

# The Missouri Missionary Baptist

“*Holding Forth the Word of Life*” – *Philippians 2:16*

Volume LXXXIV

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Issue No. 12



“Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

When they departed, behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.

It is our prayer that in the midst of your activities and celebrations during this Christmas season, you and your family rejoice “with exceedingly great joy” as you remember the One who was born King of the Jews and lived a life that led to His sacrifice for all mankind.

## Merry Christmas

Don and Pam Burke

### Christmas When I Was Young

Carol (McColloch) Pulliam-Mueller

*(Editor’s Note: I asked Mrs. Carol Pulliam-Mueller – a personal friend who has enjoyed a few more Yuletides than most of us – to share some of her memories about Christmases of old.)*

Every Christmas Daddy took us kids in his pickup to the woods to cut a tree. (Those woods where we cut our trees are now a subdivision full of houses.) I remember one year we chose a pine tree instead of our normal cedar because we especially liked the smell. When we got it home Mom tied some of the branches into place to help cover its bare places.

We did not have lights on our Christmas tree – we did not even have electricity. We made ornaments from Daddy’s shiny paper from his cigarette packages as well as some other homemade decorations. We even had a few bought decorations.

When I was really young (during World War II) the sugar was rationed so we could not make homemade Christmas candy. But my grandmother made some candy using mashed potatoes and peanut butter. It was very good.

We looked at the Sears Christmas catalog over and over every day.

At church we performed a Christmas play showing the birth of Jesus. We had a big decorated Christmas tree. They handed out gifts to all us children. They also gave us a bag of nuts, an apple, an orange and some store-bought hard candy.

Our family was a big family, and we didn’t have much worldly things.

But that didn’t matter so much, for we were loved and felt safe.

I’m so thankful for being raised in a Christian home and having a happy childhood.

*This year may we be mindful that these are “the good ol’ days” we and our children will one day reflect back on fondly. That fondness will not be because of the material things we have, but from time and experiences with family and friends, and from remembering that Jesus is still the reason for the season.*

### Did You Know? The Visit of the Magi

Don Burke

*Wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?”*

Did you know that the Wise Men who came to worship the new King very likely did not see Him in the manger or even visit Him in the stable?

These Wise Men – also called Magi – were from the East. This most likely means they lived in the area around the ancient city of Babylon, where generations earlier Daniel (also a wise man) had lived. It is quite feasible that these men were familiar with Daniel’s prophecies of the anointed prince who was to come, and that is why they connected this new brilliant star with that event.

The star apparently first appeared at the time of Jesus’ birth, because Herod used that appearance to estimate the child’s age (Matthew 2:16). This would mean the shepherds of Bethlehem and the Wise Men in the East were all staring into the night sky at the same time – one being invited by an angel, the other invited by a star.

Both were no doubt eager to see this new king, but unlike the shepherds living in nearby Bethlehem the Wise Men’s journey would take months, not minutes. Probably a couple of months would be required to travel that distance even at the best possible speed along the established trade routes of the day. The travel time would

• See MAGI page 7 •

## State Missions

Dear BMAMO Churches,

I certainly hope this article finds you doing well in the Lord's grace and mercy.

Believe it or not, we are at the end of 2022. If you will remember, I said in my last article that we would get into the weeds of the lessons that I learned from taking the challenge of raising a tomato plant for the specific purpose of harvesting the seed from those tomatoes to raise another tomato plant next year. And all along, asking God to teach us lessons through this experience about discipleship.

Before I get into this month's lesson, I want to share something Bro. Brian Meade shared with me about this practice. A missionary once told him that you can count the seed, and you can count the plants, but you can't count the seeds within the seeds; they are innumerable. This is so true, and has the potential of disciple making.

Let's revisit the last article. These are the lessons I learned and am continuing to learn.

It is hard work; it is impossible without surrender; it is a daily effort; it is rewarding; it is necessary; it is a way of life.

Summarizing statement: Tomatoes make tomatoes that make seeds that will make other tomato plants that will make other tomatoes.

Therefore: Disciples make disciples that plant seeds that will make other disciples that will make other disciples.

Seems simple, and when you look at these lessons it is simple - but simple doesn't mean easy.

Lesson #1 - It is hard work.

It is hard to fight the weeds. It is hard to till the ground or plant in buckets or raised beds. No matter your method it's hard work.

It's hard to start with seed - some come up, many don't! It's hard to get them to the stage where they can be put outside. Have you ever heard of "hardening off" your plants before you

put them in the ground? One year I lost almost half of my transplants because I did this part wrong.

It's hard work once you get them in the ground. Daily weeding, once a week watering, staking, pruning, and the list goes on.

I think you get the picture: growing tomatoes for the express purpose of propagating fruit for next year's plants is hard work.

So, what can we derive from these lessons about discipleship?

Well, it's hard work to plant seeds into the souls of men, women, boys, and girls.

It's hard work to fight the weeds of sin in our own lives, much less the sins in others' lives to keep from choking out the seeds planted.

It's sometimes hard work to get the soul of the church right to receive new plants.

It is hard work to disciple a new believer to the point that they can handle the cruel world as a Christian and take Christian stands in a hateful and hostile world.

And then when they are discipling others, it's hard work to encourage them when their disciples struggle.

Don't lose heart, dear disciples, it is all worth the hard work.

We will look at lesson number two next month.

May the Lord richly bless you,

Ben Kingston

### MISIÓN BELÉN (Bethlehem Mission)

*Pero el ángel les dijo: "No temáis; porque he aquí os doy nuevas de gran gozo, que será para todo el pueblo: que os ha nacido hoy, en la ciudad de David, un Salvador, que es CRISTO el Señor."*

*(And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.")*

Praise the Lord!

We are gathering every Sunday 10:45 a.m. to noon at Bethany for our Discovery Bible Group in Spanish. We worship with our Bethany church families, then we walk down to the basement for God's Word reading and challenging questions.



We continue with our prayer network every day at noon. We have dedicated this phone number for you and your family to text us for prayer requests. It is available 24/7. The number is 314-415-0248. Also feel free to follow us on Facebook in our new page, Misión Belen, where we post reminders to read the Bible and pray on a daily basis. It won't hurt if you hit "like" and share this information with your family and friends. We are seeking where God is at work and following up with visitation and possibly starting a ten-week Discovery Bible Group.

