

# The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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

Volume LXXXV

St. Louis, MO • January 10, 2023

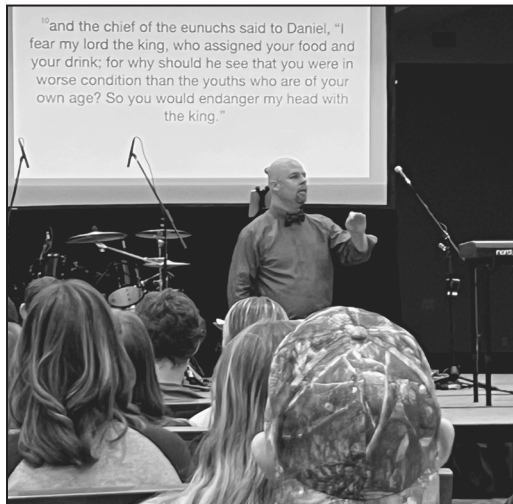
Issue No. 1

## Alive Youth Conference

Article and photos by Lisa Cox

Church Clap; Veggie Tales; Axe body spray; waiting for an elevator; the smell of Starbucks; Chick-Fil-A; sounds of laughter; and hugs from friends you haven't seen in a few months. What do all of these things have in common? If you said “a youth event” or even better, the Alive Student Conference, then you are correct.

The Alive Conference is a special experience for our youth, and this year was no different. All of the groups arriving at the Double Tree in Chesterfield was a special moment. The lobby was full of eager teens ready to be away from their parents for



a couple days, stay up late, and consume as much pizza, Starbucks, and Chick-Fil-A as possible. Some of them came just to be with friends; however, what they do not realize is that it is no coincidence that God brought them to this conference. They were there for a purpose.

Sky Zone was a hit with the students and even some adults. Some of us realized that we are not as young as we used to be! But it was worth it to see our students having fun and catching up with friends. Congratulations to 1st Baptist Potosi for winning the scavenger hunt. The scavenger hunt took us around Chesterfield to visit some familiar places and some that were unfamiliar. No goats or zebras were harmed, no one was arrested, but all had lots of fun figuring out the clues!

The Central Collective band led us in worship songs and got us prepared to hear the Word. Bro. Brad Banderman was the pastor who brought the messages each session. He led us through the first six chapters of the book of Daniel. We were reminded that, like Daniel, we all start as a nobody. We are all a nobody until we meet a somebody. That somebody is Jesus.

God desires for you and me to be with Him. Many times in our lives, God will personally intervene.

What an awesome feeling to know that God is on our side! We have a mission to reach the ungodly. They should have a place in our pews and in our hearts. Our mission is to spread the gospel

• See ALIVE page 6 •



## Weathering our Winters

Don Burke

Winter. The Bible rarely mentions winter, with slightly more than a dozen references sparsely scattered over almost as many books. The psalmist attributes winter and summer to the creative work of God (Ps 74:17). God told Noah that winter (like the other seasons) is an ongoing normal cycle for us here on earth (Gen 8:22). Some passages speak of it having added travel difficulties (Mt 24:20; Mk 13:18), while others imply the even greater hazards of halting travel to winter in the wrong place (Acts 27:12). Still other verses picture getting needed items in store to settle in during this less hospitable period (1Cor 16:6; 2Tim 4:21; Titus 3:12).

In 2Tim 4:13 the imprisoned Paul, knowing winter was on the way, sent a message to Timothy: “When you come, bring my cloak. Also bring the books – and for heaven’s sake don’t forget the parchments” (paraphrased). The cloak speaks of Paul’s preparing for the physical needs which are a part of the cold of winter. The books and parchments no doubt included what portions of the Bible that Paul possessed, and shows Paul’s efforts to see that his spiritual needs were covered. But moments later his words, “Do your best to come before winter” (v21) seem to convey a sense of Paul’s desire for companionship during this time as well.

In his book, *Come Before Winter* (Multnomah, 1985), Charles Swindoll characterizes winter as periods of our inner struggles which often benefit from help and comfort from others. “There is something strangely solitary about winter. Altogether unlike the other three seasons, winter pleads for companionship. Its naked trees seem terribly forlorn and barren. Its harsh blizzards ... drive us inside our own world.”

• See WINTERS page 8 •

## Address Changes

An unexpected glitch hit the paper’s email account this past month and left us unable to receive our normal incoming messages for a couple of days. We offer our apologies to anyone who was unable to reach us during that time. We now have a new address – [mmbpaper@gmail.com](mailto:mmbpaper@gmail.com) – to be used for all future correspondence. Please update your contact list with this change.

Then while changing over to the new address we lost all our email contact information. We have since reconstructed most, if not all, our address book from old emails. However, if you would like to confirm that the paper has your correct email address, we encourage you to send a message with your name and email address. Please put “Confirming Email Address” in the subject line.

Speaking of address changes, please share with your church treasurer that the mailing address for MMB offerings has changed, too. Many offerings each month are still sent to Bro. Hoffmann. Offerings and other mail should instead be sent to:

Missouri Missionary Baptist Paper  
704 Valley Road • Potosi, MO 63664



## State Missions

Dear BMAMO Churches,

I hope you are doing well in the spirit and grace of the Lord. Happy New Year!!

The previous two articles in this series were on learning lessons of discipleship through planting tomato plants, harvesting the seeds from those fruit, and then planting more tomato plants next year. (See the previous two articles to catch up.)

Essentially, this is the process of the lofty task of propagating seed:

1. You plant the seed in the spring.
2. It produces a plant.
3. You take care of that plant until it's ready to transplant.
4. You put it in the ground.
5. You water and cultivate that plant until it fruits.
6. You pick the fruit.
7. You harvest the seed and store it until next spring, and you do it all over again.

This is almost exactly the same process that happens in discipleship. Someone plants the seed of the gospel; through the Holy Spirit produces fruit; you train that person to do the same thing that someone did for them: plant seeds. And then the process starts all over again

One serious sidenote before we dive into the second lesson, which is "it is impossible to do this without surrender." John Maxwell once said, "A true leader can accurately describe reality." As just one of the leaders of this association, I am going to try to share the reality of what I believe is our situation.

