Merry Christmas

Our Christmas Prayer

For You

God grant you peace at Christmas
And fill your heart with cheer

God grant you health and happiness
Throughout the coming year.

God guide you with his wisdom
And keep you in His care;

This is our special wish for you --
This is our Christmas prayer!

-- Author unknown

God love
a star,
a wreath,
a shopping
list, a crowd,
a gift, a time
of worship, a toy,
a child, a colored
ball, a party, a kiss,
a family together, the
sound of laughter, turkey
‘n mince pie, joy and peace,
a tree of lights, the glow of
candles, the faith of a child,
the sound of bells, an angel’s song
a world of peace
full of
love and
goodwill
for all
mankind.

The Christmas Heart

The Christmas heart is a gentle heart;
Malice and envy have no part.

Coldness and bitterness cannot stay
Where the spirit of Christmas
holds full sway.

Joy will enter and grief depart
When a person has the Light of Christmas
in their heart.

-- Author Unknown

Happy New Year!

The fruit of having a Merry Christmas

We hear a lot about having a “Merry Christmas” as we enter this time of celebrating the birth of Jesus as He came to fulfill the plan of God for the redemption of mankind.

As we refresh our minds concerning God’s plan, love, wisdom, power, and glory we can’t miss having a “Merry” Christmas.

Being blessed by God as we are reminded of His wonderful characteristics of love, peace, joy, strength we are laying the foundation that permits us to have a Happy New Year!

A Happy New Year is the result of having a Merry Christmas. When we focus on the Word of God which enlightens us about the joy of The eternal One during Christmas we can look forward to a Happy New Year because whatever we experience in the year ahead will be faced with stronger faith and exciting confidence instead of dread and fear! God knows what we will face before we face it and prepares our hearts and minds to rely on His promises no matter what we face.

Luke reminds us of the attitude we should have as a result of the Good News the angel spoke about the birth of Jesus in Luke 2:10-11, “And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

The results of what the shepherds heard and saw are recorded in verse 20: “And the shepherds returned glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. Look forward to a Happy New Year as a result of the blessings of Christmas!
Greetings from Mt. Z. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Poplar Bluff. It is wonderful to announce that the church has a new Pastor, Bro. Michael Kelley. He and his family are from Berryville, Arkansas and he has spent the last 6 years pastoring a church in Tacoma, Washington. He started the first Sunday in October. Bro. Mickeal Quillman will be with the church for our evening services December 5th. He is a new missionary elect to Zambia, Africa. Also Bro. and Sis. Emily and Tyler Brantley will be with the church December 19th in our morning service. They are missionaries to Argentina.

Michael Kelley, Pastor • Janice Winters, Church Clerk

Greetings once again from Lindsay Lane Baptist Church, Florissant! We missed the deadline for the last issue but we are back! October was a busy month full of God’s blessings! Bro. Brian started off carefully, not over doing it. We are so thankful God brought him thru the covid! Our Awana program is in full swing. We thank God for each child that is coming as well as our faithful workers. Our chili cook off was a lot of fun. We have some serious cooks here! There were several entries and prizes were given to Ms Amy Parrish for 1st place, Ms Dawn Olson, 2nd, and Teri Kreig 3rd. We had folks on the parking lot handing out candy, as well as information about our church (why we are here) and inviting folks to come worship with us. The seed was down and we will leave the increasing to God. Nov. 14th. Bro. Harold and Sis. Debbie Tucker came forward and joined our church. We have loved them before and will love them more abundantly. Our praise team continues to bless us with their talent. We learn some new songs and still sing some of the hymns we are familiar with. Our Saints Alive met the 9th. With fellowship, good food and a funny story from pastor along with a good devotional. We Love and appreciate him. We lift the Maxwell and Curtman families up in prayer as they have recently said goodbye to loved ones. We have the blessed hope of those souls being safe in the arms of Jesus! As we enter into the holiday season let’s reflect on the reason why we celebrate. God sent His Son as a tiny baby, born in a barn to become the Savior of the world! God bless till next time.

