Rd, Saint Charles, MO 63303) into a GPS, it may default to Saint Peters because there is some zip code overlap.

We will have light breakfast foods and coffee in the morning and will serve lunch. We have classrooms available to be used for breakout meetings if the need arises.

We are excited to see what the Lord has in store for us all! You can contact me at (636) 697-0137 or by e-mail at pastor@faithbaptistsst-charles.com.

REVIVAL

Ohlman Missionary Baptist Church
will be having revival services
September 20 - September 24 • 6:00 p.m. nightly
Bro. Scotty Rayburn, Evangelist

Missionary Available

Bro. Francois Norcilus
of Haiti will be visiting
our area in late September
or early October. If you are
interested in having Bro.
Francois come to your
church to speak about his
Haiti Student Sponsorship
program and his schools
and churches in Haiti,
please contact Lee Miller at
573-701-6223.

Thank you.
Janet Price
Charity Missionary
Baptist Church
Bismarck, Missouri

U's Needed

You can't spell Sunday
Without U

You can't spell Church
Without U

You can't spell Budget
Without U

You can't spell Success
Without U

The church needs U to help

We hope to see U Sunday!

Homecoming

at
Landmark Baptist Church
DeSoto, Missouri

October 3, 2021

Morning Message • Bro. Johnny Dover

Noon Meal following Morning Service
No Evening Service

If your church attends please come prepared to bring
a song or two for the afternoon service!

Everyone Welcome!!

News From Camp Garwood

Greetings from Camp Garwood! Since camp week we have continued working at camp weekly. We are getting things cleaned up and put up. Hopefully to give us a little boost on being prepared for next years camp.

We had a great DEWRs retreat mid August. A good turnout and a lot of fun. It was good simply hanging out and enjoying each other's company. I believe it's called fellowship and we need it. In today's society it's hard to know what to do. When to meet, when to distance, when to wear a mask. Even being an introvert, I know that we need time together. We're better together. At the retreat we played games, took a train ride, some played on the slide and mini-golf. It was a simple, casual gathering. Bro. Dan Wisely gave a great devotional on Saturday morning, Bro. Jeff Reynolds prepared our meals with help from the Kewanee ladies. We all agreed the weekend was great and that the DEWRs should meet at that time every year. After camp rather than before.

I'd like to have a Fall retreat but finding a suitable weekend is proving to be difficult. Band events, football games, community days, local association meets and hunting season fill the calendar. Maybe we can sneak one in this winter.

I'll give a full report at the annual meeting, but camp week was great in so many ways this year. However we were lacking in two areas. Our attendance numbers were about half normal. And the spiritual response during camp was not there. We have no professions or decisions to report. That's hard for us to imagine. We can only guess as to the why. We know seeds were planted and we trust that the LORD will give the increase in His timing.

As I mentioned it was a great week in so many ways. Being half the campers the dorms were not over filled, there wasn't such a pressure with break downs and problems. We had tremendous services and a great time together in the valley.

Looking to camp in 2022. We have Bro. Jordan Bowen coming from Little Rock AR to speak. Jordan is currently serving as church planter at Hillcrest Community Church in North Little Rock. The committee and I are excited that Jordan will be with us next year. Please join us in praying for him, His wife Sarah, and their sons Brooks and Caden. May God use them to stir our hearts and awaken dead souls.

The Central Collective will return to lead the worship. And we are planning some more great things for Garwood '22. Plan now to join us July 25-29th. Only 46 Saturdays away!

Thank You for the continued support. We are a little behind financially due to the lower number of campers and the added expenses from working on the slide. Our focus now is on paying down the tractor debt.

Blessings to all of our churches.

Chris Polk

PO Box 271 • Matthews MO 63867

Cell phone 573-380-1975

E-mail - campgarwood@gmail.com



NEWS BRIEFS



Landmark, DeSoto reports. August 1st Bro. Benjamin was on his way to the BMAA, so Bro. Brendon Sanders filled the pulpit that evening. It was good with a lot of discussion. We have finished “Experiencing God.” It is such a wonderful study if we just remember what we have studied and put it into use in our lives each and every day. The evening of the 8th, Bro. Doug and Sis. Diane Lee were with us and told us about their work in the Philippines. We had our fellowship dinner the 29th and were scheduled to have the Lord’s Supper that evening, but due to Bro. Benjamin being ill, we didn’t. Denver has been filling in. Pray for our pastor, as he has been sick for a while. Of course, he’s been tested for Covid again and it is negative. We have so many ill among our number and our prayer chain has been busy. We have elected officers for the coming year and they will take over their new offices the first Sunday of September. We always need to pray for those new officers.

Until the Lord’s Return or Next month
Benjamin Kingston, Pastor • Sharon Page, Reporter

Greetings from Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church. We have had a busy month! Four people joined our church during the month of August. Three of those will be baptized soon! Welcome - Janet, Brady, Lori, and Vicki! August 22nd, we held a “Back to School Bash.” We served pizza and ice cream. Our youth put on a puppet skit, Bro. Corey led worship songs, and Bro. Caleb brought a devotional. We had around 65 in attendance! Praise the Lord! The last Sunday of each month will be youth Sunday. Our youth lead worship songs, take up offering, and help with specials. This is a way we are training up our youth to be leaders. Our Associational meeting was held August 27th. The association voted to have an associational Lifeword walk. This will be Saturday, October 23rd starting around 8 a.m. at Matthews’ park in Matthews, MO. We will have the walk, a corn-hole tournament, breakfast and lunch. If you’re in the area, join us as we walk for the world. Our church homecoming, set for September 19th, has been canceled. We will have normal services that day; no lunch. Due to rising COVID cases, we felt it was best to just have our normal morning services. We will have a booth set up at our Fall Festival in New Madrid, MO on Saturday, Oct. 2nd, along with bouncy houses. This is a way for us to connect with our community and invite people to church. Tuesday, Oct. 19th, our SEMO District WMA will meet at 1st Baptist Church in Matthews, MO at 6:30 p.m. We hope you are all staying safe and healthy! Please “like” our Facebook page, Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church, to keep up with future events.
Dan Wisely, Pastor • Lisa Cox, Reporter