The statistics of our churches seen in any recent minute book show we are not growing as an association! Our numbers are going the opposite direction. I've long said that if we get 10 or 20 years of the last 10 or 20 years we're not going to fare very well! Our very associational/church life depends upon propagating the gospel. This was always the plan - this is why God gave us the Great Commission.

Not everyone is going to do this, but someone's got to start. I am not saying that there aren't already people carrying out the Great Commission, but I'm saying that all of us need to submit to this commission.

It is hard work. Lesson two is that you and I must be surrendered to this. It's impossible to carry out the Great Commission - discipling and producing disciples - without surrender.

What do I mean by surrender? We like to use the word commitment. A pastor may ask, "Are you committed to the Lord?" and even though most of us know what that means, when you look at the words commitment or surrender, surrender gives a more accurate picture of what needs to happen.

When we commit we are in control. We're calculating how much we're going to commit, but we're still holding onto a certain amount of authority in our life. But when you surrender, you give up all authority. Think about the policeman that, God forbid, as the situation escalates, he pulls his gun. If you're smart, you throw up your hands or put your face on the ground and put your hands behind your back and surrender completely. This is what it takes to effectively make disciples.

Certain things must be done for a plant to reach fruiting age, to continue to fruit, and for that fruit to produce or to yield usable seeds that will later turn into more plants and more fruit. If the gardener is not absolutely surrendered to the needs of that plant, it's not going to happen on the dynamic level that it could happen.

I believe all of our churches could point to some fruit. But when you look at John 15, Jesus doesn't want us to be satisfied with just some fruit. He wants us to be in that last basket of abundant fruit. Looking at our statistical situation, we are in great need of our churches producing abundant fruit.

So let me leave you with these bullet points of the gleanings from lesson #2:

1. We must see their spiritual, emotional, intellectual, and physical needs as an authority in our life. In other words, when we come to a roadblock with our disciple, we surrender to that roadblock to help however we can to bring them to health in that area.

2. They have a rightful demand upon our time, energy, and resources because their very life depends upon it. I obviously do not mean their physical life, but their disciple life depends upon us helping them as they grow in Christ.

3. Surrender becomes possible once you see their needs and you see meeting those needs as God's command. We're not doing this for ourselves, our church, or even for them. Ultimately, we're doing this for God.

4. Your full surrender leads to joy. That's why Jesus could say, "My yoke is easy and my burden is light." This verse was always a struggle with me because in my fleshly effort to do God's bidding it wasn't easy, but once I surrendered, it was.

If you have the time, please read over this article more than once. Soak in these thoughts and ask yourself, and ultimately ask God: "Who are you laying on my heart to help in these areas? Who are you laying on my heart to plant seeds of the gospel? Who are you laying on my heart to help in their walk with You to get to this point of making disciples that make disciples?"

Ben Kingston

## MISIÓN BELÉN (Bethlehem Mission)

Juan Fernandez



Happy New Year!

We are so blessed to celebrate the completion of 2022. It was a year full of challenges and more importantly blessings. In Belén we pray that this new year 2023 the Lord comes back, any day.

Before Jesus comes back or calls us home there is a labor of faith to be completed, as the body of Christ, to carry out the Great Commission. To share the Gospel of good news that is power to transform lives! We pray that we get to see many people coming to trust in Christ for a new birth and faithful, obedient humble walk with Christ.

We will continue #prayernetwork every day at 12:00 pm. The Lord has provided so many spiritual appointments in this time of prayer. This phone number continues to be available to receive prayer requests, as well as praise reports shared with us. Feel free to text us any time at (314) 415 0248.

### Discovery Bible Groups

In the last two years we have been reaching out to young men. We pray for each one of them and share the seed of the gospel. We have so many in our contact list that have expressed interest in changing their lifestyle. We offer them a chance to join in a Discovery Bible Group. The 10 sessions present the individual with a clear presentation of reconciliation with God and changes to be made in the individual, and always opening the door to invite someone in their family and friends to join.

We have been blessed with the following ones that have made this step of faith, would you please pray for each one? These are souls who are seeking the truth and peace from Christ. You know the struggle that they are facing.

The first one on the list is Adan, a 29-year-old who in February of 2022 suffered an accident where he almost lost his life. The Lord reached out to him and now Adan is looking to stay in the way, the truth, and the life. His family is from Mexico. Adan has expressed the desire to join Misión Belén, be discipled, baptized and continue to be trained to share the gospel of good news with his family and friends from Mexico who are now scattered all over the state of Missouri.

Noe Martinez, a 30-year-old man, was also reached and shown his need of a new birth last Thursday 12/29. Noe prayed and spent time in the altar dealing with God and his old lifestyle. Praise the LORD. We will start him with our discipleship process and wait for fruits and results of his labor of faith as Noe continues growing and learning to follow Christ. I promised Noe that his name was going to be mentioned in your prayers wherever you are reading this article.

### Discovery Bible - Chesterfield (Nahum and Ermilanda)

These last couple weeks we have had the chance to meet more family members in Nahum's side of the family. Would you include these names in your prayer - Esly and Ernesto?

• See MISIÓN BELÉN page 3 •

## The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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## Camp Garwood

Happy New Year from Camp Garwood! I'd like to begin this camp report thanking the Youth Alive committee for another great conference. I'm sure others will send articles about their Alive experiences too. What an encouraging weekend this conference provides, not only for the youth but also for us older, less energetic, folks. Bro. Brad Banderman and The Central Collective band were a great combination leading us each service. The youth had a lot of fun with the scavenger hunt. There are so many things that make the Alive conference worth attending. One of my favorites is the countdown clock. I know that's an odd thing to mention. But 300 plus teens counting down the seconds to begin a worship service is awesome! Genuinely excited to begin the service! That's just one of my many favorite parts. Thanks again Alive committee for your service!