Brian Meade, Pastor • Kathy Chapman, Reporter

Merry Christmas from Bethel, Sikeston! Sis. Linda Robertson came forward to rededicate her life to the Lord, praise God! We hope you all had a blessed Thanksgiving with your families all around. We prepared a few thanksgiving boxes to deliver to and bless those in need. Bro. Les Cantrell suggested we start a food pantry for our members, we voted to go ahead with the pantry with Bro. Les and Sis. Jennifer overseeing it. The 7th Bro. Mike Quillman Jr. and his wife came to give us news about their mission work in Africa. He also preached a wonderful message for us. We voted to support them in their work in Africa. Sis. Donna and Bro. Joe Mcelroy are working together with our youth for a Christmas program on the 19th, “A Christmas to believe in.” Plans are underway to go Christmas caroling on the 20th, as we are looking forward to a great time of outreach to our community. Bro. Billy announced that he was feeling led by the Lord to adopt Miner Nursing Home. We voted on it and agreed that it would be a wonderful ministry for us to support. Wishing you all a very Blessed and Merry Christmas and Happy & Prosperous New Year! May we never forget to give God all honor and praise because Jesus is the Reason for the Season! Looking forward to what God has in store for us in 2022!

Billy Davis, Pastor • Joan Wood, Reporter

Merry Christmas from your brothers and sisters at Stony Point at M ineral Point! November 7th we held a carnival day with food and games in support of Walk of Faith Ministries. November 12th Stony Point hosted the WMA, Brotherhood and auxiliaries. November 16th was a very special day for our church family. Sis. Rose Jarvis was turning 100 years old and the church delivered birthday cards and notes followed by a parade of church members, family and well wishers past her house led by a fire truck. Sis. Rose was able to sit in front of her home and was overjoyed! November 27th, missionary elect Bro. Mickeal Quillman Jr. and his wife, Sis. Sharon, visited Stony Point to give us information about their upcoming move to Zambia, Africa. The heart of a missionary is always impactful and Bro. Quillman is no exception. Please keep them in your prayers as well as all the people they will come in contact with as they work to spread the gospel in that foreign land.

Claude Evans, Pastor • David Hughes, Reporter

Greetings from Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church. Winter activities are in full swing! The youth chili lunch fundraiser with silent auction was a hit! We had several attend and enjoyed a fun afternoon of fellowship and supporting our youth. The little kids performed their Christmas program on the evening of December 5th. December 11th, some will participate in the New Madrid Christmas parade. We will decorate a trailer and some will get to ride on the trailer and some will walk in the parade. The evening of December 11th will consist of a “live” nativity at 1st Missionary Baptist Church in Matthews, MO. Several members will help and participate in the Bethel Village. Come and experience a little Bethlehem starting at 6:30 p.m. We have a few youth and sponsors registered for the Alive Student Conference in St. Louis at the end of December. They are excited to be going back to the conference after it was canceled in 2020. We are getting together another Faith Bible Institute class that will begin in January on Monday nights. If you are interested in taking that class, please let Sis. Pam know. The Semo District WMA will meet January 11th at 6:30 p.m. at Kewane Missionary Baptist Church. Revival will be held January 17-21 with Bro. Webb Manley. Please join us if you can. We hope you all have a very Merry CHRISTmas and a Happy New Year! Please “like” our Facebook page, Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church, to keep up with future events.

Dan Wisely, Pastor • Lisa Cox, Reporter

Hello from Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Salem Missouri. It is such a Blessing to have a Pastor to honor during Pastor Appreciation Month! Sunday, October 17, 2021, we gathered around our Pastor, Bro. Larry Nash and his wife Rhonda, to show them how much we love and appreciate them and how thankful we are that God brought them to us!! Everyone took a turn to express to them how we feel about them and the love we have for them. We dedicated the song “Thank You for Giving to the Lord” to Bro. Larry and Sis. Rhonda. Before Bro. Larry got up to bring the Morning Message we had a circle Prayer around them. October 27, we had an Outreach and Activity planning Meeting. We are excited to meet together as a Church for Special planned events as we reach out to those around us in our community! Our WMA is excited about starting our Monthly meeting Bible Study Wednesday November 10. Thank you for your continued Prayers for us! God is working and we are excited to be a part of His Work!!

Larry Nash, Pastor • Deidre Gilliam Reporter

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From Our Director...

Dear Churches of the BMAMO:

Merry Christmas, everybody! It has been a full year plus 2 months since I became your Missions Director and that time has been fruitful and positive in many ways. I could not be more excited about the ministry that Bro. Juan Fernandez and his family are carrying out and the fruit that they are seeing. I beg you to continue to pray and support Bro. Juan in any and every way the Lord leads.

On a State level, I am striving to encourage each church to do the BMAMO assessment and utilize the accompanying pamphlet so that the next time you perform the assessment, the church as a whole will score better and thereby increase their Missions knowledge. These articles over the next few months will lay out specifically the impetus behind the assessment questions and how to use the pamphlet to better prepare yourself for your next assessment. I am hearing positive things from the churches that have made use of the assessment and will be sharing that soon.