Last Sunday after service we were invited to Lindsay Lane in Florissant with Pastor Brian and church families where we prayed for the Hispanic mission work in the area. We joined in a prayer commitment for 21 days from December 5 to December 25 for salvation in our contacts and new Discovery Bible Groups to be formed in the surrounding areas.

We also celebrate the blessing of Christian contacts in our network. We met Mrs. Eye a couple of weeks ago. This professional accountant helped the family of Vidal and Cristina to get their documents in order. It is such a blessing to know that there are people out there who are also seeking to be a blessing to our Hispanic families to help and not to hurt. Pastor Brian Meade's recommendation is such a blessing. Thank you Brother Brian for your heart to reach out to our Hispanic families. We enjoyed visiting with Pastor Brian most of Wednesday at Lindsay Lane and the neighborhoods around seeking new contacts for our outreach and prayer opportunities.

Be in prayer that each one in our contact list who are results of our daily visitation and door knocking become faithful laborers for the kingdom. We completed another 60 hours of English

• See MISIÓN BELÉN page 3 •

#### FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS October 2022

<u>Checking Account:</u>	
Balance Oct. 31, 2022	\$ 20,436.50
<u>Income:</u>	
Missions	\$ 3,316.79
Landmark, Carthage, IL	109,986.65
Insurance reimb	<u>10,805.60</u>
Total Income	\$ 124,109.04
Total Available	\$ 144,545.54
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Director, Salary	\$ 450.00
Secretary, Salary	200.00
Juan Fernandez, Support	2,333.33
Office/banking expense	4.60
BMAMS RLF inv	109,000.00
Jim Hoffmann, gift	<u>6,600.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$(118,587.93)
Balance Nov. 30, 2022	\$ 25,957.61
<u>BMAMS Revolving Loan Investment:</u>	
Balance Oct. 31, 2022	\$ 111,783.96
Interest	<u>0.00</u>
Balance Nov. 30, 2022	\$ 111,783.96
Total in All Accounts Nov. 30, 2022:	\$ 137,741.57

### The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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# Our Deepest Appreciation to Each of You!

Jim & Mary Hoffmann

I want to express my deepest appreciation to each supporter of this publication over the past 33 years as I served the great churches of the BMA of Missouri as your editor. We will never forget the encouragement that came with each new subscriber or each new contributing church as their church reporter or a department leader kept us posted on what was happening in their various ministries.

We thank you for the encouraging comments about the paper and how receiving it was a blessing to many individuals in various circumstances. Your notes were appreciated and encouraged us to keep on ministering in this capacity.

We greatly appreciate the faithful supporters – individuals and/or churches – who kept sending offerings, even in difficult times. Your faithfulness helped this ministry continue informing and inspiring our readers.

The gigantic card that many of you signed at the annual association meeting in October and the beautiful plaque presented to us are a blessing that thrills our hearts each time we look at them in our office.

We also appreciate more than words can express the generous love offering sent to us in recognition of our serving in this capacity for 33 years.

Your cards and prayers have given us strength as I have experienced some heart problems. Thank you for lifting us with your concern these last few months.

As I resign from this position, I will not lose interest in it. Please join me in praying for the new editor and supporting this ministry. May God continue to bless this publication as it sends out the WORD to a lost and dying world.

Thanking you for your love & support.

## ~ **Alive Student Conference** ~

**December 29-31, 2022**  
**DoubleTree, Chesterfield, MO**

General Session Speaker: Brad Banderman  
Worship Leaders: The Central Collective  
Entertainment: *Surprise!*  
Recreation: SkyZone

*Please pray for Bro. Brad Banderman as he speaks, the Central Collective as they lead in worship, and all the students and leaders who will be involved in the Alive Student Conference just a few days from now.*

### • **MISIÓN BELÉN** from page 2 •

as second language outreach. We had close to 12 this time. We are thankful for Brother Jim Hoffmann and Mary for their unconditional support. While we were teaching the class they were available to watch and teach our children Victoria, Eleanor and Juanito about Jesus and always have some stuff for snacks. Thank you very much!

Pray as we continue planning for this coming 2023 to continue reaching out to our Hispanic friends with the Gospel.

I am nearing the end of the first two subjects I am taking as distance classes from the BMA Theological Seminary. It is challenging to go back to being a student after 20 plus years since I completed my BA at Rio Grande Bible College in Texas. Now to consider the continuation of a new semester for the Spring 2023, the Lord permitting.

Please pray for family time to celebrate this very special Christmas and for the Christmas outreach service. And that we continue being a blessing and bless every time we visit you and your church for fellowship and prayer, ministry update or pulpit cover.

Soon we will post a banner announcing our times for Discovery Bible Groups in the area where God is leading us to serve the community and be a blessing to our Hispanic friends.

We are deeply thankful for your prayer and your financial support as we carry out this mission in the representation of your church and other BMA churches in the state of Missouri. God's blessing on you and your congregation. Soon will hope to be visiting you, looking forward to a time of fellowship, faith and a cup of coffee hopefully.

We wish you a very special Christmas celebration and that God continues blessing you in this new year to come with lots of laughter, health and making of new memories in your labor of faith to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

*Feliz Navidad!*

# Subscriptions and Your *Missouri Missionary Baptist Paper*

Don Burke, Interim Editor

As most of our readers know, the *Missouri Missionary Baptist* paper is a subscription-based monthly newspaper. I recently had a discussion with our previous editor, Bro. James Hoffmann, that helped me better understand our subscription system and how it came to be.

In the past, the State Association annually set the paper's subscription price for the coming year. But that pricing had some flexibility to it. Since many churches were regular supporters of the paper, some pricing allowance was made for subscribers who were members of supporting churches. Over time it evolved to the practice that members of regularly supporting churches could receive the paper without direct cost to them, with the assumption that their church was already covering that expense in their offerings.