HELLO to all from **Oak Hill, Alton!** We hope everyone has had a blessed and short summer. It seems like Summer began and ended in a few short days. Fall will soon be here along with the Hay Rides and Weiner Roasts and the leaves changing colors. August 29th the Lord’s family increased by two. Betty Sue Chronister and Rose Colins were saved by our wonderful and amazing Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Another great thing is that Carstyn Casey hopefully took his last radiation treatment at St. Jude’s September 3rd and will be headed home to be with the rest of his family. We rejoice and thank the Lord for blessing the Doctors and Nurses at St. Jude’s with the knowledge in helping him beat his cancer. Also, we are extremely THANKFUL for all the prayers that were prayed for him and his family regarding his sickness! Until next month we will be praising and honoring our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as we hope to have more Good News to share!
Edward Casey, Pastor • Jennifer Williams, Reporter

Hello from Bethel, Sikeston: We have had a very good month. Our youth all enjoyed camp this year, so thankful for Camp Garwood and all who help to make it a success. While our Pastor and his Wife were away on Vacation, August 8th Bro. Troy Sisk filled the pulpit and brought a very powerful morning message from Matthew 26. Bro. Les Cantrell brought a very good message that evening. We are thankful that they are willing to take over when needed and sometimes it may be at a few hours notice... August 22, during the morning service Richard Ardrey came forward and requested to join the church by statement and in the evening service Bro. Troy and Sis. Patty Sisk also requested to join by letter. The 31st Bro. Richard Ardrey was baptized, and that same night Dominic Saucedo was saved, Praise the Lord! It is such a blessing to see people coming forward requesting to join our fellowship, especially when a young person gives their heart to Jesus! Dominic will be baptized next Sunday morning.. We will be in Revival starting September 6th thru the 10th with Bro. Scotty Rayburn as Evangelist. We are praying for the lost to be saved, and for the Saints to be Revived, but most of all, for God to be glorified in all that we do. We are planning our yearly LifeChain again this year, on October 3rd from 2:30 to 3:30, please come out and join us for this very needed event. We Pray that many other churches in this area will be willing to come join us too. We hope everyone had a happy labor day celebration with your family and friends!

Billy Davis, Pastor
Joan Wood, Reporter

Greetings brothers and sisters **from First Baptist Church, Potosi, MO.** I am writing for two months since I did not meet last month’s deadline. July was full of activities. Raven Porter re-

ported an amazing week at VBS. They had over 30 youth volunteers and over 30 adult volunteers. There were 122 children shown God’s love through these volunteers. The youth ate lunch at the church after VBS each day before going into the community for Jesus Loves Potosi where the youth and sponsors completed odd jobs for those who need things done. Then, when this is over, they come back to the church to eat and have a worship and devotional service. These students love the Lord so much. Many teens attended Jesus Camp and at one point, they all surrounded Bro. Kevin and prayed over him. We had a full camp for FBC Kids Day Camp. Volunteers assisted Alisia Wright working the diaper changing/nursing station at the county fair. Celebrate Recovery dinner, worship, testimonies on the town square one Friday night. The praise band was our new bluegrass band. Fellowship Baptist Church and The Well of Hope continue to prepare delicious meals one night a month for the CR volunteers. CR praise band led the Sunday morning worship service when Bro. Kevin was preaching the morning message. One Sunday morning we listened to a youth praise band. They were great. #FBCKids Club is beginning in September on Wednesday evening as well as our adult Bible study. Our Sunday evening Bible Studies held at different members’ homes are preparing to begin again. Our church will be hosting the community Bible Study on Tuesdays each week and our member, Sis. Debbie Ainley will be teaching a Bible Study on Thursdays of each week. We plan to offer UPWARD BASKETBALL and CHEER LEADING this year. HOPE (Healing Our Past Experiences) has started classes once again. Three of our women are in the planning stages of “Overflow” which will be a room set up solely for the purpose of providing clothes to anyone who needs them. LIFEWORD Sunday is coming in October and we will be ordering shirts. This is such an important ministry. One of our former pastors passed away, Bro. Don Newsom. He loved the mission in life that God gave him. He will be missed by many. The world seems to be going crazy, but God told us what would happen if we, as a country, did not repent. Please pray for us as we pray for you.
Jim Ainley, Pastor • Deborah Rauhut, Secretary

Just a quick catch up from **Stony Point Baptist Church near Potosi.** Four young folks and two adults attended Camp Garwood. We know the Holy Spirit is working in these young lives and we praise Him for His faithfulness. Bro. Claude and Sis. Bea travelled to the BMAA National Meeting in Waxahachie, Texas. August 8th we were blessed with a visit from our missionaries to the Philippines, Bro. Doug and Sis. Diane

• Continued on Page 4 •

The Missouri
Missionary Baptist
Established by the Baptist Missionary Association
of Missouri November 1937

The Missouri Missionary Baptist (USPS 355-500)
is published monthly by the
BMA of Missouri Publications Committee.
Subscription price is \$10.00 per year
176 Bear Creek Dr. Wentzville, MO 63385-3355
Periodical Postage Paid at St. Louis, MO 63155

POSTMASTER: Send address change to:
Missouri Missionary Baptist
176 Bear Creek Dr.
Wentzville, MO 63385-3355
James E. Hoffmann, Editor
Ph: 314-277-8644 • E-Mail mmbpaper@charter.net

Don Burke, Assistant Editor
*DEADLINE for copy is the FIRST TUESDAY
of the month in which you want it to appear*
See the MMB online at bmissouri.org

STATE MISSIONS

SEND MISSIONS OFFERINGS TO:

BMA of Missouri Missions
% Stacie Hatfield
1220 Park Drive
Wentzville, MO 63385
St. Clair, MO 63077
email: stacieH73@hotmail.com