Most of us have heard the question, “What do you give someone that has everything?” As Americans, we don’t think of ourselves in that light, yet compared to 2/3 of the world we do have everything. We have comfortable homes, wardrobes to clothe ourselves, refrigerators and freezers full of food, cars, trucks, houses, and lands. You and I know there are lots of people that have more “stuff” than we do. But to get back to the question - what do you give someone that has everything? The answer is to give them something that they cannot provide for themselves. For every man, woman, boy, and girl, that is what Jesus did for us. He gave us the one thing we could never provide for ourselves - His precious salvation. This is why we call ourselves “Missionaries.”

It is our mission to take this most wonderful gospel to the world, specifically to the people within your and my sphere of influence.

On a very practical level, I believe we can take the same ideology and ask, “What can I do for the people within my sphere of influence that they cannot do for themselves?”

That’s the way you make your Christmas list and shed the light of the gospel in their lives. Some of those on your list will have physical needs, some will be spiritual, some will be time that you spend with them, and some will be financial gifts. I encourage you to ask yourself the question as you go about preparing to bless others with a gift.

Lastly, on a negative note, but also positive from the standpoint of potential healing and restoration, our Baptist Missionary Association President Justin Rhodes was relieved of his duties as Pastor of his church because of an unstated moral failure. This is public knowledge. I am told, and I got permission to share this before I included it in this article. You may not know Justin, but I do. This was a shock and a great disappointment. I have nothing but empathy, forgiveness, and love for Justin, and I’m asking you to pray for him, the church that he pastored, and the association, that God will bring healing, restoration, and forgiveness.

I love the verse that says God will restore the years the locust have eaten. What Satan means for evil, God will use for good and for a lesson to all of us.

Let’s remember 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

May the Lord richly bless you this Christmas season.

Bro. Ben Kingston

A Broken World

World Missions Day 2022

February 27

We live in a broken world full of broken people.

We know that.

We see that.

We say that.

Jesus did, too.

Matthew 9:36-38 says, “But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, the harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

Jesus was moved with compassion for the broken. Missions happens when we are burdened for broken people. It was in our brokenness that Jesus found us, loved us, and saved us.

The story of missions is the story of people – missionaries who are burdened for people, burdened enough to go. Burdened enough to sacrifice their lives for the lives of others. The harvest is plentiful, and we need laborers. But laborers are birthout of a burdened and broken heart for the lost and weary and scattered.

Our vision and impact in reaching the world will never be bigger than our burden for broken people.

That’s the catalyst to missions.

That’s the heart of missionaries.

We indeed live in a broken world full of broken people, but does that “move us with compassion”?

May we be burdened for broken people during this World Missions Day season and every day.

A BROKEN HEART FOR A BROKEN WORLD

Pandemics • lock downs • Political divide
Poverty • Religious oppression • Persecution
We live in a BROKEN world • In a broken world, Jesus was burdened for broken people:
• The impoverished and oppressed.
• The helpless and hopeless.
• The lost and weary and scattered.

Jesus gave his life for broken people. And He gave the same mission to the Church. Take the healing message of Jesus Christ to the nations. We too must be burdened for people.

Each day, 175,000 people die. Each year 60 Million broken and lost people die.

For more information go to www.bmamissions.org

Page 3  • Missouri Missionary Baptist  • December 7, 2021
**NEWs From Page 2**

Hello, from Bates Creek Baptist Church in Potosi. We are rapidly approaching winter and ready to close out the year 2021. It seems like we just started 2021. In God’s word, James 4:14 states, “Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.” We all know that our lives are just a vapor. Have you ever asked, “What is my purpose in life?” I can tell you from experience, you won’t find the true purpose in life until you accept Jesus into your heart, get baptized, and start serving the Lord. Serving the Lord at Bates Creek is a beautiful experience for such a small church. For example, we had a Trunk or Treat for the community. The event was well attended and we loved visiting with our neighbors. Bro. Blake has blessed us with two messages. I didn’t get to hear the last message but I was told he did a good job. Keep him in your prayers as he is trying to serve the Lord. We all know from experience the devil doesn’t like it. Lift others up who are serving the Lord because the world is not nice to us Christians. Our pastor has been feeding his flock and blessing us with messages. Bro. Bryan and sis. Sara both have full time careers and yet you can see them faithfully serving the Lord. What a blessing! Sis. Fay Simpson has been running back and forth with her brother, John, to the hospital. He finally got his surgery after a year. They need your prayers. We are headed into the Christmas season ending with our teens’ blowout for the year at the Youth Alive Conference in Chesterfield. Pray for those teens. They face a lot more challenges than most of us did growing up. Meanwhile, let us lift up in prayer our churches, our country, and more importantly the lost. Also, remember those who have lost loved ones this Christmas. Until next year, serve others with a grateful heart and you will find your purpose in life.