But this system is not without some drawbacks. Naturally there is no way that we at the paper can know for sure who is a member of each supporting church. And over time individual church support fluctuates and may even be cancelled. Our current system has no way to track subscription payments, or to know when subscriptions are due so we can send reminders. The honor system it is set up on totally depends on our subscribers to keep up with all that. (Structuring a more helpful subscription system might be a good idea for our next permanent editor.)

So, as 2022 is winding down this would be a good time for subscribers to take a moment to be sure you sent in your subscription payment this year. At just \$10 annually, the subscription rate is less than a dollar an issue. If you support the paper through offerings through your church, our present structure doesn't require that you pay a second time by

• **See SUBSCRIPTIONS page 5** •

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# Updates from Our Churches



## Abundant Life in Christ, Charleston

We took the plunge of going Facebook Live with our services in November. This had been the ultimate goal when we began posting videos of portions of our services several months ago. We also walked through a door our online presence had opened for us.

Soon after beginning to post portions of our services, we were contacted by a man in an overwhelmingly Muslim country (95%+) about expanding our ministry to his country. He is a man who came to Christ seven years ago. His wife is also a believer and the two of them have a burden to reach the people of their country with the gospel. While this man has made a profession of faith and is ministering in his country as well as he can with what opportunity he has, he does not belong to a church and has never belonged to a church; there is no organized church in his area. He conducts Sunday services in two different locations with what he says is a total attendance of about 80. He and his wife also organize a feeding program where 60 kids are fed each day.

It's really more than can be explained in one church report, but after months of discussions back and forth we have voted to partner with him in his ministry. He has agreed to our doctrinal statement and he—and others with whom he is working—

have requested to be baptized and become members of our church. We have sent them funds to allow them to purchase equipment to broadcast and also translate our Facebook service postings into their two languages. We have been sent pictures of that equipment in use as well as a receipt where it was bought. We are also sending them our Bible study outlines which they can use to conduct their Bible studies via translating the outlines and using them to follow along with the translated videos of our Sunday School classes.

There are yet hurdles to be crossed – such as getting to his country to perform the baptisms – and this is an opportunity we did not see coming until we were approached, but we're thankful that God has perhaps opened a great door to see a scriptural church planted in a very difficult field. Because of the possibility of persecution, we are not free to name the country or give identifying details. We greatly appreciate Bethesda in Park Hills who is supporting us as we get this overseas ministry off the ground.

*Rodney Dunlap, Pastor*

## Kewanee, Kewanee

Greetings from Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church.

Merry CHRISTmas and Happy Holidays! On Saturday, December 3, we hosted the "True Meaning of Christmas." We had a lot of fun

playing "reindeer" games, eating, and listening to Santa and Mrs. Claus tell about the true meaning

of Christmas. Yes, even Santa needs a Savior.

The younger kids' Christmas program has been moved to Sunday, December 11th at 6 p.m. Our men's group will have their annual night out at Susie's in Sikeston on December 8th. Our ladies' annual night out will be held on December 13th at Susie's in Sikeston. On Saturday, December 17th we will have a movie night showing the movie *It's a Wonderful Life*. This will start at 5 p.m.

Our adults will have their Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 18th during the morning services. Our teens will be traveling to the Youth Alive Conference in St. Charles which will be held Dec. 29-31. On Sunday, January 8th, we will have a chili/soup lunch. This will be for donations for Caitie Cox's mission trip. She will be traveling with VSM during the summer of 2023. Please keep her in your prayers.

Our winter revival will be held January 9-13 with Bro. Scotty Rayburn. Join us if you can. Be in prayer for that revival. We have a lot of great things coming up at KMBC!

We wish you all 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*

## Ozark Heights, Potosi

Greetings from Ozark Heights Missionary Baptist Church to all our sister churches, our shut-ins, and those unable to join us due to health. Our prayers are that you are all doing well and of

good health. We are praying for several who had surgeries and health issues this past month. Our prayers are with you and that you may be able to be with us as we come together to worship our Lord.

Bro. Brian has been providing a great Bible study on Romans this past month, and there is so much to learn and retain from the study. It is not the milk of the Word but the meat of the Word which grows our church stronger against the wiles of the devil, and we truly appreciate the great study.

We have been busy working on the church over the last couple months and have been expanding one of our classrooms and remodeling restrooms in the Sunday school wing. We are so thankful for all the help of our faithful men of our church who are diligent to carry through plans to improve the Lord's house.

We had a fish fry on the last Sunday of the month. Bro. Butch Wilkinson provided the fish and the men helped Bro. Butch with the meal. Our ladies brought the sides and desserts. It was well attended and followed by Talent night where we were blessed by singing and praise.

For our youth fellowship we had candy cane Olympics with 28 kids showing up for the fun and fellowship. Our youth have been such a blessing as we grow; we can see our future before us.

We had 6 join our church in November with 3 through baptism. We see God working in our church and are so excited about another young family joining us in our worship of our Lord and Savior.

December is coming on us

fast as we prepare for Christmas caroling and our Christmas program.

Until next month, may the Lord richly bless each and everyone of you! "Rejoice, Rejoice and again I say Rejoice."

*Brian Kingston, Pastor  
Gary Gilliam, Reporter*

## Bethel, Sikeston

Blessings to all from Bethel. This report is for October and November since we didn't send one in last month.

We have been blessed with lots of visitors this past month! As October was pastor appreciation month, we recognized our pastor and his wife with a special program and a gift. We are so appreciative of Bro. Billy and Sis. Donna and all they do for the church.

The 18th through the 20th we had a revival with Bro. Caleb Houston as the speaker. He delivered an inspiring message each night!

We had our fifth Sunday night singing with many of our members stepping up to sing a special. Great fellowship with refreshments followed the service. We hosted a fall party on the 29th for an outreach to the community. Everyone had a great time of playing games and gathering around a campfire to roast hot dogs and marshmallows and to make s'mores. Afterwards Bro. Joe brought the devotional.

November 6th the John 3:16 Ministries & Kinder House were with us in the evening service. Oh, what a blessing they were as they gave their testimonies and explained what their ministry is about and how it is growing. Praise God for these young men and their outreach to others in need.