SEND MMB LOAN ASSOC. OFFERINGS TO:

Dennis Baker, President
BMA of Missouri Loan Committee
5146 Darkmoor Ln.
Imperial, MO 63052
Phone (314)846-1867
E-mail: bbsafety4332@gmail.com

BMA of Missouri Website: www.bmamissouri.org

FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS • August 2021

General Fund:

Checking Account:

Balance July 31, 2021 \$ 32,434.02

August Receipts:

Missions:	\$	2,349.15	
Total Income:	\$	2,349.15	\$ 2,349.15
Total Available	\$		\$ 34,783.17

Disbursements:

Director, Salary	\$	450.00	
Secretary, Salary	\$	200.00	
Juan Fernandez, support	\$	2,333.33	
Total Disbursements	\$	2,983.33	\$ (2,983.33)
Balance August 31, 2021:	\$		\$ 31,799.84

Investment in BMA of Mississippi Revolving Loan Fund:

Balance July 31, 2021:	\$	109,026.34	
Interest:	\$	0.00	
Balance August 31, 2021:	\$		\$ 109,026.34

Total of all Funds December 31, 2020: \$ 140,826.18

Our Call to Revival

Recall your own Christian experience.
Rene your promises to God.
Resolve to do your best in His service.

Enter into the meeting wholeheartedly.
Exert every effort to win someone to Christ.
Enlist this person in service after his commitment.

Visualize the condition of the lost.
Vow that you will do something about it.
Voice your deep desire daily in prayer.

Invite people to all the services.
Impress on them the importance of attendance.
Intensify your own efforts.

View the fields "white unto harvest."
Volunteer your services whenever needed.
Visit in homes as much as possible.

Aspire to all that is good and holy.
Attend every service, if possible.
Allow yourself to be used of the Lord.

Look on the world, needy and sinful.
Love people freely, for they need your love.
Let the Holy Spirit guide you.

Clip Art for Newsletters

So we have these three summations of these three chapters and these three statements: ask whatsoever ye will in my name and I will do it.

These are not in the order that they are presented here in scripture.

Prayer #1 based on John 16 - the prayer that God will always answer is GOD HELP ME TO KNOW YOU.

If you and I are soaking in the spirit of God and the word of God, the spirit of God is going to speak to us through the word of God and we're going to know him. This is the most basic element and none more important for the repentant sinner than for him to be inextricably connected to his Savior and his God!

Prayer #2 found in John 14 - LET US IN ON YOUR KINGDOM WORK

As you grow in your relationship with God, you're going to want to bless God, you're going to want to serve him. The only way to effectively serve God is to get involved in his kingdom work. What is his kingdom work? Sharing his gospel, living a holy life, growing in the gospel as a disciple, and ultimately reaching other people for the gospel's sake.

Prayer #3 is found in John 15 - LORD HELP US TO BEAR YOUR FRUIT!

As you and I grow in our love relationship with Jesus Christ, and as we ask Him to show us where he is working, we can't help but to bear the two types of fruit: inner fruit and outer fruit. The inner fruit is the fruit of the spirit, and couldn't we all do with a good dose of the fruit of the spirit? "love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, against such there is no law," according to Galatians 5:22. And then the outward fruit of soul-winning and discipleship.

Pastor, as you and your church apply the loving challenges that are found in the BMAMO benchmark assessment, you will fulfill these three areas. It is my humble opinion that as we apply ourselves to this approach of raising the bar in our knowledge and awareness of what we're already doing as an association and then raise the bar in our own lives of being missionaries to our world through prayer and evangelistic action, our churches will grow and we will plant more churches. Isn't that what we were created for?

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings.

From Our Director...

Dear Missouri Baptist churches,

It is quite possible that this will be the last article before our annual meeting at Faith Baptist Church on October 9, 2021 convening at 9 AM, so I want to use this opportunity to prepare you for what you're going to hear and what "I believe" God is asking us to do as an association to prepare for a missions reset in our state.

This began in May at the mid-year meeting, where I shared with you the BMAMO missions assessment and the resulting pamphlet that guides someone wanting to raise the bar of our missions awareness.

Why would we start here? Well, let me answer that question by my own experience. As Bethel's pastor I am striving to do a better job of educating and guiding our church in the area of missions, what we are currently doing as a national association, and how we should be involved on all association levels. The blunt reality of it is that we are under-performing as an association when it comes to missions efforts even within our own churches and certainly when it comes to planting churches. My vision if you will, and the vision that I'm striving to cast starting last May and now in October and beyond, is to raise the bar of awareness in our own churches as to what we are already doing as an association and then to raise the bar of action in our participation and great commission skills.

About 20 some odd years ago now, I heard perhaps one of the greatest messages I have ever heard by Charlie Holmes and it was called "the three prayers that God always answers," that are found in John 14, 15, and 16. Each verse ends with "ask anything in My name and My Father will do it." That is a rough paraphrase but that's essentially what is stated, however the context for each verse is different

John 14:13,14 "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it."

Looking Forward

John 15:16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you."

John 16:23 "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you."

These are the three verses that Charlie went on to expound upon and this is the long and short of that message and honestly the impetus of what I'm striving to do!

When you go by the context of these three chapters, the context of all three statements is different.