Bryan Buckley, Pastor • Connie Evans, Reporter

**Hello to all from Oak Hill, Alton!** We hope and pray that everyone had a blessed, wonderful, and amazing Thanksgiving. We tried something new for us at Oak Hill. We started having a Women’s Bible Study. This is a seven-week program and the first Bible Study was Tuesday, November 9th at 6:00 p.m. We studied in Psalms and will continue through the month of December. Praise the Lord! December 5th Oak Hill gained a new member, Kaylee Kemper. Bro. Ed baptized Kaylee after our morning services at our baptism in our Church. Bro. Ed didn’t feel well and only came in to Preach and baptize Kaylee. Every Sunday at Church there is at least one of our members out sick! Please help us in praying that this sickness dies before it infects another person. If we decide to do anything around Christmas, we will decide at our Business Meeting December 8th. We hope and pray that everyone will have an amazing, awesome, and blessed Christmas! Until next month I hope I will have some more good news to tell you but until then we will be praising and honoring our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! God Bless!!

Edward Casey, Pastor • Jennifer Williams, Reporter

**Ohlman Baptist Church, Bunker** continues to have great services on Sunday mornings. We appreciate our music worship team more than they realize. Dalton Harper, Alli Harper, Jaelyn Camden, Cari May and Holden May use their talents to lead us to worship each week. Our Wednesday night kids program is still averaging 25 to 30 in attendance. We are currently working on a Christmas program which will be December 15th. Our WMA hosted a bake sale table at the Reynolds County Sheltered Workshop November 13th. We appreciate the many baked items donated by friends of Ohlman as well as our ladies. The funds raised took us over the $1,000.00 goal that we had set for the National WMA project (Darlene Carey Academy). We have plans for another fundraiser for this project in early February. Bro. Terry Sharpe took his “Sunday off” November 14th and we had Brendan Sanders from Friendship, St. Clair to fill in. Brendan is improving each time we have him and it’s always a pleasure to fellowship with him and his wife. We congratulate Jaelyn May and Jacob Camden on their marriage November 27th and wish them God’s blessings. It was a beautiful wedding on a beautiful day. We had plans to have Bro. and Sis. Mickeal Quillman, Jr. with us December 5th but due to illness they regretfully had to cancel. We have rescheduled them for January 16th (weather permitting) with a back-up date of March 6th.

We are looking forward to hearing how God is leading them to serve in Zambia. We were disappointed that the Quillmans had to cancel, however the disappointment quickly faded when one of our teens, Payden Lanham, went forward and accepted Christ. He also presented himself for baptism. An item donated to our fellowship hall has become a welcome source of entertainment for the kids, young and old. The beautiful checker table and stools were made out of cedar by a local craftsman and donated to the church by Doris Skaggs. We have many on our prayer list. First, continue to pray for Holden May as he still has a lot of recovery to do. Second, pray for a local family whose husband/father passed away December 3rd after suffering severe burns over a large portion of his body a few weeks ago. The man was a friend to many in the area as shown by the large attendance at the memorial service officiated by Bro. Sharpe. His two youngest boys had been coming to our Wednesday night program and we hope that they start coming back not only on Wednesday nights but that their mother will take them to church on Sundays.

Terry Sharpe, Pastor • Janet Widger, Reporter

**Landmark, DeSoto.** I have missed the last two business meetings and have not looked at the reports, so I sure I will miss something that I should be sharing. We did have our Thanksgiving dinner at church on the 21st, and of course everything was delicious. Mikeal Quillman and his wife, Sharon, were a great blessing to everyone that attended service on the 28th. Seems that everyone was very interested in what their life will be like in Zambia. He also brought a good, short message. The Q and A period was too long. Bro. Benjamin has started something on the first Sunday evening of the month that we all enjoy so much. He’s bringing before us different missionaries with different ministries, then we pray for those. It is enjoying, enlightening and helps us to remember to pray for those on different fields. We’ve had different ones with ailments that need prayer. Those of us that knew Bro. Daniel Schmitt from Union have heavy hearts. Our sympathy goes out to his wife, children and the rest of the family. It also goes out to Central Baptist Church at Union where he had just been ordained as a deacon a few short months ago. Please pray for Landmark as we try to minister in DeSoto and surrounding areas. If you drive by our church you will notice that we finally got up our Christian flag and the US flag out front. That had been in the works for awhile. Until next month or the Lord’s Return:

Benjamin Kingston, Pastor • Sharon Page, Reporter

Greetings, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! God is so good. He continues to bless Lower Doe Run Baptist Church, Ellington, with powerful messages and wonderful Bible Stories both on Sunday and Wednesday. Visitors continue to bless our hearts; some of them stay after the morning worship and enjoy the fellowship church and afternoon Bible Study. We have been studying in the Book of Daniel. One such visitor, Dave, brought fried chicken with him and stayed for Bible Study and vowed to return the next week. We never know what the next day will bring though and before he could return he was already enjoying eternal fellowship with the Father in heaven. Another visitor, Fred, stayed for lunch and Bible Study also. However he is a faithful member in another local church, just visiting around. We also miss our shut-ins: Don and Thelma, Betty, and Ethel. We ask for earnest prayer for Bro. Nick and Sis. Alice as they continue to fight complications with dialysis and diabetes. Pray for Sis. Dianna, our songbird, as she has complications with pneumonia and bronchitis. We sure miss her beautiful specials. Until we meet.

Melvin Meade, Pastor • Carolyn Meade, Reporter

Christmas Greetings to all our brothers and sisters in Christ from Ozark Heights Missionary Baptist Church, Potosi! We are excited as we begin the month in which we celebrate our Saviour’s birth.

See **NEWS PAGE 8**
Prayer Network | Red de Oración.
Fast day update, the Lord blessed us with new contacts in that day of fasting and praying. We continue adding this special event in our activities in our discipleship process. Join us next 1/6/2022 Praying for Salvation for each one of our contacts.

Bibles/Biblias
Best Christmas present ever: A Bible. I have been contacting local business where a huge presence of Hispanic families visit. Some business owners will let me hand Bibles out on the sidewalk, this outreach has sparked lots of interesting conversations for planting the seed of the gospel.

Discipleship/Discipulado.
Every Saturday at 4:00 we gather in Chesterfield for Bible study with the Geronimo’s. This past Sunday they requested to increase the amount of time and frequency to gather to go deeper in the Bible, to learn how to use it.

Upcoming Events:
Send a text to 618-581-8056 to receive prayer request. Or follow us on Facebooks page: Misión Bautista Hispana de San Luis, Missouri. We are reaching out every day!
• Monday-Friday 12:00 pm Prayer FB live
• Wednesday 7:00 pm Prayer FB live.
• 1/6/2022 24 hrs of fast and prayer for Salvation.
• Volunteers Needed:
1 teacher for 3-6 years old,
1 teacher for 9-12 years old.
1 keyboard/piano player (no need to speak Spanish)
• 2 Tutors for ESL in St. Charles
• 1 Tutor for ESL in Overland.
Thank you for praying for our ministry in St. Louis Area. We joined BMAA on 12/21/2020. We have the privilege in meeting you, praying with you or visiting whatever the case we are blessed to be partnering with you and your church family in the GREAT Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ! Come soon Jesus!

GRACIAS! We are blessed!
During these past days we have had so many conversations with our contacts about the importance of becoming members of our Mision Bautista Hispana. Most conversations have led to increase the interest in starting the discipleship. These opportunities have resulted after these contacts facing health difficulties and choices in life in a foreign country, may each one added by God for multiplication and his Glory to be revealed among our hispanic families in this city of ST. Louis MO.

We celebrated our 5th Service this past Sunday. We have ministered two families and also my family visited from Houston to show support in prayer and fellowship with our contacts in the Overland area during a Thanksgiving meal after a devotional in the church building in Overland also meet baby Juanito.

Discipleship process
This is what we are doing:

Evangelism:
I am visiting our neighborhood searching for men of peace who would let us know where is the houses for hispanic. I go to the address, introduce my self to the man of the house and present the gospel in few words. I offer to hand out a Bible, from there we determine how often should I come and visit to follow up or not at all. The goal is to connect and build a relationship with each one we knock on the door. With cold weather it is going to be more challenging but we trust the Lord will lead us to connect with our community in a daily basis.

Discipleship
I offer a Bible discovery time for each person that shows interest in learning more about God and the plan for Salvation for him and his family. We gather once a week for 10 weeks to learn more about where this person is in his spiritual journey. We encourage each one to join us for worship on Sunday and to start a 6 book discipleship class. We pray daily for this person to be born again.