Camp week is July 31- Aug 4. We're looking forward to seeing Bro. Jordan Bowen. Jordan was our scheduled speaker last year and on Monday of camp week tested positive for Covid, so we are going to try again this year. Our camp theme will be "Gateway to God." In John 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am *the way, the truth and the life*: No man cometh unto the father but by me."

While it seems a long way off, camp will be here before we know it! As of this writing we have a few small jobs planned for the year. Repiping the upper pumphouse and replacing some drainage pipes are at the top of my list. No doubt other projects will come up but hopefully nothing too major. As we move into spring we'll post more about the projects and opportunities for your church to help.

It's not too soon to put camp and all those who serve through camp on your prayer list. Blessings, Chris Polk

*(See Upcoming Events section for more happenings at Camp Garwood.)*

• **MISIÓN BELÉN** from page 2 •

**Discipleship - Overland & Florissant (Lucas, Liz, Adan, Noe)**

With God's saving grace and leading we will continue reaching out in these areas of St. Louis. We will start this month a new outreach venue at Lindsay Lane Church in Florissant as the Lord leads.

**Ministry Updates (Juan, Hannah, and children)**

We would love to come and spend time with you and your prayer team in your area. We'll come and share the Gospel and ministry updates as the Lord leads. Thank you for keeping us in your prayers.

## WMA

**YOU ARE INVITED TO LUNCH  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023,  
CENTRAL BAPTIST COLLEGE**

The WMA of BMAA wishes to recognize and honor the wives and widows of ministers for serving or having served in the ministry along with their husband. If you are a wife or a widow of a minister you will be our guest. However, you must register by April 12, 2023.

Mail to: WMA of BMAA • PO Box 23 • Salem, MO 65560

Text: (314) 566-7794 • Email: jawidger@hughes.net

To assure that you are registered, you will receive a response.

If you are not a wife or a widow of a minister but wish to participate in the luncheon in conjunction with the annual WMA of BMAA meeting, the cost will be \$15.00. You must register by April 12, 2023.

Make check payable to: WMA of BMAA

Mail to: WMA of BMAA • PO Box 23 • Salem, MO 65560

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Yes, I (we) wish to participate in the luncheon on April 26, 2023.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MINISTER WIFE/WIDOW: YES: \_\_\_\_\_ NO: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MINISTER WIFE/WIDOW: YES: \_\_\_\_\_ NO: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MINISTER WIFE/WIDOW: YES: \_\_\_\_\_ NO: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

## Quarterly Financial Reports

Our Association Bylaws instruct all treasurers from the various departments, auxiliaries, etc. to submit quarterly summary financial reports via this paper. Below are the reports received for this quarter. (Any treasurer who needs to send reports on an alternate schedule, please let us know and we will reserve space as needed.)

**MISSOURI MISSIONARY BAPTIST PAPER  
4th Quarter 2022**

Checking Acct. Balance 10/1/22	\$ 8,572.75
Offerings	3,766.70
Funds Available	\$ 12,339.45
Salaries	(2,400.00)
Printing & Mailing	(2,471.94)
Other Expenses	(569.02)
Ending Balance 12/31/22	\$ 6,898.49

**KENNETH E. GIBSON GRANT FUND**

The Kenneth E. Gibson Grant Fund has been unchanged in the last quarter. The fund balance is \$12,021.43.

**BMA OF MISSOURI LOAN PROGRAM  
4th Quarter 2022**

Balance 10/1/22	\$ 445,951.07
Income General Fund	3,278.24
Income Grant Fund	636.84
Interest Income	
Checking	19.89
CD's	182.75
Paid Out	
Insurance	(2,701.40)
Notes Receivables	(3,260.00)
Balance 12/31/22	\$ 444,107.39
Assets	
Checking	\$ 151,520.81
CD's	292,586.58
Notes Receivable	---
Total Assets 12/31/22	\$ 444,107.39
*Includes Grant Fund	
Grant Fund	
Balance 10/1/22	\$ 6,608.07
Offerings	636.84
Paid Out	---
Grant Fund Balance 12/31/22	\$ 7,244.91

**CAMP GARWOOD  
4th Quarter 2022**

General Fund	
Beginning Balance	\$ 6,300.50
Receipts	10,816.17
Disbursements	(3,298.41)
Ending Balance	\$ 13,818.26
Insurance	
Beginning Balance	\$ 0.00
Receipts	0.00
Disbursements	(8,104.20)
Ending Balance	\$ (8,104.20)
Balance All Funds 12/31/22	\$ 5,714.06

• See **FINANCIAL REPORTS** page 5 •



## Updates from Our Churches



### Lower Doe Run, Ellington

We laid the body of a faithful servant of the Lord, Don Hoffmann, to rest on Friday, December 30, 2022 at the Ellington Memorial Cemetery. He and his wife, Thelma, have been missed so very much for the past few years while he was in the Baptist Home and she with her daughter in Ohio. We visited her recently in Lewis Center and took her to the Ark Encounter, then visited him recently in the Baptist Home in Arcadia Valley. We were happy to serve the family lunch and fellowship after the service. We extend our sympathy to the family.

The church held the Ladies Day of Prayer in December and enjoyed the visit of Valarie Fish with our regular group of ladies. We have learned so much from her last two Bible studies, "Get Real" and "Standing on the Promises."

We look forward to a blessed New Year and pray for more souls to be saved and the members to be faithful as we "boldly approach the throne of God" in earnest prayer.

We are always thankful for the visitors in services.

*Melvin Meade, Pastor*

*Carolyn Meade, Reporter*

### Ozark Heights, Potosi

Greetings to all our brothers and sisters as we approach the end of another year. We had several losses in 2022. We recently lost Bro. Bob Dement, a beloved deacon and pillar of our church. He and Sis. Mary have been unable to attend due to their

health but never faltered in their prayers and support for their church. Keep Sis. Mary Dement and family in your prayers. May God give peace and comfort in their loss.