Some of our members are going to the nursing home on the 13th to sing Christmas carols to the residents and to spread the love of Jesus. Bro. Joe McElroy and Sis. Jennifer Cantrell are planning a Christmas program for

New Testament Baptist Church cordially invites you to

## Amazing Grace

Christmas Musical & Drama

featuring  
THE NTBC CHOIR & CHILDREN

December 16TH at 7:00PM  
December 18TH at 10:00AM

New Testament Baptist Church  
962 N Church St., Sullivan, MO 63080

For questions please contact us:  
(573) 468-3334  
office@ntbcsullivan.com

### ~ Upcoming Events ~

**Amazing Grace, Christmas Musical & Drama;** New Testament, Sullivan; Dec. 16, 7:00 p.m.; Dec. 18, 10:00 a.m.

**Movie Night, *It's a Wonderful Life*;** Kewanee, Dec. 17, 5 p.m.

**Revival,** Kewanee, Jan. 9-13; Scotty Rayburn, evangelist

*Send event info to [mmbpaper@charter.net](mailto:mmbpaper@charter.net).*

the youth that will be on the 18th. We are planning on going Christmas caroling again this year and looking forward to being able to brighten someone's Christmas, to touch someone's heart with the message of Jesus Christ, the most precious gift of all!

We pray you all have a spirit-filled & blessed Christmas! God bless you all!

*Billy Davis, Pastor  
Joan Wood, Reporter*

### First Baptist, Potosi

First Baptist Church of Potosi wishes all of you a very Merry Christmas. We are so

fortunate to be able to celebrate Christ without fear of persecution. We need to pray without ceasing for our missionaries.

October and November were very busy months. We celebrated our love and appreciation for our pastors at the Rowe Pumpkin Patch. It is the perfect place for family entertainment and a place to get lost in the corn maze.

Preparations for Taste of Christmas were made; table host volunteers began compiling their list of guests to invite and deciding on table decorations. The tables are

always beautiful. #FBCKids Christmas Choir has only a few practices left in preparation of "The Biggest, Brightest, and Best Christmas Ever!" UPWARD evaluations were conducted and plans are being made for the ALIVE Student Conference.

*Jim Ainley, Pastor  
Deborah Rauhut, Reporter*

### Lindsay Lane, Florissant

Sister Jamie Moore joined our membership on Nov 1st.

Our chili cook off is in the books. Third place winner was Briana Gaede, second

was Kurt Goedelman, and first was Dawn Olson with her also the all-around winner with her pulled pork chili. Thanks to all who entered and to the judges!

Our Thanksgiving lunch was Nov. 20th. Great food and wonderful fellowship!

Both Sis. Terri Kreig and Sis. Thelma Cornett are recovering from knee surgery. Please pray for the McKenzie family as Bro. Mike's great grandson Kayden went home to heaven. This precious baby had so many things to overcome, but God took him home to be with Him! What

a day that will be when we are all gathered home! Please pray also for Amy Parrish and Doug McKenzie as they are having serious health issues. We ask prayer for Sis. Rachel Leal as she is having bone marrow transplant.

Bro. Juan Fernandez and family were with us on Dec 4th to encourage us to commit to 21 days of prayer for his ministry. There are so many opportunities for us to be fishers of men!

God bless till we meet again!

*Brian Meade, Pastor  
Kathy Chapman, Reporter*

## Christmas: The Right Time for the Greatest Gift of All Times

Don Burke

"Oh, I am *so* full," Grandpa exclaimed, getting up from Christmas Eve supper. "I think I'll go take me a nap," he said with the quickest little wink and the slightest impish grin aimed at his daughter, Becca.

"NO, Grandpa!! We gotta open presents now!" exclaimed all five children in unison.

"Well, not *right* now, we don't," Becca said. "First we have to get this dining table cleaned up."

"Tell you what," said Grandpa. "Layla and Brayden, take your dishes to the kitchen like Mom said, then come to the den with Nana and me for just a minute."

"Okay," the twins replied.

In the den the four sat down near the Christmas tree which was overflowing with presents. Nana started the discussion. "You know we love you very, very much – just like we love all our grandkids, and kids, too."

"Yes, ma'am."

"Exactly," Grandpa chimed in. "And since the two of you turned thirteen this year, there's something extra special that we want to do for you this Christmas. We decided a long time ago that when each grandkid gets old enough we want to give them a special gift. Every gift that we give you is something we hope you'll like and use, but some gifts you might outgrow or wear out or use up. But when you are mature enough to appreciate and take care of it, we want to get something extra special that you won't ever outgrow and that you can keep forever – if you want to."

Nana continued, "Well, Grandpa and I decided that this year is the year that we will give those special gifts to the two of you. Of course, we will still give you more gifts in the future, but this one we spent more time and money picking out just for you. As you get older you can do with it as you want to – it's not like we're going to make you keep it forever. But we hope it is something that you will treasure and want to keep – and maybe even pass it on to one of your own kids or grandkids someday."

"Oh, I can't wait!" "Me, too!" The twins were almost giddy with excitement.

Mom and Dad and the three younger kids walked in about that time. After mandatory pictures were taken of all the grandkids beside the Christmas tree, everyone found a place to sit. Presents were passed out, and everyone opened their gifts. And the very last two gifts were the special gifts to the twins.

"Oh wow! A rifle of my very own!" Brayden beamed. "This is beautiful!" Layla said through the tears welling up in her eyes as she looked at her new diamond necklace. "Thank you!" they both said as if on cue. "We are going to keep these forever!"

\*\*\*\*\*

*That very first Christmas two thousand years ago was not the first gift that God gave to the people of our world, nor would it be the last. But it was at that time – "when the fullness of time had come" – He gave us His best Gift of all time. May this Christmas season find that we have personally accepted God's Gift to each of us, and that we cherish it forever..., and that we share the news of the Gift with others.*



Landmark Baptist Church in DeSoto has an organ to donate to any church that would be willing to come pick it up. A bench is also included (not pictured). The organ is in good working condition and looks nice. If your church is interested, call Sharon Page at 314-520-6368.