Statement #1 in John 14 - the context is the work of the kingdom

Statement #2 in John 15 - the context is the fruit that is to be bore by believers

Statement #3 in John 16 - the context is the spirit of God

• **NEWS From Page 2** •

Lee. Please keep Bro. Anthony Dontrich in prayer as he has begun United States Army boot camp at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Claude Evans, Pastor • David Hughes, Reporter

Ohlman Baptist at Bunker has been blessed with another month of great worship services and messages from Pastor Terry Sharpe. We continue to have visitors every Sunday. This past Sunday we had a lady come forward to be reinstated as a member of the church. Praise the Lord! August 7th we attended the Annual meeting of the Logan Creek Association at Salem, MO hosted by Mt. Olive Baptist Church. We enjoyed the morning devotional by Bro. Easton May and the annual message by Mt. Olive's new pastor Bro. Larry Nash. Sis. Janet Widger was able to attend and represent our church at the National BMAA meeting in Waxahachie, TX. We are so thankful to have her in our membership. She is a faithful worker for the church and the Lord. We enjoyed our 5th Sunday Dinner and Logan Creek Singing August 26th. It is always good to fellowship and sing praises to the Lord with our Brothers and Sisters in Christ. The Ladies of the church met the 28th for their monthly Ladies Lunch Out. Some of the ladies from Mt. Olive joined us for lunch. We have restarted our Wednesday night youth program. Our first night back we had an evening of fun, family, and fellowship. We had about 40 kids in attendance, who loved the bounce house and all the games. We had several parents that came and participated in the food and games with the kids. We covet your prayers for our upcoming revival September 20-24 with Bro. Scotty Rayburn as evangelist. God bless you all.

Terry Sharpe, Pastor • Juanita May, Assistant Reporter

Greetings to all our brothers and sisters from **Ozark Heights Missionary Baptist Church**, Things have slowed a little since July and church camp. The WMA donated a bench which was installed at the Meramec Retreat center in time for the beginning of camp. They hope to encourage other churches to follow suit and build more benches providing places to relax while observing the youth activities. Everyone who attended enjoyed church camp and our youth were lifted up; as well as, inspired by the teaching and messages presented to them. Our pastor attended the annual BMAA conference and said it was a great meeting with great inspirational preaching. His report regarding the business and missions was encouraging. We were so blessed to have one of our young men make a pro-

fession of faith and share his profession before the church. He and his older brother both presented themselves to the church requesting to be baptized. On August 14th Bro. Brian baptized them and they were given the hand of fellowship by the church. Our church was pleased to host and provide lunch for the Missionary Committee Meeting on August 28th. On August 29th the church hosted a bridal shower for Mataya Kingston. It is also a blessing to once again start afternoon worship services to our local senior care centers. They are so appreciate to have gospel singing and the opportunity to have church service. Many of those who attend service in those nursing homes were faithful in their worship and cherish having the chance to take an active part in worship. Bro. Brian has been planing a new program called Series 33 for our Brotherhood starting in September, focusing on how to build your life as a man to serve the Lord and those around you. Teaching through the steps of men's lives and how they grow into the different aspects as husbands, fathers, grandfathers and mentors for those following. We encourage young men in the area to come and take part in this character building program. Brotherhood is 7:00 PM on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of

the month. We are thankful for the many visitors we have been having through out the summer. If you have been home bound, we want you to know you are in our prayers and you are loved. If you have lost a friend or loved one, we are praying for you. If you are going through sickness, we want you to know we are praying for you. No matter what you may be going through in you life now, remember His promise. "He will never leave or forsake us." We want our sister churches to know we are praying for you and ask you to keep us in your prayers as well. May God Bless You,

Brian Kingston, Pastor • Gary Gilliam, Reporter

Greetings! from Briar, in Doniphan. You would think extra time to get the newsletter submitted would be a help but not for some of us who are creatures of habit. I would have been fine if I would have just gone ahead and sent my article for July on the first Tuesday of August. But oh no, I thought I can wait until closer to Friday. Then Friday came and went and it was about Thursday of the next week when I thought of it again. Our pastor and his wife have put in a high tunnel to raise vegetables and be able to contribute more to the families on the food pantry list of our church. On the day of raising the top on the high tunnel, everyone was invited to their home for a cookout. All who attended had a blessed day and good food and fellowship. God has been so good to all of Briar. For the month of August, we hosted the Youth in Harvest. We enjoyed the fellowship of 4 churches as we played a game of "Name That Tune," using gospel songs. It turned out to be pretty even teams by making it men against the women. By the end of the game it seemed everyone was on just one team and everyone had a good time. Bro. David Grubb brought a devotion at the end of the evening. August 28th Briar Church has been established 55 years. Sunday, August 29th we had a celebration. We invited former pastors to join us and also invited everyone in our Association to join us for a fish fry and cake and ice cream followed by an afternoon of singing and reminiscing of the past 55 years. Bro. Tom Foster brought the morning message. He was the first pastor of our church. It was a great time of catching up with Bro. Tom and Sis. Evelyn. With Covid-19 being so rampant right now in our counties some of our meetings are being postponed. Please pray for our Association and all churches across our great Nation during this time. 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, Reporterr

Central Baptist College Ranked Nationally as one of the Safest College Campuses

According to Niche, a college data and review site, Central Baptist College was ranked one of the Safest College Campuses in the US. At #24 on the list, CBC's campus received a ranking that offered a safe and healthy environment. According to Chris Mitchell, Director of Campus Safety and Security, "Being included in this ranking means our campus has very little to no campus crime, alcohol or substance abuse usage." Central Baptist College President Terry Kimbrow believes that the staff and personal helped determine the ranking. "CBC is very proud to employ a former police officer as head of our safety and security. Being selected as one of the safest college campuses is truly an honor."

Niche is a nationally known company that analyzes data, reviews, and surveys to determine each ranking.

According to Niche, the Safest College Campuses ranking is based on key statistics and student reviews using data from the U.S. Department of Education.

Many factors go into determining these rankings. Some

of these include Campus Crime Statistics, Local Crime Grade, Student Surveys on Safety, Residence Hall Dating Violence Rate, Residence Hall Sexual Assault Rate, Alcohol-Related Arrests, and Drug-Related Arrests.

Chris Mitchell, Director of Campus Safety and Security: "It is a great honor for Central Baptist College to be named in the top 25 of the safest colleges. We take pride in assuring our students, staff, employees, and visitors are safe as possible while on our campus."

For more information on the Safest College Campuses in America visit <https://www.niche.com/colleges/search/safest-colleges/>.