We praise God as he continues to bless us with many visitors and new families throughout the year. We are so thankful for each of them. We are so thankful for our pastor, as he continues to bring strong, meat of the Word messages. The Bible studies he teaches have been great blessings. Sunday and Wednesday evening Bible studies are opening our hearts to the lost and eyes to the need of Godly saints to encourage in this world. Pray for our pastor as he continues to preach and teach God-sent messages to the church.

Bro. Butch, Bro. Larry, Bro. Lloyd and Bro. Bill have been working to complete opening a Sunday school room to make it larger, as well as adding a spacious and beautiful handicapped accessible restroom in our Sunday school area. We are thankful for those who have provided so much support and effort.

Our WMA ladies worked diligently in preparation for Christmas. With the forecast it seemed we might not even be able to get out of our driveway, much less get to church, but through faith they continued with preparations. The extreme cold, ice and snow made it a challenge just to go to the store to purchase the fruit items. It was with great faith the ladies were busy baking dozens of cookies and treats to be placed in the 19 fruit baskets for our shut-ins and

widows, as well as 66 treat bags filled with goodies for both the youth and adults that attended on Christmas day. The ladies were pleased to see all of the treat bags were gone at the end of the service. Praise God for rewarding their faith with opportunity.

Bro. Bill Gau, Sis. Sarah Eye, Geri Lawson and Sis. Erin Kingston worked with the youth and the choir to provide a beautiful Christmas program for the church on our Lord Jesus Christ's birthday. Even with the issues with the extreme cold and snow we had great attendance for our Christmas day worship.

The teens were excited as they prepared to attend Youth Alive, and that excitement never slowed as they continued throughout the event. They were almost as tired as their sponsors when they returned home. Thank God for our youth and especially for the sponsors who were willing to accompany them to the event. Our prayers are that God will raise up our youth to serve Him in a great way.

Our prayers for 2023: God will strengthen and bless each of our churches this coming year, He will draw the lost unto Him and we will be faithful in our service to our Lord as we go through the new year.

*Brian Kingston, Pastor*

*Gary Gilliam, Reporter*

### Kewanee, Kewanee

Greetings from Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church. Happy New Year! We hope that you all find His blessings as you begin this New Year.

Our teens traveled to the

Youth Alive Conference in St. Charles, Dec. 29-31. They had a lot of fun meeting up with friends, staying up late, jumping at Sky Zone, worshipping with Central Collective, learning from the book of Daniel, and participating in the scavenger hunt.

Sunday, January 8th, we will have a chili/soup lunch 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.

Revival will be held January 9-13 with Bro. Scotty Rayburn. Join us if you can. Be in prayer for revival.

The ladies will have their WMA meeting on January 17 at 6:30. The meeting will be at 1st Baptist Matthews.

Our ladies on the "Pound-in-a-Purse" committee will be planning this event soon! This fundraiser is a lot of fun and benefits Camp Garwood.

We hope you all have a great start to your new year! Please "like" our Facebook page, Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church, to keep up with future events.

*Dan Wisely, Pastor*

*Lisa Cox, Reporter*

### Bethel, Sikeston

Happy New Year to all! We have had a very busy and fruitful month.

Some of our members went to the nursing home to sing Christmas carols to the residents and staff on the 13th. It was such a blessing to see their faces light up and to hear them join in the singing with us. On the evening of the 18th our youth blessed us with a program called "The Narrative of the Christmas Tree." They all did an awesome job! Refreshments were served in the fellowship hall afterwards, and we had a good time of fellowship.

On the 19th a large group braved the cold to go sing Christmas carols to a few homes. It was very uplifting, and every home we went to seemed to enjoy listening and appreciated that we came by.

The whole month of December Bro. Billy has been teaching on the Christmas story. We never tire of hearing about the birth of Christ and why he came born of a virgin. On the evening of Christmas day, we had a candlelight service. It was awesome to see everyone holding up their candles while all the lights were off. Go light your candle this coming new year!

Bro. Matt and Sis. Keeley Bolen took some of our youth to the Youth Alive conference on the 29th. They reported having a great time!

We look forward to 2023 to see what plans God has for us! God bless you all and may you have a happy, healthy, and blessed new year!

*Billy Davis, Pastor*

*Joan Wood, Reporter*

### Zion, St. Louis

Zion sends New Year greetings to everyone and hope all had a blessed Christmas.

2022 was a year full of ups and downs for some of her members. Some members experienced sickness, surgeries, and death in their families. Bro. Perry Womble passed away back in May and then Sis. Tracy Goede lost her husband, Arthur, on November 28. The Lord is gracious and good to take care of His people. Sis. Jacqueline Baker has been unable to attend church for some time because of health issues. Please keep these in your prayers.

Our pastor's mother, Mrs. Phoebe Baker, has been going through some health issues and still needs your prayers. Bro. Baker has made several trips to Arkansas to help with the care of his mother. Sis. Phoebe will be having surgery on January 13, so please pray.

The ladies met last month at Cracker Barrel for a Christmas lunch. They also had a cookie exchange at their December WMA meeting.

Zion is looking forward to hosting the State Auxiliaries in March. Hope you are making plans to attend.

## ~ Upcoming Events ~

**Sanctity of Human Life Sunday;** Jan. 22

**EIM Mission Trip Deadline;** Jan. 27

**Trivia Night Camp Fundraiser;** Feb. 9;

First, Matthews; 6:00 p.m.

**Homecoming Week;** Central Baptist

College; Feb. 13-18

**World Missions Day;** Feb. 26

**MO WMA/ Brotherhood Annual**

**Meeting;** March 4; Zion, St. Louis

**Renewal Retreat;** March 24-25 (tentative dates); Camp Garwood

**MO GMA Sleepover and Annual**

**Meeting;** March 24-25; First, Matthews

**CBC Scholarship Gala;** March 28;

"Fearless Faith"; Speaker: Harry

Miller; Conway Expo Center; 6:00 p.m.

*Send event info to mmbpaper@gmail.com.*



Zion is thankful for our pastor and his family. Bro. Baker continues to preach and teach the Word and takes good care of his flock.