*Silent night, holy night  
All is calm all is bright  
'Round yon virgin Mother  
and Child  
Holy infant so tender  
and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace  
Sleep in heavenly peace  
♪ ♪ ♪  
Christ the Savior  
is born*

**O Holy Night**  
(Word list for puzzle on page 7)

angel	glorifying	manger	Saviour
Bethlehem	glory	Mary	shepherds
firstborn	Joseph	peace	swaddling
flock	joy	praising	

• See **SUBSCRIPTIONS** from page 3 •

also sending a subscription payment directly to us. But for everyone else this would be an excellent time to catch up with any payments that may have slipped your notice or to renew your subscription for the coming year. For those who are not yet part of the MMB family this is a great time to start a new subscription. Or if you're looking for a last-minute Christmas gift that will be uplifting and informative over the next twelve months, contact us at [mmbpaper@charter.net](mailto:mmbpaper@charter.net) and we can get that set up for you, too.

Subscription requests and payments can be sent to:  
MMB Editor • 704 Valley Road • Potosi, MO 63664



## Be a Missionary Care Giver

by Holly Meriweather

“Our prayer is that we can encourage and strengthen missionaries so they can spread the gospel as effectively as possible, to as many as possible, for as long as possible.”

Former International Director (and Missionary Care Director) Jerry Kidd established the BMA’s missionary care initiative years ago and has a great love for missionaries and their unique needs while on the field. During his time leading missionary care, he organized regional conferences, which involved a great deal of planning and outside support, but these conferences were so beneficial for our missionaries.

Brother Jerry has always dreamed of a global conference for all our missionaries. That goal will become a reality April 27–30, 2023, as missionaries from around the world plan to come to the States for the BMA National Meeting and Global Care Conference to follow.

Current Missionary Care Director Jonathan Montgomery has a passion for ministering to our missionaries so they can minister to others. He says, “You cannot pump water from a dry well, so our Global Care Conference aims to pour into our missionaries and their families and replenish their spiritual, mental, and emotional needs so they can return to their fields with a stronger passion for making disciples and planting churches.”

After the 2016 Asia-Pacific Care Conference, one missionary said that the conference came “just at the right time” for him and his family. He explained, “We were physically exhausted, spiritually down, and feeling all alone in ministry. The messages were encouraging, the songs were inspiring, and the fellowship with the other missionaries was exactly what we needed.”

Studies show that 70 percent of missionaries leave the field earlier than planned and for reasons that could have been prevented had there been adequate support and care while serving. Burnout is one key reason missionaries leave the field early, but if provided an opportunity to connect with their peers, there is mutual encouragement, immediate connection, and beneficial fellowship.

Our goal is to give every BMA missionary the opportunity to attend this global conference by covering every missionary family’s expenses for this conference through donations, which will ensure that every BMA missionary has an opportunity to attend. Expenses include international airfare, lodging, and meals.

Breakdown of expenses:

Average Meals..... \$ 150  
 Average Lodging... \$ 500  
 Average Airfare .. \$ 1,250

Expenses per family:

Individual ..... \$ 2,000  
 Couple..... \$ 3,500  
 Family of Four ... \$ 6,000

Overall estimated cost: \$250,000

If you would like to donate to this ministry, please visit [bmamissions.org](http://bmamissions.org) or mail checks to BMA Missions, P.O. Box 878, Conway, AR 72033, and in the memo line write “missionary care.”

# STAN & DONNA Scroggins

From Stan

Christmas is a great festival for Filipinos but we have always been surprised that December 25th is not that celebrated. December 26th and December 31st are the really big days. This year the BMA Bible College choir will have several Christmas presentations: Chapel hour for the Carey Academy students, BMANI Grand Thanksgiving and Campus Event December 6 before finals. Look for highlights in next month’s Christmas edition. We love you all. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.

From Donna

I had a wonderful time visiting Israel. I was afraid it wouldn’t be as exciting for Stan since he had traveled here before. However, 80% of the sights we visited he had never seen. We are indebted to our guides and tour leader Danny Bullock. In January we will begin the three month process of implementing our exit strategy. This is an important part of modern missionary missiology. No missionary would want their work to end when they leave. Would you pray with us as we reach this stage of our work of “finishing well” for God.



### Our Christmas Activities before Winter Break

The BMABC College Choir presented three Christmas concerts of the musical “Everyone Sing Glory” – during chapel hour November 23, at the BMANI Grand Thanksgiving Celebration November 30, and a special evening concert Tuesday, December 6.



Deacons and Pastor of the mother church extend the arm and blessings.

Missionary Pastor Ezra Leyson welcomes all the guests.

We are excited to have our first mission organization of a work we sponsored. It has been a labor of love, and we’re grateful that our Lord has allowed the mission to grow numerically and spiritually to the point they are now a New Testament church. We are thankful for First Missionary Baptist Church for extending the arm and supporting the mission as its mother church.



Four of our master level students begin taking their exit exams. There are four exams – December, January, February and March.



School has been going great at the Academy. We’ve been cleared to have full week classes now, and so it seems things are even more busy.

## Ministers & Ministry Opportunities

Entries are published at the request of the individual or entity listed and should not be considered as an endorsement by the Missouri Missionary Baptist or the BMA of Missouri.

**Caleb Houston**, youth minister at Kewanee (New Madrid) is available for weekend revivals, youth events, and pulpit supply. Contact him at 573-521-7826 or calebhouston@yahoo.com. (1022)

**Dave Maynard**, Bethel (Sikeston), is available for pulpit supply or as the Lord leads. Contact him at 573-475-0109 or roman-sandals@yahoo.com. (1122)

**Douglas Brand**, Fellowship Baptist Church (Potosi), 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. (1022)

**Immanuel Baptist Church, Nashville, Arkansas**, is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resume to: Immanuel Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee, PO Box 212, Nashville, AR 71852 (1122)

Ministers and ministries must be associated with the BMA. Entries for available preachers and for churches seeking pastors or staff will be published for three consecutive months; others will be limited to a single issue. Listings may be resubmitted quarterly, subject to editor approval. Send entries, including the name of the church of membership, to mmbpaper@charter.net.