Membership: To be continued…
National WMA Information

There are plans to have a catered lunch for ladies attending the 2022 WMA of BMAA on Tuesday, April 19th.

The location will be Grandview Missionary Baptist Church multipurpose building.

Important note: All minister’s wives/widows will be guests of the WMA. We will pay for your lunch as a gift and token of our appreciation. However, we need to know if you plan to attend.

Please RSVP to President Charlotte Harrell Johnson by March 15, 2022. (Address below).

All others wishing to participate in the lunch: Cost is $15 per person. Make check payable to National WMA and mail along with list of attendees to:
Charlotte Johnson
1044 S Mimosa Rd.
Gilmer, TX 75664

The theme for 2021-2022 National WMA is:

Being Intentional

Below are comments from National WMA 2nd Vice President Cindy Allen. You can find this on the website if you want to print copies.

Being Intentional!

I want you to take a moment and think about how many things you plan for in your life. There are big things, small things, and in between things. Here is a very short list I came up with very quickly.

Big - what to do after graduation, marriage, having children, finances, retirement

Small - lunch, what to wear, which seats to choose when you are purchasing online tickets

In Between - what car to purchase, do we need a pet

Now think, are you intentional in your walk with God or do you just “let the chips fall where they may”? We cannot be successful with what God expects us to do with a laissez faire attitude. We have to be deliberate.

• Have a set time to read the Bible EVERYDAY.
• Have a designated prayer time. Sure we can pray anywhere, anytime, but if you are like me, without a set aside time to spend in prayer, in a few days I realize my prayer time has become hit and miss.
• Pray about and seek out people God wants us to pour into. Yes, we need to positively impact everyone but there may be (probably are) a few people we need to really draw close to and live life with as we witness and

Pastor’s Wife Called Home

Alberta “Bert” Louise Maxwell, 68, of Warren, AR, passed away November 3. She was the wife of BMA Pastor Aaron Maxwel, who pastored churches in Missouri, Mississippi, Wyoming, and Arkansas.

Survivors include her husband of 49 years, T. Aaron Maxwell; two sons, Jentry (Jessie) Maxwell of St. Clair, MO; and Micah (DeAnna) Maxwell of Casper, Wyoming; a daughter, Sarah (Sidney) McGraw, of Warren; AR; a daughter-in-law, Ragan Maxwell of St. Clair, MO; a brother, David (Linda) Burch of DeSoto, MO; one sister, Frances (Jerry) Houston of Merritt Island, Fla; 24 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren and one on the way.

A memorial service was held November 8 at Cross Roads Baptist Church in Warren, AR.

Faithful Servant Called Home

Brenda M. Schwaderer, a faithful servant of the Lord and member of Bethany Baptist Church was called Home November 28, 2021. Brenda was the beloved wife of the late Dale L. Schwaderer; dearest mother of Dale (Butch) Schwaderer and Darlene (John) Kennedy; dear grandmother of Maggie and Emma Schwaderer and Michael (Kyle) Baty, Sean, Erin, and Devin Kennedy; great-grandmother of Macy, Karter and Maximus; dear sister of Wilbur Sullivan and Darlene Higgins. Brenda’s presence will be missed by her family at home and her church family.

Christian Founders of America

Proverbs 1:7 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

by Dr. John Adams, Executive Dir. Moral Action

The blessing of wisdom is the blessing of God. The invitation of wisdom is the invitation of God. Many believe that God invited the early American founders overwhelmingly to raise Christ as the Leader of America. That mindset was held by George Washington, John Adams, Daniel Webster, Benjamin Rush, Samuel and on and on.

The Bible

The American Frontier opened up between 1776 and 1850, American colonists first expanded out as far west

• See FOUNDERS on Page 7
**Christ’s Prayer For His Followers**

*John 17*

by Dennis Baker, BMAMO Brotherhood President

This prayer of Jesus contains three wonderful petitions on behalf of past, present, and future followers of Christ. It shows the heart of our Lord as He prays for His follower’s sanctification, unity, and glorification.

**First,** Christ prayed that the Father would sanctify His followers. The word sanctify means to set apart or to make holy. The disciples of Jesus had already been called, converted, renewed, and changed by Grace but now Jesus was praying that the Father would make them more holy, more spiritual, more pure, and more saintly in their thoughts, words, and deeds. Jesus was concerned about the character of His followers. He was praying that since Grace had saved His followers, that the character of their life would be sanctified and made holy in body, soul, and spirit, in fact be more like Himself. Christ’s blood alone gives us the capacity to be saved but sanctification gives us the capacity to enjoy our salvation.