Pray for us at Zion and if you are ever nearby, please visit. Keeping all of you in our prayers and wishing all a prosperous New Year.

*Dennis Baker, Pastor  
Norma Womble, Reporter*

### **Oak Hill, Alton**

Hello to all from Oak Hill! We all enjoyed our Christmas time with our families and friends, remembering what Jesus did for each and every one and honoring Him. Some of us enjoyed our white Christmas time this year. It has been a while since we had a white Christmas.

I apologize for not writing and sharing the wonderful, amazing, and excellent news about Carstyn Casey. I know his parents and family probably dreaded and were hopeful at the same time for Carstyn's checkup on his cancer/tumor scans to see if it had grown in size. PRAISE THE LORD, and THANK THE LORD the scan showed nothing. Carstyn is in remission! He just recently celebrated his 6th birthday. Another good and wonderful event in a couple of weeks is that Carstyn's little sister Emalyn turns 4 years old the 25th of January.

We hope and pray that everyone is experiencing a great and blessed start of 2023. 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*

### **Landmark, DeSoto**

Not much went on at Landmark in December. We did change our business meeting to the third Sunday evening of each month. Our pastor has not been able to move onto the field yet, so he is not able to attend our usual Wednesday night services.

We had our Christmas program on Sunday morning, the 18th. Then candy and

fruit bags were handed out to each one there. We decided it would be best to cancel services on Christmas day.

We've had several in the hospital. Bro. Earl Denby has had surgery, Sister Glenda Perry is awaiting surgery, and Bro. Joe Couch is out of the hospital and I think is still in rehab. Our pastor has had a serious ear infection in both ears. We've been praying for these to completely heal.

We are anxiously awaiting what comes in 2023 and pray that we won't have as much sickness. Our congregation is made up mainly of older people, so we can expect illnesses from time to time.

Until next month or the Lord's return.

*David Crites, Pastor  
Sharon Page, Reporter*

### **First Baptist, Potosi**

First Baptist Church of Potosi wishes everyone a blessed and happy new year.

December began with our beautiful Taste of Christmas ladies' dinner with a presentation on JOY by Jaelyn Rowe. The dinner was by invitation only; however, the presentation and dessert afterward were open to anyone.

The WE (Widows Encouragement) Luncheon was held at the Blackbird Cafe. All women were invited, but the widows enjoyed a free lunch.

FBCKids Christmas Choir presented "The Biggest, Brightest, and Best Christmas Ever!" on December 18. The children sounded great on their speaking parts and on the music. Christmas morning we had only one service, a candlelight service.

We have had a lot of sickness this month. My family was sick over Christmas with strep and flu and have not celebrated family Christmas yet.

We had many youth and sponsors attend the Alive Student Conference

The Overflow had trouble keeping up with the needs of the community until some very special people donated either by cash or by carry. God always provides, and I have seen God work miracles to help people in need when

they leave the Overflow. We have wonderful volunteers who spend a lot of time making sure things run smoothly.

Debbie Ainley will resume her Bible study in January. I hope many plan to attend.

Prayers are needed for our missionaries. They face many challenges that we cannot imagine or that we take for granted. God is using our missionaries to win the lost to Christ. What a blessing! We need to be missionaries wherever we are.

Please pray for us as we pray for you

*Jim Ainley, Pastor  
Deborah Rahaut, Reporter*

### **Ohlman, Bunker**

Our Sunday morning attendance has been great, even on Christmas Day and New Year Day.

November 18th our WMA hosted a bake sale table at the Reynolds County Sheltered Workshop. The proceeds went to a fund-raiser for one of the teachers at Bunker School who is undergoing cancer treatments.

November 20th we were blessed to have Bro. Francois and Sis. Marguerite along with Bro. and Sis. Lee Miller with us. He spoke about their work and the need in Haiti.

Our Wednesday night youth ministry had their Christmas program on December 15th. The kids did great, considering that they had only one practice session prior to that evening. When Bunker School District is closed, we do not have the Wednesday night classes either. The week of the 7th, school was closed due to so many being sick.

We have a new youth program under the direction of Bro. Terry Sharpe – S.A.L.T. (Spreading Abundant Life to Teens). The program is for teens only and meets on the first Monday of the month. While Bro. Terry is the facilitator, meetings are organized and planned by the teens.

Our WMA purchased fruit and made baskets for shut-ins of the church and community. They were distributed along with the community senior

meals deliveries that Ohlman participates in.

Our WMA also sponsored the Reynolds County Sheltered Workshop employee of the month award. Juanita May represented us in the presentation.

We are also happy that several of our youth, along with some of their friends, attended the BMA of MO Youth Alive Conference. We thank the adults who were there as chaperones. We especially thank the parents for permitting them to attend and Ohlman for providing the funds for them to attend.

We are looking forward to a great year in 2023.

*Terry Sharpe, Pastor  
Janet Widger, Reporter*

### **Lindsay Lane, Florissant**

Greetings from Lindsay Lane. Blessings to all in the new year. We pray that everyone had a blessed Christmas as we celebrated the birth of our Savior. It seems as though we are in for some "old man winter." We pray everyone stays safe and warm.

December was a tough start for our church family. Rachael Leal had some complications with reactions to her bone marrow transplant, but thank God she overcame those and is now at home recovering. Our sweet Dunigan family tragically lost their

oldest daughter. Lindsay Lane ministered to the family, and Bro. Brian shared the gospel with all that attended her service, with the church feeding over a hundred folks.

On the 18th we had lunch after services and sang carols with Bro. Lance Hellwig at the piano. It was a great time of fellowship. What a fun time!

The cold weather did not keep our folks away except for myself! I hibernated for about a week!

So thankful for all of God's many blessings! As we enter into a new year let us all be ready for our Lord's return!

Bro. Rex Gibson is currently in the hospital with health issues. He is in need of prayer for healing. Bro. Brian tested positive for Covid; thank God by getting meds quickly he is recovering at home. Bro. Mike McKenzie is filling the pulpit until Bro. Brian is able to be back with us.