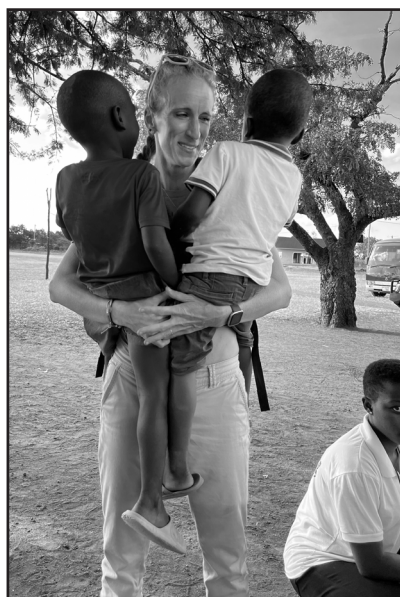
### CENTRAL BAPTIST COLLEGE Job Announcement: Vice President for Advancement

For information about responsibilities, qualifications and other details, visit [www.cbc.edu/jobs](http://www.cbc.edu/jobs).

### EIM Mission Trip Opportunities

Have you ever said, "I wish I could do a mission trip," but you didn't know how or with whom? Evangelistic International Ministries would like to invite you, our fellow BMAA Brothers and Sisters, to be a part of our 2023 Global Evangelism Teams. You will have the opportunity to spend several days on a foreign field investing in the lives of children and adults, pouring into them the good news of the gospel.

For over 25 years EIM has taken teams to work with BMA missionaries and church planters all around the world. We have seen God move and transform countless lives as team members have shared the gospel with people who have never heard. We have several opportunities for you in the summer of 2023.



EIM team member Brooke Camp holding two Tanzanian children.

The following are the available trips, dates, and costs for 2023.

- Ghana, West Africa ..... June 21-30..... \$ 3,000
- Tanzania, East Africa..... July 12-22 ..... \$ 3,000
- Honduras..... July 31-August 5 ..... \$ 2,200

An online application and non-refundable deposit is due on or before JANUARY 27, 2023. If you are interested and would like more information, please call the Warren EIM office at 870-226-3626 or email: [fnorris@eimworldwide.org](mailto:fnorris@eimworldwide.org). You can also visit EIM's website at [www.eimworldwide.org](http://www.eimworldwide.org) and click on the TAKE A TRIP link to view all the requirements to be placed on a team.

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

## Deaths

**James Speer**, of Carthage, Texas, passed away November 3. Bro. Speer held youth, music and pastoral positions in many churches in Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee and Texas. He also served as the Executive Director of the Daniels Springs Encampment in Gary, Texas for 36 years. He graduated high school in Potosi, MO in 1962.

**Arthur Goede** passed away November 28 following a lengthy illness. He was the husband of Tracy Widger-Goede, who is a member of Zion, St. Louis, and serves as Missouri and National WMA Historian.

• From MAGI page 1 •

be greatly increased if they traveled with a trade caravan (to find safety in numbers) going about normal business travels. And all the preparations for such a journey would add yet more time. Based on all this, along with inferences from Matthew's account, it seems quite feasible that Jesus was possibly a year old or more by the time the Wise Men arrived.

So while the gospel accounts don't spell it out in so many words, the implications do seem pretty clear: It was almost impossible for the Magi to have visited Jesus in the stable at His birth.

If the Wise Men then were not actually there to give their gifts to the infant Christ Child in the manger, is it wrong to include them as we depict the Christmas story in our church plays or nativity reenactments? Of course some people may see this differently than I do, and that's okay. But the Magi are part of the story of the infant King just as much as the shepherds. And just like the nearby shepherds who immediately left their work to visit the Child when heaven was filled with the angels inviting them to come see, the Wise Men no doubt also quickly organized a trip when they saw the star-messenger inviting them to come see. The idea that these men and their gifts should be removed from the story of the Christ Child because their travels took so long just doesn't seem quite right to me. So if individuals or churches decide to condense the travel-time of the Magi in order to include them in a story that they were legitimately a part of..., I have no problem with that.

## O HOLY NIGHT

Find 15 words from the story of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:1-20) in the puzzle below. Words may be written forwards, backwards, horizontally, vertically or diagonally.

You may make copies of the puzzle to share with your family or to use with students. (For those who may need a little help, a list of the 15 words is given on page 5.)

H	Z	G	N	I	L	D	D	A	W	S	V	M	I
A	U	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	Y	U	A
Y	Y	E	U	A	R	E	Y	A	N	O	M	U	Z
B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	J	U	G	R	P
G	N	I	Y	F	I	R	O	L	G	L	E	J	R
N	R	O	B	T	S	R	I	F	O	G	E	O	A
F	V	G	P	U	U	N	Q	R	N	B	F	S	I
P	A	Z	D	O	P	F	Y	A	T	N	L	E	S
W	I	B	I	Y	A	E	M	U	A	Y	O	P	I
D	E	V	A	B	A	A	A	P	P	R	C	H	N
R	A	A	N	G	E	L	K	C	Q	A	K	A	G
S	U	M	A	O	U	N	N	N	E	M	Y	D	A

# Read Through the Bible This Year

These readings are arranged chronologically – in the order they happened in history. The Old Testament poetic and prophetic books are merged into the historical books at about the point where they were written. The New Testament epistles are similarly merged within the flow of the Acts narrative.

## January

- 1 - Genesis 1-2
- 2 - Genesis 3-5
- 3 - Genesis 6-9
- 4 - Genesis 10-11
- 5 - Genesis 12-15
- 6 - Genesis 16-19
- 7 - Genesis 20-22
- 8 - Genesis 23-26
- 9 - Genesis 27-29
- 10 - Genesis 30-32
- 11 - Genesis 33-36
- 12 - Genesis 37-39
- 13 - Genesis 40-42
- 14 - Genesis 43-46
- 15 - Genesis 47-50
- 16 - Job 1-4
- 17 - Job 5-7
- 18 - Job 8-10
- 19 - Job 11-13
- 20 - Job 14-17
- 21 - Job 18-20
- 22 - Job 21-24
- 23 - Job 25-27
- 24 - Job 28-31
- 25 - Job 32-34
- 26 - Job 35-37
- 27 - Job 38-42
- 28 - Exodus 1-4
- 29 - Exodus 5-7
- 30 - Exodus 8-10
- 31 - Exodus 11-13