What Jesus Has Done For Us

He descended that we might ascend (John 6:38; 14:30).

He became poor that we might become rich (2 Cor.8:9;

James 2:5).

He was born that we might be born again (John 1:14; 3:2).

He became a servant that we might be sons (Phil. 2:7;

Gal. 4:6-7).

He had no home that we might have a home in Heaven (Matt.

8:20; John 14:2).

He was hungry that we might be fed (Matt 4:2; John 6:50).

He was thirsty that we might drink of the wells of salvation

(John 19:28; Isa. 12:3).

He was wearied that we might have rest (John 4:6; Matt. 11:29).

He was stripped that we might be clothed (Matt. 27:28; 2 Cor.

5:4).

He was forsaken that we might not be forsaken (Matt. 27:46;

Heb. 13:5).

He was sad that we might be glad (Isa. 53:3; Phil. 4:4).

He was bound that we might go free (Matt. 27:2; John 8:32-36).

He was made sin that we might be made righteous (2 Cor. 5:21).

He died that we might live (John 19:33; 5:24-25).

He will come down that we might be caught up

(I Thess. 4:16-17).

Clipart Features for Church Newsletters

Mission Bautista Hispana in St. Louis, MO

Volume 1 Issue 9

BTCP Teacher Focused Workshop



The Workshop In AR

Brother Elvis Garcia invited me to come to the National Office training center in Conway, AR to participate in this wonderful workshop, such a privilege! BTCP stands for Bible Training Center for Pastors, the focus of this workshop is:

- To Equip teachers to efficiently prepare and deliver BTCP/BTCL lessons.
- To familiarize teachers with BTCP concept and curriculum
- To impart BTCP program for operating a class.

We had time to learn, practice, and have fellowship with pastors from Arkansas, Dallas and missionaries to Zambia. What

a joy and privilege to think on how these materials are such powerful tools to continue with the Great Commission. For us in Mission Bautista Hispana in St. Louis we have a discipleship progress in place and this tool will be utilized to develop the leadership skills in those who complete the basic discipleship in our ministry here in St. Louis, MO.

Outreach in the Neighborhood:

We were blessed by receiving 100 copies of the Bible in Spanish. We are thankful for this gracious provision to our mission from the Meramec Landmark Baptist Association Advisory Committee! We prayed for this mission and for my wife and girls, and also discussed the importance of having a new place for outreach closer to where more Hispanic Families live, move, etc. This new place will continue to be prayed about but the Bibles have arrived.

I have asked our neighbors in the plaza across the street from Bethany Baptist Church to allow me to set up a table to share Bibles. I have met many people who profess to be followers of Christ but are



Bibles to use in outreach

not attending any church, aren't members of any church in the area, or attending a Pentecostal church, and surprisingly many of the young people I talked to are totally oblivious of what this book is about. When I was explaining to a large group who were listening attentively there was a sudden interest on learning more about it, these young men promised to gather again next Saturday to continue learning about this book. Unfortunately their lunch break was over and they needed to head back to work.

We met also Mr. Vidal, who has a home business that sells authentic food, he received the Bible and promised to introduce me to his family and Friends. Mr. Vidal was invited to join for prayer every day at noon at Bethany building. When we met again a week later, Mr. Vidal introduced me to his wife, Mrs. Cristina and daughters and son in law. One of the young men, asked me why I was giving these books away, he then told me that his parents are pastoring a church in Honduras and pray for him every day. We had a good conversation until the mother-in-law interrupted saying that they belong to a church already. It's a Pentecostal church and they were not allowed to listen to anyone else but their leaders. Pray for this family as they are hungry for the truth.

English as Second Language in Overland and St. Charles:

English classes this semester are a little different from last semester. Many of our students have had changes in their work schedules and are having a difficult time attending classes. We have decided to have classes in Overland at Bethany Baptist Church on Thursdays from 4:30-6:30 and in Saint Charles at Faith Baptist Church from 5-7. If we have more interest with new stu-

dents we will open up more times for the students. While this is not what we were expecting, we are excited that we will still have all of our same students/contacts and that we will also have more time to spend and in-home Bible studies with these families and others. Please continue to pray for the opportunity to minister spiritually to each student and their families. If you are interested in helping in our classes please feel free to contact either me or my wife.

*“Pray without ceasing...” Every day of the week
12:00 noon join in prayer for
Mission Bautista Hispana in
St. Louis, MO*

What's Happening in the Upcoming Month??

Discipleship process,

- Prayerfully starting a new home Bible study with a family from Florissant. This couple is starting a discipleship class this coming 9/8/2021.

- Completed first of six stages of discipleship with Nahum and Ermilanda. God is doing great things in their family, they are expecting a new family member. This young couple want to express the deep gratitude for your prayers and for our members at Bethany church who gave a love offering for them in the most needed time.

- Bibles continue to be handed out every day in this plaza and other neighborhoods that are available.

- New prospects will continue to be reached in their homes to start new home Bible studies.

- Will have a display booth during an important Hispanic Festival in Florissant. Cost is \$150 for a 10x10 tent and a table in this festival. We are planning to have more Bibles available, some water, etc. Thank you for those who have been giving and sending love offerings that we continue with the message of the gospel and great commission for those whose language of heart is Spanish.

- Will continue our daily prayer gathering at 12:00 in the building of Bethany Baptist Church. If you would like to have me come and visit you and pray together, let me know, will be a privilege whether I come to visit you or you'd like to come visit me.

- Will celebrate my 44th birthday this 9/24 by God's grace, so blessed to celebrate this birthday counting with your prayer for Health and good testimony of being a faithful laborer for the kingdom.

Baby Juanito Update!!!

Thank you to everyone that was able to attend our baby shower and to all of those who have been praying for us during this pregnancy! We are so thankful for all of you! We cant wait to finally get to enjoy baby in our hands, Victoria and Eleanor are looking forward to help with baby, changing diapers, etc. We are so close...its such blessing to share this stage of our lives with such wonderful family in Christ!