Our sympathy goes out to the Hoffmann family in the recent passing of Bro. Don Hoffmann. We know he is enjoying all the blessings of heaven. We grieve but for our own selfish reasons.

Our church van was recently stolen off the parking lot. Pray for those guilty!

'Til we meet again.

*Brian Meade, Pastor  
Kathy Chapman, Reporter*

*Unto Him be glory in the church  
forever and ever. Amen.*

### **• FINANCIAL REPORTS from page 3 •**

#### **BMA OF MISSOURI MINUTE FUND 4th Quarter 2022**

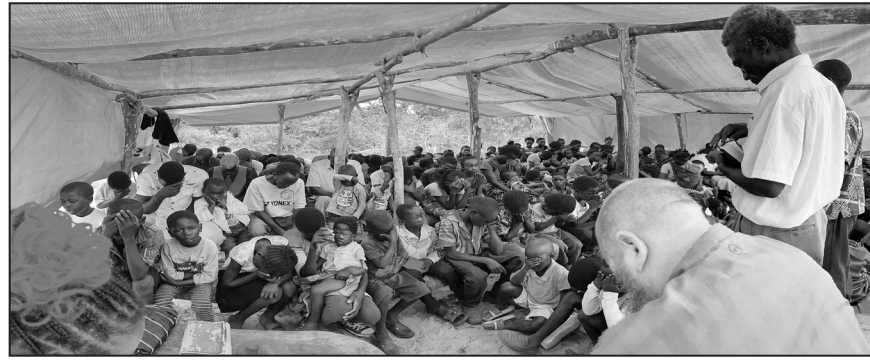
Beginning Balance 10/1/22	\$ 428.15
Income	2,610.00
Expenses	(15.00)
Ending Balance 12/31/22	\$ 3,023.15

*Clerk's Note: Offerings included with the Annual Church Letters were up \$145 (6%) from last year. I appreciate all who gave, and especially those who reached a little deeper in their coffers this year. However, this still may not be enough to cover this year's expenses and may require clerk hire to be reduced in order to keep expenses within income levels.*

# Our First Christmas in Zambia

Mickeal and Sharon Quillman

This Christmas, we are learning about the local traditions in Zambia and sharing some of our favorites with new friends. Our Christmas celebration started on Thursday in Chibinga (pronounced chee-bean-ga) village. We started visiting this village about two months ago. Chibinga is about a 2.5 hour drive deep into the bush. We started with Bible studies every Thursday and the response has been great. We have been raising money to purchase Bibles in the two local languages in Chibinga – Tonga and Lozi – and have been able to purchase about 50 so far. We want the people of Chibinga to be able to study the Word for themselves and not just take a missionary’s word for it (2 Timothy 2:15). One of the phrases I have used for many years, “If I can talk you into something, someone else can talk you out of it” (Philippians 2:12).



This past Thursday we planned to eat a Christmas meal with the village and the members of the Bible study. On a typical Thursday we will have about 50 adults and close to 50 children. In preparing for the meal, we made plans for about 120 children and 100 adults. When we arrived at the village, we could see that it was buzzing with people. We begin Bible study at 2:00 pm every Thursday. We were getting to the village quite a bit early this day so we could begin cooking food for 300 people to eat after Bible study. The meal would consist of Nshima (pronounced “She-ma” and is a ground corn based thick porridge), rape (green leafy vegetable similar to kale), cabbage salad, kapenta (a small, dried fish like a sardine), chicken, rice, beans, and popcorn. As we began unloading the truck, we could tell there were a lot more people than usual, especially this early as Zambians are well known for being late. We like to call it Zambian time.

As the day progressed, more and more people kept showing up. We recently built a wood structure with a blue tarp as a roof for us to meet under since the rainy season has now started. We built the structure to seat about 125 people to make room as our Bible study continues to grow. The week before, I challenged them to begin inviting their friends and family to attend the Bible study with the encouragement, everyone can bring at least one person. The members of the Bible study took this challenge to heart! By the time 2:00 pm came around, we had over 300 children and around 250 adults. My mind went immediately to the story of Jesus and the loaves and fishes. Sharon and I along with a few of the other leaders in our group met to pray for God to do something miraculous.

Not just to help us have enough food to eat, but for those who had never heard the saving message of Jesus Christ.

We kicked off our Bible study with several songs and the children had prepared three songs to sing as a special. Then I had the privilege of sharing the story of Christmas. We started in the book of Genesis and explained the reason why we even need a savior to be born. As we walked through the story of man’s disobedience to God’s plan and the penalty of that disobedience, the people were intently listening. The whole area was packed with people. 550-600 people crowded in and all around our new structure that was built to hold 125. At the end of the message, I gave a response time for people to make a choice to put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ for the first time. We spent the next two hours praying with and counseling people for salvation.

I know that many people came to receive the free meal they heard we were providing, but they received something more, the gift of eternal life! In the coming weeks, we will have a better count of how many received salvation as we follow up and continue to pour into their lives. Another phrase I like to say is “Salvation is free to receive, instant, and eternal, but the relationship with Jesus Christ takes a lifetime.” Please continue to pray for Chibinga as many are giving their lives to Christ, as we disciple them, and for those who have not yet been saved. For those still wondering about the meal... we began cooking at around 10:00 am and were still cooking at 8:00 pm, but everyone who was there got to eat a meal, and we got to continue the conversation while they were waiting.

We pray you had a wonderful Christmas with church, family, and friends.

## Prayer Requests:

- Headman of Chibinga village as he is being discipled as a new believer
- Discipleship of all the new believers
- Salvation of all unbelievers in Chibinga
- The Gospel to continue into the surrounding villages
- Our language acquisition classes

## Needs:

- Bibles in Tonga and Lozi language
- Shoes for the children in Chibinga
- Tires and a new gearbox for our 4x4

## • ALIVE from page 1 •

to every corner of the world. We will all give an account of our actions and decisions; therefore, we must humble ourselves before God. We are to have a humble rebellion and be an advocate for the ungodly. God is our hero! Let us renew our willingness to come before God often. He is our personal rescuer.

