

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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

Volume LXXXV

St. Louis, MO • February 14, 2023

Issue No. 2

BMA of Missouri Student Pastor Elected to State House of Representatives

On January 4th Brad Banderman was inaugurated into the 102nd General Assembly of the Missouri House of Representatives. Brad represents the newly formed 119th Representative District, which includes his native greater Franklin County area.

Brad is the Student Pastor of Bethel Baptist Church of Lonedell, where he has served for 22 years. He has been an integral part of the BMA of Missouri’s ALIVE conference since its inception and has served as speaker for Camp Garwood. Ben Kingston, Senior Pastor at Bethel commented, “Brad worked hard in the campaign and God blessed him with this opportunity. He will continue to work hard each day, and I believe he’s going to be a great representative.”

Brad, the son of Keith and Joy Ragsdale, is a graduate of Union High School (1995) and Missouri Baptist University, St. Louis.

Married 24 years, Brad and his wife Shannon have two sons, Clay and Kyle. The couple are very involved in the local schools, with Shannon employed as a Lonedell principal, and Brad a substitute teacher, bus driver and “The Voice of the Bulldogs” at various sporting events.

We at *The Missouri Missionary Baptist* would like to congratulate Brad on his election, and wish him Godspeed in his effort to bring God-honoring, Biblical influence into our state capitol and into the laws governing our fellow citizens of the state of Missouri.



Come to Conway!

Clif Johnson, BMAA President

I am overjoyed to invite all of our BMA Churches to Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, Arkansas, for the 74th Annual BMA National Conference on April 25-27 (Tuesday through Thursday). We are an association of churches who have banded together to fulfill our Lord’s Great Commission. We are churches who GO to the WORLD, with THE WORD, and we GO TOGETHER.

With that in mind, on Tuesday night for our opening session, we will be thinking along the theme of *Go to the Word*, and the need to be a strong doctrinal people. On Wednesday afternoon, Bro. David McMurray, pastor of Blackwood Baptist Church in New Jersey, will be preaching on the theme of *Go to the World* – our commission as churches. That evening will be a special night where Bro. Buddy Johnson will address our churches on the theme of *Go Together*, emphasizing how we fulfill the commission as an association. These three biblical commands will guide our worship services throughout the week, along with breakout sessions addressing real-world problems and the Bible’s guidance and answers to them, such as mental health in our membership, addressing sexual abuse within the church, and leadership in the church.

One feature that is certain to set this year’s meeting apart will be our Missionary Dinner on the Grounds to be held on Wednesday night at the Conway Expo Center. All are invited to attend this landmark evening where you will be able to meet each of our missionaries. You can register for this dinner at <https://bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting>. (All dinner reservations must be made by April 1.)

Additionally, we will be hosting a new pastor’s orientation, as well as a call to action meeting for all of our state and local associational officers to be held on Wednesday morning at Central Baptist College.

This association of churches is YOUR association. So let us gather together with great joy as we celebrate all that God has done through her, and let us also come prepared to strengthen our bonds even more as we GO!

BMAA Hotel Information

A limited number of hotel rooms are reserved at special rates that will expire on March 25, 2023. Find booking links at bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting/ or call the hotels listed below and ask for the special rate for group *BMA National Meeting*:

Holiday Inn Express (\$94).....	501-205-1315
Hampton Inn by Hilton (\$104).....	501-327-0200
Courtyard Marriott (\$114).....	501-358-3300
Hilton Garden Inn (\$119).....	501-329-1444
Home2 Suites by Hilton (\$124).....	501-504-2602

“Dinner on The Ground” at BMA National Meeting

The BMA National Meeting, scheduled for April 25-27 in Conway, Arkansas, will feature a night of fellowship, food, inspiration and worship at the first ever BMA “Dinner on The Ground.” The event will be Wednesday night, April 26, at the Conway Expo Center. According to Dr. John David Smith, Executive Director of BMA Global Missions, this promises to be the highlight of the 2023 National Meeting. “For the first time in many years all our American-based missionaries will be home from around the world. We want all of our BMA family to join us in honoring them and encouraging them that night. It’s going to be a special time.”

The event will take place around an all-you-can-eat catfish/chicken dinner. The cost for the meal is \$25/person. To ensure the appropriate amount of food is ordered, reservations and payment must be made before April 1, 2023 at bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting/. Payment will not be accepted at the door.