**Second,** Christ prayed for the unity of His followers. He stressed the importance of unity so that the unbelieving world would know that we are followers of Christ. History verifies that followers of Christ have wasted their strength contending with the brethren instead of contending against sin and the devil. The unity that Christ prayed for was not based on compromise but on truth found in His Word. The unbelieving world may see disunity because all they see are denominations and do not seek the truth. There will never be unity of denominations but the unity that Jesus was praying for was based on the blood of Jesus Christ that changes the sinful nature of fallen mankind.

**Third,** Jesus prayed for the glorification of His followers. Today Christ’s followers live by faith. We do not see Christ now. We read of Him, hear of Him, believe in Him, and rest our souls in His finished work. But even at our best we walk by faith and not by sight. Sometimes our faith is weak but one day there will be an end of our struggles in this life. We will see Christ as He is, and we will see Him face to face; we shall actually be in His presence. No wonder Paul could write in 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18 “and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”

As we reflect on these three petitions of Christ for sanctification, unity, and glorification, unity of His followers let us make holiness, unity, and glorification be distant in the thoughts of our mind. Happy is thefollower of Christ who cares for nothing so much as to be holy and loving like His Master while he lives and a companion of His Master when he dies.

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**Thank God for His Perfect Gift, Christ Jesus!**

Editor’s Note - The story is from an anonymous source on Facebook. In this Christmas Season I thought the ideals and lessons found here would encourage each of us to be kind, be compassionate, and look at every opportunity that is given us by God. There are people who need encouragement and there are folks that will bless us beyond measure if we allow them into our lives, via MS Baptist.

May God bless you all and may you all enjoy a blessed Christmas Season.

I have no idea who wrote this but it is powerful!

“In 1979, I was managing a Wendy’s in Port Richey, Florida. Unlike today, staffing was never a real problem, but I was searching for someone to work three hours a day only at lunch. I went through all my applications and most were all looking for full-time or at least 20 hours per week. I found one however, buried at the bottom of a four-inch stack that was only looking for lunch part-time. His name was Nicky. Hadn’t met him, but thought I would give him a call and see if he could stop by for an interview. When I called he wasn’t in, but his mom said she would make sure he would be there.

At the accorded time, Nicky walked in. One of those moments when my heart went in my throat. Nicky had Downs Syndrome. His physical appearance was a giveaway and his speech only reinforced the obvious. I was young and sheltered. Had never interacted on a professional level with a developmentally disabled person. I had no clue what to do, so I went ahead and interviewed him.

He was a wonderful young man. Great outlook. Task focused. Excited to be alive. For only reasons God knew at that time, I hired him. 3 hours a day, 3 days a week to run a grill. I let the staff know what to expect. Predictably, the crew made sure I got the message, “no one wants to work with a retard.” To this day I find that word offensive. We had a crew meeting, cleared the air, and prepared for his arrival. Nicky showed up for work right on time.

He was so excited to be working. He stood at the time clock literally shaking with anticipation. He clocked in and started his training. Couldn’t multi-task, but was a machine on the grill. Now for the fascinating part......

Back in that day, there were no computer screens to work from. Every order was called by the cashier. It required a great deal of concentration on the part of all production staff to get the order right.

While Nicky was training during his first shift, the sandwich maker next to him asked the grillman/trainer what was on the next sandwich. Nicky replied, “single, no pickle no onion.” A few minutes later it happened again. It was then that we discovered Nicky had a hidden and valuable skill.

He memorized everything he heard! Photographic hearing! WHAT A SKILL SET. It took 3 days and every sandwich maker requested to work with Nicky. He immediately was accepted by the entire crew. After his shift he would join the rest of his crew family, drinking Coke like it was water! It was then that they discovered another Rainman-esque trait.

Nicky was a walking/talking perpetual calendar! With a perpetual calendar as a reference, they would sit for hours asking him what day of the week was December 22, 1847. He never missed. This uncanny trait mesmerized the crew. His mom would come in at 2:00 to pick him up. More times than not, the crew would be back there with him hammering it up. As I went to get him from the back, his mom said something I will never forget. “Let him stay there as long as he wants. He has never been accepted anywhere like he has been here.” I excused myself and dried my eyes, humbled and brokenhearted at the lesson I just learned.