Thank you to the committee for taking the time to plan the details of the Alive Student Conference. We pray our students and leaders left renewed and are ready to serve in their churches.

*Bro. Brad Banderman recognized by the Alive Committee for his years of service to the Alive Conference*



*1st Baptist, Potosi – Scavenger Hunt Winners*

But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.



# Being the Hands and Heart of Jesus

Juanita May

Last night, while relaxing for the evening, I got a phone call from an over-the-road truck driver. He was calling from Texas, on his way home from a work trip. He asked about all the family, and we chit-chatted about the latest happenings in our lives. Who was this trucker, and why was he calling me? A relative? A friend? No, he had been a foster child who came to live with my mom, Lorene Lanham, over 40 years ago. He was about 8 years old then and lived there until he graduated from high school.

Why did he have to live in a foster home? Because he was one of the thousands of children each year who for some reason are unable to stay with their biological family. There are so many children that are neglected, abused, and not cared for in the way a child needs to be cared for. Of course, there are cases when such accusations are not true, but so many of them are very real. We need more loving, caring foster homes. On a personal note, I have a granddaughter and her husband who have done just that, opening their hearts and home as foster parents. And they have had the opportunity to adopt one of those dear children – the child who became my first great grandchild.

In the early 1970s my mom became a foster parent. In the following 30 years she provided love and care for over 80 kids. Some stayed for a few days, others for a few weeks or a few months, and others even for several years. We lost track of most of them and never knew exactly what happened to them or where they ended up. But there are more than a few like my truck-driving “brother” who have stayed connected through the years and are like family.

Were all these kids worth caring for? ...worth saving? ...worth loving? Absolutely!! My sweet mom did an amazing job of being the hands of Jesus and having a heart for “at need” children. Was every situation easy and did every case have a happy ending? Absolutely not! But just like everything in life, we should give it our best effort and leave the results to God.

I did not follow in my mom’s footprints and become a foster parent. I do feel that I have inherited her “hands and heart” ministry of love and care for others, though. One of the most rewarding things (other than raising my own

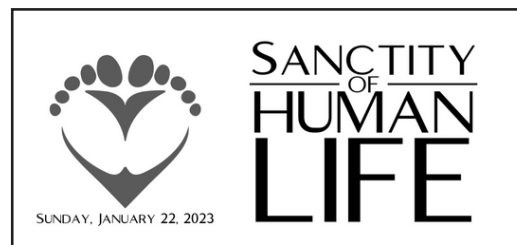
children) that God has given me is being involved in a local Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) for the past 18 years. Not only are PRCs concerned with preventing abortion and helping new mothers with resources, but they also help these moms and dads to be the parents they should be, which helps to keep their kids from ending up in the foster care system. And in the past few years our local PRC has even begun giving parenting classes to clients as mandated by the courts and family services.

I believe God calls upon each of us to do our part to “choose life.” Deuteronomy 30:19 says, “I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live”.

The needs and opportunities are great in the “Sanctity of Life” cause, and there is a part that you can do. The ways of helping are virtually endless – become a foster parent, adopt a child, get involved in your local PRC. I started volunteering by taking donated baby clothes home to wash and organize them. Now I am a volunteer counselor giving parenting classes. Other ways to help include financial donations, cleaning, organizing, mowing grass, maintaining buildings, helping with events, stuffing envelopes, babysitting, providing medical help (for medical professionals), accounting, receptionist, administration, board members, counseling, and more! You can look for a local PRC at [allianceforlifemissouri.com](http://allianceforlifemissouri.com).

Of course there are other ways to help other than at a pregnancy center. First and foremost, don’t forget to vote pro-life! There are other pro-life organizations that could use your talents – contact them and offer to help. It doesn’t have to be a lot of time; just a few hours a week or month can make a big difference.

Do you claim to be pro-life? Don’t just talk the talk – walk the walk. Choose life. Be the hands and heart of Jesus.



*The Central Collective leading in worship*



*Small group prayer time*



*Anxious to get started*

## Youth Alive through My Camera Lens

Article and photos by Molly Kingston

This year at the Youth Alive Conference, I had the privilege of capturing, via my camera lens, God at work. The pictures show the Spirit’s moving during the praise services, led by The Central Collective. They witness God speaking through Pastor Brad Banderman during his messages from the book of Daniel. I observed old and new friendships strengthened and forged between the youth through icebreakers and fellowship. Watched a myriad of diverse people from different churches join together to lift and worship the name of Christ Jesus. Through the camera lens, I was able to share the honor given to Pastor Brad Banderman for his many years in service to the Youth Alive Conference. I captured the fun we had during the icebreaker games. How the reigning champion of Rock, Paper, Scissors defended her title. Recorded an epic sing-off of the song “Jesus Loves Me” between the King of Rock and the King of Pop. Learned how many youth and sponsors would rather go to a sports event or read a book at home. Caught the carefree air of the youth participating in “Church Clap.” Was astounded by the competitiveness yet good sportsmanship displayed in the scavenger hunt.

This year while looking through the camera lens, I was able to fully appreciate all the work every committee member, pastor, youth pastor, sponsor, worship leader, praise team member, hotel employee, and church member put into the organizing and management of the conference. I thoroughly enjoyed all the happenings at Youth Alive Conference 2022 and look forward to being able to capture God’s hand in this ministry again in 2023.



*Fun for everyone at Sky Zone*







## Central Baptist College Homecoming Schedule

February 13-18, 2023

For more information go to [cbc.edu/homecoming](http://cbc.edu/homecoming)  
or contact Mallory Guyton at [mguyton@cbc.edu](mailto:mguyton@cbc.edu) or 501.205.8875.