## February

- 1 - Exodus 14-17
- 2 - Exodus 18-20
- 3 - Exodus 21-24
- 4 - Exodus 25-27
- 5 - Exodus 28-31
- 6 - Exodus 32-34
- 7 - Exodus 35-37
- 8 - Exodus 38-40
- 9 - Leviticus 1-4
- 10 - Leviticus 5-7
- 11 - Leviticus 8-10
- 12 - Leviticus 11-13
- 13 - Leviticus 14-16
- 14 - Leviticus 17-19
- 15 - Leviticus 20-23
- 16 - Leviticus 24-27
- 17 - Numbers 1-3
- 18 - Numbers 4-6
- 19 - Numbers 7-10
- 20 - Numbers 11-14
- 21 - Numbers 15-17
- 22 - Numbers 18-20
- 23 - Numbers 21-24
- 24 - Numbers 25-27
- 25 - Numbers 28-30
- 26 - Numbers 31-33
- 27 - Numbers 34-36
- 28 - Deuteronomy 1-3

## March

- 1 - Deuteronomy 4-6
- 2 - Deuteronomy 7-9
- 3 - Deuteronomy 10-12
- 4 - Deuteronomy 13-16
- 5 - Deuteronomy 17-19

- 6 - Deuteronomy 20-22
- 7 - Deuteronomy 23-25
- 8 - Deuteronomy 26-28
- 9 - Deuteronomy 29-31
- 10 - Deuteronomy 32-34
- 11 - Joshua 1-3
- 12 - Joshua 4-6
- 13 - Joshua 7-9
- 14 - Joshua 10-12
- 15 - Joshua 13-15
- 16 - Joshua 16-18
- 17 - Joshua 19-21
- 18 - Joshua 22-24
- 19 - Judges 1-4
- 20 - Judges 5-8
- 21 - Judges 9-12
- 22 - Judges 13-15
- 23 - Judges 16-18
- 24 - Judges 19-21
- 25 - Ruth 1-4
- 26 - I Samuel 1-3
- 27 - I Samuel 4-7
- 28 - I Samuel 8-10
- 29 - I Samuel 11-13
- 30 - I Samuel 14-16
- 31 - I Samuel 17-20

## April

- 1 - I Samuel 21-24
- 2 - I Samuel 25-28
- 3 - I Samuel 29-31
- 4 - II Samuel 1-4
- 5 - II Samuel 5-8
- 6 - II Samuel 9-12
- 7 - II Samuel 13-15
- 8 - II Samuel 16-18
- 9 - II Samuel 19-21
- 10 - II Samuel 22-24
- 11 - Psalms 1-3
- 12 - Psalms 4-6
- 13 - Psalms 7-9
- 14 - Psalms 10-12
- 15 - Psalms 13-15
- 16 - Psalms 16-18
- 17 - Psalms 19-21
- 18 - Psalms 22-24
- 19 - Psalms 25-27
- 20 - Psalms 28-30
- 21 - Psalms 31-33
- 22 - Psalms 34-36
- 23 - Psalms 37-39
- 24 - Psalms 40-42
- 25 - Psalms 43-45
- 26 - Psalms 46-48
- 27 - Psalms 49-51
- 28 - Psalms 52-54
- 29 - Psalms 55-57
- 30 - Psalms 58-60

## May

- 1 - Psalms 61-63
- 2 - Psalms 64-66
- 3 - Psalms 67-69
- 4 - Psalms 70-72
- 5 - Psalms 73-75
- 6 - Psalms 76-78
- 7 - Psalms 79-81
- 8 - Psalms 82-84
- 9 - Psalms 85-87
- 10 - Psalms 88-90
- 11 - Psalms 91-93
- 12 - Psalms 94-96
- 13 - Psalms 97-99
- 14 - Psalms 100-102
- 15 - Psalms 103-105
- 16 - Psalms 106-108
- 17 - Psalms 109-111
- 18 - Psalms 112-114
- 19 - Psalms 115-118
- 20 - Psalms 119
- 21 - Psalms 120-123
- 22 - Psalms 124-126
- 23 - Psalms 127-129

- 24 - Psalms 130-132
- 25 - Psalms 133-135
- 26 - Psalms 136-138
- 27 - Psalms 139-141
- 28 - Psalms 142-144
- 29 - Psalms 145-147
- 30 - Psalms 148-150
- 31 - I Kings 1-4

## June

- 1 - Proverbs 1-3
- 2 - Proverbs 4-7
- 3 - Proverbs 8-11
- 4 - Proverbs 12-14
- 5 - Proverbs 15-18
- 6 - Proverbs 19-21
- 7 - Proverbs 22-24
- 8 - Proverbs 25-28
- 9 - Proverbs 29-31
- 10 - Ecclesiastes 1-3
- 11 - Ecclesiastes 4-6
- 12 - Ecclesiastes 7-9
- 13 - Ecclesiastes 10-12
- 14 - Song of Solomon 1-4
- 15 - Song of Solomon 5-8
- 16 - I Kings 5-7
- 17 - I Kings 8-10
- 18 - I Kings 11-13
- 19 - I Kings 14-16
- 20 - I Kings 17-19
- 21 - I Kings 20-22
- 22 - II Kings 1-3
- 23 - II Kings 4-6
- 24 - II Kings 7-10
- 25 - II Kings 11 - 14:20
- 26 - Joel 1-3
- 27 - II Kings 14:21-25
- 28 - II Kings 14:26-29
- 29 - Amos 1-3
- 30 - Amos 4-6
- 31 - Amos 7-9

## July

- 1 - II Kings 15-17
- 2 - Hosea 1-4
- 3 - Hosea 5-7
- 4 - Hosea 8-10
- 5 - Hosea 11-14
- 6 - II Kings 18-19
- 7 - Isaiah 1-3
- 8 - Isaiah 4-6
- 9 - Isaiah 7-9
- 10 - Isaiah 10-12
- 11 - Isaiah 13-15
- 12 - Isaiah 16-18
- 13 - Isaiah 19-21
- 14 - Isaiah 22-24
- 15 - Isaiah 25-27
- 16 - Isaiah 28-30
- 17 - Isaiah 31-33
- 18 - Isaiah 34-36
- 19 - Isaiah 37-39
- 20 - Isaiah 40-42
- 21 - Isaiah 43-45
- 22 - Isaiah 46-48
- 23 - Isaiah 49-51
- 24 - Isaiah 52-54
- 25 - Isaiah 55-57
- 26 - Isaiah 58-60
- 27 - Isaiah 61-63
- 28 - Isaiah 64-66
- 29 - Micah 1-4
- 30 - Micah 5-7
- 31 - Nahum 1-3