Lifeword Announces New Director of Audience Engagement

Telling stories is what Yalanda Merrell is all about, and professionally she has done that, first as a reporter and anchor for KAIT in Jonesboro, Arkansas, then as a recruiter for University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). Turns out that Yalanda is not only a talented broadcast journalist but a writer as well, and she loves to tell her own story because it's a familiar one for many believers.

Although she had walked the aisle at the age of seven, she wasn't saved until her freshman year of college. But another eight years passed until she fully surrendered her life to Jesus, then three more until she obeyed God's call to disciple others. It's a familiar story for many, and one that Yalanda doesn't mind telling and writing about, especially if it will point someone to Jesus.

The Lifeword team met Yalanda in 2018 after Director of Operations Luis Ortega visited the church she and her husband Shaun attended in northeast Arkansas. The Lifeword Cloud had just been implemented and Yalanda was asked to join a team of writers. Her daily devotionals and blogs have been published on Lifeword.org ever since.

After enthusiastically offering to do more, anything that was needed, BMA Missions took her up on the offer. She hosts a monthly show, mission:world.tv, that features BMA missionaries and what they're doing around the world. An extension of mission:world magazine, it comes out on BMA Missions' Facebook page.

Beginning in September 1, Yalanda will also begin serving Lifeword as Director of Audience Engagement. Her years of experience and talent will help take Lifeword to new levels of effectiveness and professionalism.

Yalanda says, "Salvation in Jesus Christ is the single most important decision in one's life. However, it's only the beginning. For many people across the globe, they don't know the next steps.

"We live in an age where people aren't being shown the



Yalanda Merrell & Husband

examples to follow in how Christ wants us to live and obey Him. So how do we do discipleship in the digital age?

"Our hope is to move Lifeword from a proclamation ministry to one that engages its audience to tell their own story of salvation and learn how to become a disci-

ple maker. It's an exciting time at Lifeword and I'm humbled and thrilled the Lord is allowing me to use my background in media and communications to help others learn how to tell their redemption story."

Seminary to Offer Free Online Class

The BMA Theological Seminary is offering a free online course in the Fall 2021. The course will be eight weeks long and includes various assignments and opportunities to interact with fellow students. Students who complete the course will receive a certificate of completion.

Free courses are not for credit and do not apply to any degrees. These courses are offered strictly for the educational benefit of the general public. Individuals who wish to take courses for credit or pursue a degree should apply for regular semester courses.

The course being offered is "Ecclesiastes: Life Under the Sun," taught by Dr. Tony Cleaver. This course is specifically designed for church workers who are Sunday School teachers, youth workers, deacons and all church members who want to im-

prove their ability to study the Scriptures to better understand and put into practice the calling of God's people.

There is ample opportunity for student interaction on the course topics through the weekly forums. Students in one area of the world will be able to interact in class conversation with other students in another part of the world.

Students do not have to be "computer experts" to enroll in a free course. The process is quite intuitive for the Moodle course platform. There is a little technology required. For specific requirements, please contact the seminary at bmats@bmats.edu or (800) 259-5673.

Students may discover through this course they want to pursue a seminary degree. Several former free students have enrolled in BMA Seminary for degrees after completing the courses.

Here is the complete course description for Ecclesiastes: Life Under the Sun:

This is a historical and interpretative study of Ecclesiastes. Literary structure (outline), suggested purpose of Ecclesiastes and the historical context are emphasized as means to interpret individual passages.

By the end of the course, you should:

- Improve knowledge and understanding of important biblical and theological truths.
- Improve the ability to communicate biblical truths in the context of a local church.
- Improve leadership skills as required in the ministry of a local church.

Required textbooks are: The Holy Bible (student selected English translation) and Bible Study Material from Baptist Expositor Fall 2021: "Ecclesiastes: Life Under the Sun." You may order this Bible study material at baptistpublishinghouse.com/order-curriculum or call (800) 333-1442. A supplemental atlas is suggested but not required: Holman Bible Atlas, Broadman and Holman Publishers, ISBN 1558197095).

The class begins on Sept. 1 and ends Oct. 27. The instructor suggests several from a church enroll together for group encouragement.

This is not a self-paced course. The instructor has assigned deadlines for specific assignments will be included in the assignment schedule once you are registered for the class.

To register, please visit bmats.edu/free or call (800) 259-5673.

EIM is Wanting to Help Your Church

By: Michael Goodwin, EIM President & Program Director

Evangelistic International Ministries would like to make ourselves available to our BMAA churches. This past summer, God opened up new doors for us since we were limited in doing overseas travel. For over 10 years, EIM teams have traveled overseas conducting Overseas Bible Schools. These are done much like Vacation Bible Schools here in the States. God has laid it on our hearts to begin helping the local churches that may not have the manpower nor the finances to have a Vacation Bible School. EIM is wanting to schedule 3-4 Vacation Bible Schools here in the States for next summer. We would be honored to bring a team of 10-18 to your church to help you reach children and parents with the gospel and to help make new contacts for your church.

We conducted two VBS's here in the States this past summer. We were able to work with Bethel Baptist Church in Clayton, Texas, as well as New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Eugene, Oregon.

Here is what Pastor Chris Price said after we had worked with him and his dear church, "Since EIM came to Bethel, the hearts of our members are full of joy again. Jesus used EIM to restore hope to a people who have been hurt and were halted because of it. With the hurt gone, hope restored, and hearts healed, we have new faces and new families we are ministering to."

Pastor Clint Perdue had this to say, "There was one key element that stood out to me above all the rest that made the week with EIM special, that was the LOVE that was on display. Each of the team members loved Jesus, and it was obvious. It was shown in the love for the Gospel, for the people that attended the VBS, and it was shown to the Church, as well."

If you would like more information on how EIM could help, please contact me at mgoodwin@eimworldwide.org or call 870-234-5319. You can also go to our website at www.eimworldwide.org and see what God is doing globally through the ministry of EIM.