Nicky had a profound impact on that store. His presence changed a lot of people. Today I believe with every fiber of my body that Nicky’s hiring was no accident. God’s Timing and Will is Perfect.

This Christmas, I hope we all understand what we are celebrating. Nicky certainly wasn’t a mistake. He was a valuable gift for which I am forever grateful. We are celebrating the birth of the ONE that leveled the playing field for all of us. God doesn’t care if you are rich or poor, republican or democrat or black or white. He doesn’t care if your chromosome structure is perfect. He doesn’t care what level of education you have attained.

He cares about your heart. He wants us to love and appreciate the gift HE gave us on Christmas, His Son, the Savior, our salvation. His Son was born to die for our sins. To pay our debt. To provide us a path for eternity.

This Christmas, let’s check our hearts. There’s a little bit of Nicky in all of us and I there’s a Nicky somewhere in your life that is looking for the chance to be embraced.

**Thank God for that! Thank God for His perfect gift, Christ Jesus!”**
Merry Christmas from Camp Garwood

We hope you guys had a wonderful holiday season. Before we knew it the New Year will be here with the New Year comes new retreats! Mark your calendars and plan to join us!

**FIRST UP January 7-8 • Jeep Retreat!** We plan to leave Camp at 8:00 a.m. going sight-seeing. Some of us will be in jeeps. But really, we will only be travelling to public locations on gravel roads. If you plan to stay at Camp Friday night, Please let me know in advance. Also, please come prepared with your own food. We have limited heat and the water is off in most buildings. So, come prepared to “rough it!”

**NEXT •** We’ve posted these before, but here are some other dates for 2022.

- **March 25-26 •** Renewal Retreat.
- **April 8-9 • Spring Retreat April 18-20 • National Meeting in Springfield.**
- **May 6-7 • Men’s Retreat May 13-14 • Semi-annual meeting at Bethel, Lonedell.**
- **June 14-17 • National GMA Camp at Daniel Springs Camp, Texas June 29-July 1 • SOAR**
- **July 8-9 • State GMA Retreat at Camp Garwood July 25-29 • State Camp**

**Our Goal for the New Year is to get caught up financially.**

We currently owe $10,000 on the tractor, and we haven’t made a payment to reimburse the missions fund for insurance as of this writing. That being said, if you can help us financially through the winter months it would be greatly appreciated.

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So, we have roughly 5K on hand and plan to pay 2K on our insurance this month. Our monthly deposits are around $1,500. with the smallest electric bill for the year being around $400.

I realize bringing up funding during Christmas is tantamount to rubbing salt in a fresh wound. We just ask, will you keep us in mind over the coming months. Camp may be dormant but our responsibilities are not!

As Christmas Day draws near, Lord grant us the ability to slow down and enjoy time with family both physically and Spiritually. Guide us as we plan our days that our plan would match yours. Thank You Father for your blessings in this life.

**Isaiah 9:6** “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

Merry Christmas!

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**FOUNDEEs From Page 8 •**

**sity, founded in 1636 by the Puritans adopted the “Rules and Precepts” of the university that stated: “Let every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider well, the main end of his study to wit to know God in Jesus Christ which is eternal life. John 17:3. “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.” Most of America’s oldest universities were started by preachers and churches. Harvard, William and Mary, Yale, Princeton, King’s College, Brown, Rutgers, and Dartmouth were founded by Christian preachers and church affiliations. Yale College was established in 1701 with a stated goal that “every student shall consider the main end of his study to wit to know God in Jesus Christ and answerably to lead a godly, sober life.” William and Mary was founded in 1693 to supply the church of Virginia “with a seminary of ministers” that the Christian faith may be propagated.” Princeton had as one of its founding statements: “Cursed is all leaning that is contrary to the Cross of Christ.

To be open and correct, all the Founding Fathers of America were not Christians (true believers in Christ): they were not. But the Christian teachings from the Bible were great influences on the culture. Christ’s words had a profound effect on the homes, families and political leaders of that day.

The Baptists sent out their “farmer-preachers.” As was true of the Mryhodistk the Baptists developed systems that made it easy for committed lay people to enter the ministry and to be deployed quickly where the greatest opportunities were. Most of their preachers had little education and were poorly paid, but they were in touch with the pioneer’s lives. With an emphasis for a personal conversion and salvation from sin through faith in Jesus Christ, these ministers spread the Gospel far and wide.

This conviction today that I attributed to Patrick Henry, Govern of Virginia is so needed today:

> “It cannot be emphasized too clearly and too often that this nation was founded, not by religiousists, but by Christians; not on religion, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”