## August

- 1 - II Kings 20-21
- 2 - Zephaniah 1-3
- 3 - Habakkuk 1-3
- 4 - II Kings 22-25
- 5 - Obadiah
- 6 - Jeremiah 1-2

- 6 - Jeremiah 3-5
- 7 - Jeremiah 6-8
- 8 - Jeremiah 9-12
- 9 - Jeremiah 13-16
- 10 - Jeremiah 17-20
- 11 - Jeremiah 21-23
- 12 - Jeremiah 24-26
- 13 - Jeremiah 27-29
- 14 - Jeremiah 30-32
- 15 - Jeremiah 33-36
- 16 - Jeremiah 37-39
- 17 - Jeremiah 40-42
- 18 - Jeremiah 43-46
- 19 - Jeremiah 47-49
- 20 - Jeremiah 50-52
- 21 - Lamentations 1-5
- 22 - I Chronicles 1-3
- 23 - I Chronicles 4-6
- 24 - I Chronicles 7-9
- 25 - I Chronicles 10-13
- 26 - I Chronicles 14-16
- 27 - I Chronicles 17-19
- 28 - I Chronicles 20-23
- 29 - I Chronicles 24-26
- 30 - I Chronicles 27-29
- 31 - II Chronicles 1-3

## September

- 1 - II Chronicles 4-6
- 2 - II Chronicles 7-9
- 3 - II Chronicles 10-13
- 4 - II Chronicles 14-16
- 5 - II Chronicles 17-19
- 6 - II Chronicles 20-22
- 7 - II Chronicles 23-25
- 8 - II Chronicles 26-29
- 9 - II Chronicles 30-32
- 10 - II Chronicles 33-36
- 11 - Ezekiel 1-3
- 12 - Ezekiel 4-7
- 13 - Ezekiel 8-11
- 14 - Ezekiel 12-14
- 15 - Ezekiel 15-18
- 16 - Ezekiel 19-21
- 17 - Ezekiel 22-24
- 18 - Ezekiel 25-27
- 19 - Ezekiel 28-30
- 20 - Ezekiel 31-33
- 21 - Ezekiel 34-36
- 22 - Ezekiel 37-39
- 23 - Ezekiel 40-42
- 24 - Ezekiel 43-45
- 25 - Ezekiel 46-48
- 26 - Daniel 1-3
- 27 - Daniel 4-6
- 28 - Daniel 7-9
- 29 - Daniel 10-12
- 30 - Esther 1-3

## October

- 1 - Esther 4-7
- 2 - Esther 8-10
- 3 - Ezra 1-4
- 4 - Haggai 1-2
- 5 - Zechariah 1-2
- 6 - Zechariah 3-6
- 7 - Zechariah 7-10
- 8 - Zechariah 11-14
- 9 - Ezra 5-7
- 10 - Nehemiah 1-3
- 11 - Nehemiah 4-6
- 12 - Nehemiah 7-9
- 13 - Nehemiah 10-13
- 14 - Malachi 1-4
- 15 - Matthew 1-4
- 16 - Matthew 5-7
- 17 - Matthew 8-11
- 18 - Matthew 12-15
- 19 - Matthew 16-19
- 20 - Matthew 20-22
- 21 - Matthew 23-25
- 22 - Matthew 26-28

- 23 - Mark 1-3
- 24 - Mark 4-6
- 25 - Mark 7-10
- 26 - Mark 11-13
- 27 - Mark 14-16
- 28 - Luke 1-3
- 29 - Luke 4-6
- 30 - Luke 7-9
- 31 - Luke 10-13

## November

- 1 - Luke 14-17
- 2 - Luke 18-21
- 3 - Luke 22-24
- 4 - John 1-3
- 5 - John 4-6
- 6 - John 7-10
- 7 - John 11-13
- 8 - John 14-17
- 9 - John 18-21
- 10 - Acts 1-2
- 11 - Acts 3-5
- 12 - Acts 6-9
- 13 - Acts 10-12
- 14 - Acts 13-14
- 15 - James 1-2
- 16 - James 3-5
- 17 - Galatians 1-3
- 18 - Galatians 4-6
- 19 - Acts 15 - 18:11
- 20 - I Thessalonians 1-5
- 21 - II Thessalonians 1-3
- 22 - I Corinthians 1-4
- 23 - I Corinthians 5-8
- 24 - I Corinthians 9-12
- 25 - I Corinthians 13-16
- 26 - Acts 19:11 - 20:1
- 27 - II Corinthians 1-3
- 28 - II Corinthians 4-6
- 29 - II Corinthians 7-9
- 30 - Acts 20:2
- 31 - Romans 1-4

## December

- 1 - Romans 5-8
- 2 - Romans 9-11
- 3 - Romans 12-16
- 4 - Acts 20:3 - 22
- 5 - Acts 23-25
- 6 - Acts 26-28
- 7 - Ephesians 1-3
- 8 - Ephesians 4-6
- 9 - Philippians 1-4
- 10 - Colossians 1-4
- 11 - Hebrews 1-4
- 12 - Hebrews 5-7
- 13 - Hebrews 8-10
- 14 - Hebrews 11-13
- 15 - Philemon
- 16 - I Peter 1-2
- 17 - II Peter 1-3
- 18 - I Timothy 1-3
- 19 - I Timothy 4-6
- 20 - Titus 1-3
- 21 - II Timothy 1-4
- 22 - I John 1-2
- 23 - I John 3-5
- 24 - II John
- 25 - III John
- 26 - Revelation 1-3
- 27 - Revelation 4-6
- 28 - Revelation 7-9
- 29 - Revelation 10-12
- 30 - Revelation 13-15
- 31 - Revelation 16-18

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