EIM is a partner of BMAA Missions and Lifeword. We are a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization which began in 1998 and is sanctioned and endorsed by First Baptist Church of Magnolia, Arkansas.



Happy the EIM Clown helping teach and entertain at a VBS

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

A Prayer for Help in Hopelessness

Psalm 88:1-8

by Dennis Baker, BMAMO Brotherhood President

Heman, the son of Korah, was a temple musician during the reign of David. The Psalm begins with pain and perplexity but, unlike other psalms of lament, it closes without triumph. The psalm speaks of darkness (vs.1, 6, 12, 18), life in the depths (vs. 3-4, 6), the immanence of death (vs. 5, 10-11), feeling of drowning (vs. 7, 16-17), loneliness (vs. 5, 8, 14, 18), and imprisonment (v. 8). Heman was a servant of God who was suffering intensely and did not understand why, yet he persisted in praying to God and did not abandon his faith. Not all of life's experiences have happy endings, but that does not mean that the Lord has forsaken us. From Heman's experience we can discover instructions to follow when life falls apart and our prayers seemingly are not answered.

Come to the Lord in faith, vs 1-2. Heman's life had not been an easy one and it seemed like it was getting even more difficult, and he felt that death was very near. Heman spoke as if he was ready to give up. But he did not give up! He still trusted in the Lord of his salvation. Heman prayed day and night believing that God would hear his prayers. No matter how we feel and no matter how impossible our circumstances, we can always come to the Lord with our burdens.

Tell the Lord how you feel, vs 3-9. There is no place for hypocrisy in personal prayer. When we pray, we need to be completely transparent and not tell the Lord anything that is not true or that we do not really mean. Heman confesses that he was "full of troubles" and felt like a "living dead man." He was without strength and felt forsaken by the Lord. Heman told the Lord that He was responsible for His servant's troubles! God's hand put him in the Pit (the grave), and God's anger was flowing over him like breakers from the sea. Whatever sickness he had was caused by the Lord and made him so repulsive that his friends avoided him. He was without health, without light, and without friends. He felt like he was without God! He was a prisoner and there was no way to escape. Like Job, Heman wanted to know why all this suffering had come to him.

Defend your cause before the Lord, vs 10-14. The Scottish minister Samuel Rutherford (1600-1661) who suffered much for his faith wrote, "It is faith's work to claim and challenge loving kindnesses out of all the roughest strokes of God." He also said, "Why should I tremble at the plough of my Lord, that maketh deep furrows in my soul? I know He is no idle husbandman; He purposeth a crop." Heman's argument was simply that his death would rob God of a great opportunity to demonstrate His power and glory. What service could Heman be to the Lord in sheol? Heman prayed for healing and strength. Heman felt rejected and knew that God's face was turned away from him. But he kept on praying.

Wait for the Lord's answer, Vs 15-18. It appears that Heman could not even look back to a time in his life where he enjoyed good health, v 15. The billows that had almost drowned him (v 7) now became fiery waves of torment (v 16) as God's "burning anger" went over him. The flood was rising, and he felt he was about to drown, and there was nobody near enough to rescue him. He was alone! The darkness was his friend because it hid him from the eyes of those who observed his suffering and may have said (as Job's friends),

Three Good Reasons to Serve Your Church

Before you say "no" when asked to take a job in your church, think about some reasons why you should say "yes." There are at least three good reasons why every Christian ought to serve his or her church.

1. Your Christian life needs a service outlet. Nothing helps you to grow as a Christian like putting your faith into practice by teaching, singing, ushering, or serving on a church committee.

2. You have a testimony to share with others. The reason why you are asked to serve is that your fellow Christians have confidence in you and your ability. Your Christian testimony will be a good influence in the lives of those whom you lead and serve.

3. Your church needs you. There is no way for our church to get its work done unless members volunteer their time to teach and lead. When you accept a place of responsibility, you help your church move forward in the name of Christ.

"He must have sinned greatly for the Lord to afflict him so much." He continued to pray and to look to God for help! "Though he slay me, yet will I trust him" Job 13:5. "I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage, yes, wait for the Lord" (Psalm 27:13-14). The Lord always has the last word, and it will not be "darkness." When life falls apart and our prayers seemingly are not answered, come to the Lord by faith, tell the Lord how you feel, defend your cause before the Lord, and wait for the Lord's answer. Not all of life's experiences have happy endings, but that does not mean that the Lord has forsaken us. No matter how we feel and no matter how impossible our circumstances, we can always come to the Lord with our burdens.

RECHARGE Leaders' Oasis

One definition of an epidemic is a sudden, widespread occurrence of a particular undesirable phenomenon. We have all heard or read similar definitions over the past 18-24 months of Covid 19. The virus has caused millions to die, businesses to close, and families destroyed. With As much devastation that Covid has caused in this world, it doesn't compare to the devastation that the church faces. It breaks my heart to see churches closing, churches losing their pastors, pastors so fatigued they leave the ministry, and the untold millions of people still needing to hear the Good News of Jesus. I am no missiologist or ecclesiologist, but to view the state of the church from a 30-thousand-foot view, one could easily say the church is facing an epidemic. We have no accurate number of churches without a pastor, or even how many pastors are leaving the ministry, but if you look through our BMA state papers over the past few years or even months, you can easily see there are too many. God's plan to save the world is through the church; He gave the church a mission; to preach and teach Jesus to the whole world. If churches have no pastor, and pastors are leaving, who will take up the mantel? What if there was a way to encourage, inspire, and love pastors as they serve? What if pastors receive free resources to help them, motivate them, and strengthen them during this epidemic?

RE:Charge Leader's Oasis is just one way the BMA tries to serve and help our pastors. A 3-day conference designed to do just that, **Inspire, Encourage and Recharge pastors** for the hard work of ministry.

Shawn Hammontree from Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, AR, will be speaking Session 1, and if you have heard Shawn speak before, you know you'll be in for a treat.