Wednesday	11:00 a.m.	Chili Cook-off	Mabee Student Services Dining Hall
	1:00 p.m.	Pep Rally	Burgess Auditorium
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Talent Contest	Burgess Auditorium
Friday	5:30 p.m.	Fun & Games	College Lawn
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Honor Ms. Joyce Garrison	Burgess Auditorium
	11:30 a.m.	Alumni Luncheon	Mabee Student Services Dining Hall
	1:00 p.m.	Women's/Men's Basketball	A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse



We are excited to announce 2023 World Missions Day on February 26.

**CO-MISSIONED • A shared mission • A shared responsibility**  
**TOGETHER LET'S REACH THE NATIONS!**

God's mission to make disciples in every nation, tribe, and tongue has united BMA churches for over 70 years. We believe this mission was given to local churches and that those local churches are both the source and goal of God's mission.

Together we partner to send missionaries that make disciples and train leaders to plant churches among their own people. Your ongoing support of BMA Global Missions allows us to partner with over 500 missionaries in 60 countries around the world.

Last year you collectively gave \$500,000. The goal for 2023 is \$600,000! I encourage you to challenge your congregations to prayerfully give big and give sacrificially.

Register to participate in World Missions Day and find promotional resources at [bmamissions.org/worldmissionsday](http://bmamissions.org/worldmissionsday). In addition to a link for ordering World Missions Day T-shirts, you'll find downloadable prayer cards and graphics.

If you'd like someone to speak at your church during World Missions Day season, contact Sidney Vines at [sidney@bmaam.com](mailto:sidney@bmaam.com).

### • WINTERS from page 1 •

Who hasn't felt such a winter chill along life's journey? For some, that winter feeling may be a mood influenced by the darker and colder days of the actual winter. Or our winters may be stirred by a birthday or other special day we connect with a loved one who has passed. It may be the anniversary of the date that a divorce was final, or a child was taken from us.

Here are a few insights that may help us weather those inner winters that come our way from time to time:

1. Winter periods are normal. God told Noah that the winter season is a normal part of the cycle of seasons. The occasional winter in our spiritual journey is normal, too. It is not necessarily a sign that we have failed God or that He has forsaken us. Instead, take it as a call to grab the Good Book and warm up at the hearth of God's love.

2. Anticipate them. No one is surprised that after autumn colors we feel the chilly breath of winter, for we know that the one leads to the other. And if we're watchful we can often notice dates or seasons or other ways to anticipate re-occurring winter periods of the soul.

3. If we can anticipate it, we can prepare for it. Don't let awareness of a coming winter be wasted on dread and anxiousness, but use it as the chance to make preparations. Paul knew that the oncoming winter would require a coat, and so he looked for someone able to provide one. And he sought out beneficial companionship as he asked Timothy to come shortly. As you approach your wintery periods, consider what will help you to face and survive this season.

4. Winters are temporary. Each year autumn gives way to winter, then in due time winter in turn gives way to the refreshing spring. Remember that the personal winter you go through will run its course and one day be over, too. To be the victor instead of the victim all you must do is be determined to last longer than the gloom.

Do the darkening days and cold temps of the winter months bring a chilly touch to your heart as well as to your skin? Whatever the winter that nips at your heart might be, realize that such periods are normal. Be proactive in anticipating the struggles and addressing the needs that come with it. And in due time you, too, will be able to joyfully echo the words from the Song of Solomon, "Behold, the winter is past – the time of singing has come."

## 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 pulpit supply. Contact him at 573-521-7826 or [calebhouston@yahoo.com](mailto:calebhouston@yahoo.com). (0123)

**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](mailto:roman-sandals@yahoo.com). (1122)

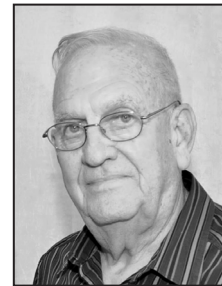
**Immanuel Baptist Church, Nashville, Arkansas**, is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resume to: Immanuel Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee, PO Box 212, Nashville, AR 71852 (1122)

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@gmail.com](mailto:mmbpaper@gmail.com).

## Faithful Servant Called Home

Donald Rae Hoffmann was born May 23, 1933, in Neelyville, Missouri, to the late Edwin George and Mary Irene Hoffmann. He was called to his heavenly home December 28, 2022.

Don was united in marriage to the late Betty Mae Taylor on January 31, 1953. They were blessed with five children. Betty preceded Don in death on March 10, 1998. Don later married Thelma Brewster of Texas, on November 2, 2000.



Don was a member of Lower Doe Run Missionary Baptist Church, Ellington, and was a veteran of the United States Air Force. He enjoyed listening to Southern Gospel music, spreading God's Word to everyone he met, gardening, fishing, hunting, and long walks in the woods. He felt he was closest to God while enjoying nature.

Don faithfully served for many years as pastor in MO, IL, MI, and TX, until declining health interfered with his duties. He also served as Associational Officer, Editor of the *Missouri Missionary Baptist* paper, and Camp Leader – touching many lives for the glory of God along the way!

Don is survived by his wife, Thelma Hoffmann (Lewis Center, OH); one son, Dan (Kathy) Hoffmann (Ellington, MO); three daughters: Debbie (Larry) Lewis (Union, MO), Jeannete (Jeff Lee) Davis (Dittmer, MO), and Joyce (Perry) Lewis (Ellington, MO); one brother, James (Mary) Hoffmann (Wentzville, MO); two sisters, Minnie Gilliam (Tyler, TX), and Mary (Lewis) Shults (Pea Ridge, AR); 10 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

Don is preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Betty Mae; a daughter, Janet Kay; two granddaughters, Andrea Joy and Jana Kay; a great-grandchild, Joshua Perry; and a sister, Ola Smith.

Don was buried in Ellington Memorial Cemetery, with services officiated by Bro. Melvin Meade assisted by Bro. Jim Hoffmann (Don's brother). Don will be deeply missed by family, friends, and all who ever had the joy of meeting him!

## Deaths

**Cynthia Ann Smith Jones** passed away December 11. She was the wife of Bro. Corbey Jones, pastor of Good Hope Baptist Church, Stringer, Mississippi. Cindy was born in 1962 in Neelyville, Missouri.