Yalanda Merrell from Lifeword will interview Larry Barker from **Healthy Church Solutions** during session 2. As a fairly new ministry of the BMA, Larry will share what Healthy Church Solutions does and how it can assist and help you in ministry.

Ronnie Mills from Kingdom Chapel in Saginaw, TX. Ronnie will share his experience having Covid and how he managed to recover from it. Dr. Steve Crawley and Katy McCown will both lead a breakout session you won't want to miss.

To top it all off, Award-winning Contemporary Christian artist Ginny Owens will be performing during a catered dinner.

Would you consider coming to re:Charge Leader's Oasis this year? The cost is \$119 per person or \$190 per couple. Getaway and recharge with other pastors and church leaders, be inspired by great teaching, laugh together with friends, and leave with a bag full of resources and connections. Church Leaders, we love you.

FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER GO TO WWW.BMAAMERICA.ORG/RECHARGE

Pray for Your Leaders and Encourage them to Attend!!

Healthy Churches Solutions

by Larry Barker,

Director of Operations North America • BMA of America Missions Department

When does discipleship begin? Does it begin after a person steps over the line of faith and receives Christ as their Lord and Savior or long before that?

Is evangelism restricted to an event where you invite someone to attend, praying that they will respond positively to the message of the gospel? Is that not just a little too nebulous, sporadic, and maybe even could be called haphazard? Could we not be more intentional in cultivating relationships that facilitate spiritual conversations? Barna research has reported that, "The United States is an ever-increasingly secularized nation made up of increasingly secularized cities."

What was Jesus' primary mission when He came to do the will of the Father? In Luke 19:10 Jesus said, "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost." Then right before He ascended back to heaven He told His followers, "Go and make disciples." Maybe the making of disciples begins when a person who is not a converted disciple of Jesus makes contact with someone who is already following Jesus. That could be you! When were you first aware of the gospel and its implications in your life? Did you immediately respond, or did it take years until you eventually placed your trust in Christ?

When did the disciples actually place their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior? Was it when they dropped their nets, when they fed the five thousand, or when Peter declared, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God?" Some would suggest that maybe it was in John 20 when Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

You could argue over the exact time and date, but that is not the point. The more important truth here is that it is a process from the time you first meet a follower of Christ, begin to hear the gospel, and feel the Holy Spirit drawing you to Him.

Resist the temptation to get hung up on a strict definition of discipleship and miss the point that discipleship can begin at the first point of contact with someone not following Jesus and a follower of Christ. Evangelism precedes conversion and is tightly intertwined with the process of discipleship. Maybe a dichotomy has been built between the two that does not exist? That requires you becoming just as intentional on the pre-conversion "seeking" as you are focused on the "post-conversion" saved side of spiritual formation.

So are you actively engaging in the mission of Jesus daily? Are you intentionally "seeking" people far from God?

One of the hardest things for a church to do is keeping the 99 found sheep focused on finding the one lost sheep. Jesus deliberately connected with people who were lost such as Zacchaeus and the woman at the well. The mission is seeking and saving the lost, while making disciples is how we carry out His mission.

Are you making disciples? This is the question that must be asked of every individual follower of Christ, every church, every church planter, and every mission organization. The individual believer must be asked, "How am I making disciples?" Every local church needs to ask, "How are we making disciples?"

Then the next logical question must be, "How are we equipping disciples, leaders, and churches to make disciples in their context and in their neighborhood?" Not only must these questions be asked, but there must also be an obedience mechanism implemented with accountability being non-negotiable. Develop metrics for discipleship in the "seeking," pre-conversion contact that tracks weekly, monthly, quarterly, and yearly progress. Many churches have metrics for post-conversion discipleship through discipleship courses that have been designated by many different titles such as 101, 201, 301,

and 401 spiritual formation.

But the tougher question is, "How will you track progress in the "seeking," pre-conversion discipleship where you are deliberately and intentionally connecting with lost people?"

Here are four stages shared by Steve Pike in his book *New Wave Discovering the 21st Century Church* that give us a track to run on:

#1 Awareness

Over the last week how many people have been made aware of you in a positive way? The key is that you broaden your influence by loving others the same way Jesus loves you. How can you demonstrate the love of Christ in a practical way? You represent Christ and the key here is touching others in a positive way.

#2 Connection

Pre-conversion discipleship should focus on intentionally meeting lost people, remembering their name, and praying for their salvation by name. Prayer is not an optional element of disciple making, because discipleship is a spiritual endeavor and will require spiritual warfare.

#3 Relationship

Begin building relationships with those who are far from God by learning their story and continuing to stay connected with them. Jesus did not walk away from the woman at the well but continued to talk with her and challenge her. You know their story and they know you know their story.

#4 Conversation

When done well, this can lead to authentic and genuine spiritual conversations about Jesus and how to have a relationship with Him.

Hold yourself and others accountable in weekly discipleship to utilize these metrics, by asking these questions: Who are you making

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

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

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) 315-0931 or dbrandministries@gmail.com.

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.

God's Children Called Home

The following information has been sent to your editor and is printed here for your information and to remind you to pray for the families during the time of their loss.

Bro. Vernon Lee, 69. of Ruston, Louisiana passed away August 26, 2021. Bro. Lee pastored several churches in Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Texas. He also served as President of the BMA of America.

Bro. Don Newsom, BMAA Missionary who served for 43 years in the Philippines passed away the later part of August. He also served as pastor of First Baptist Church in Potosi, Missouri for a few years before going to the Philippines.

++ a charter member of Friendship Baptist Church in Caseyville, Illinois passed away August 8, 2021. She was a dedicated and faithful worker, mother, wife, and church member all her life.

Special Thoughts from God's Word

"Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned everyone to his own way, and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." • Isaiah 53:4-6

aware of your presence in their life in a positive way? Who are you connecting with by meeting them by name and praying for them by name? Who are you intentionally building relationships with to know their story and to love them even when their story does not change? Who are you having spiritual conversations with that are far From God?