The night will also feature the presentation of the Gerald Kellar Award presented annually by the BMA Seminary, a special message by veteran BMA Missionary, Buddy Johnson, and a wonderful night of music that will include the Central Baptist College Choir.

*By this all people will know that
you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.*

The BMA National Meeting will look different this year with much more of a “conference” atmosphere. BMA President, Clif Johnson, says he is expecting a great response from BMA churches across the country, adding, “The format for the meeting is completely new this year. There will be plenty of time for us to take care of the appropriate business at hand. But more importantly we will be worshipping our God and hearing from wonderful speakers. In addition, all of our American missionaries from around the world will be home! It’s going to be a great couple of days!”

State Missions

Dear BMAMO Churches,

As you know, we are in a series of articles that have been borne out of our last Missions Symposium's challenge to plant a tomato plant that was supplied at the meeting. But not just that, but to plant it with the plan of saving the seed and reproducing another tomato plant this summer with the specific goal of asking God to teach you lessons of discipleship and disciple-making.

These articles are the result and lessons that I am striving to apply from my own experience in carrying out this challenge. (Tongue planted firmly in cheek: I got in trouble by our beloved editor last month for being too loquacious, so I will get to the point this month.)

The lesson this month is that this process of tomato planting with the direct goal of saving seed and replanting next year, and disciple-making with the direct goal of producing another disciple maker IS A DAILY EFFORT!

That's a summary of the importance of the task at hand. There may literally be days that you do not need or have to do something, but the more likely scenario is that there can or will be something to do every day. In the tomato world, the list is endless: watering, weeding, cultivating, suckers to be snipped, staking the tomato, fertilizing, pest control, mulching, tying up new growth, picking the fruit... you get the picture. Very honestly there is a biblical and practical parallel to each of those efforts in the tomato world. So instead of wading through the obvious, let's hit the highlights of how to make discipleship an every day effort.

1. Make the commitment to meet the daily needs of those God has put in your trust! Craft a prayer to this effect and say it as a solemn desire of your heart to God.
2. Expose yourself to the resources that will equip you to daily help your disciples.
3. Make yourself accountable to them.

Now as you can tell, these are the bones of this outline – it's up to you to put the meat on them. Our very association depends upon our willingness to carry out the Great Commission. May the Lord aid and bless you in this effort.

Ben Kingston



MISIÓN BELÉN (Bethlehem Mission)

Juan Fernandez
pastorjuanfernandez@gmail.com • 618-581-8056

We are so blessed to bring this ministry update from Misión Belen. Please allow me to share the following reasons to praise the Lord.

Daily Prayer Network. We have added a new time for praying and reading God's Word each day in Spanish, now at 7:00 p.m. We are praying in different coffee places around the city – Denny's, IHOP, local coffee shops, etc. When we arrive, we share with the waiters/waitresses our plan to pray in a few minutes. There are always good prayer requests, and we are expanding the gospel movement. We are meeting people where they usually hang out with friends and that's been such a blessing that more people are exposed to our message. To have your prayer requests included in our daily prayer network, you can call or text us at 314-415-0248. #prayernetworkmo #redeoracionmissouri

We are also inviting people to come and pray with us at Lindsay Lane Church in Florissant on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. We are excited to have Pastor Brian Meade, church members and church leadership supporting in prayer as we invite our Hispanic friends in the area to come and join or at least send prayer requests to us for this special time in the middle of the week. Also, a time of Bible reading and short meditation is presented via Facebook Live. It is such a blessing to share the Gospel and invite people to join us to worship in person.

Sunday 10:45 a.m. We have celebrated five worship services so far this new year. Every week we prepare and present our program, songs, message, and discipleship in two languages: Spanish and Portuguese. The Lord has been moving these families to keep attending regardless of their job schedules. They have made a commitment to attend and participate actively during the service and outside of Sunday's schedule to utilize their gifts and talents to love and serve our community. The last Saturday of January we had brother Adan (a hair stylist) to offer haircuts to our younger families with children 4 to 12 years old. It is such a blessing to communicate the purpose of our lives being presented as living sacrifices.

Special Guests. We had the privilege of a visit from Brother Larry and Shelby Barker on February 5. It was such a blessing and encouragement to have them join us to worship and to share their lives and words of wisdom to our families that attended. Brother Larry shared the importance of listening to God's voice and the purpose of the church to grow more than we can imagine based on Ephesians 3:19-20. We had homemade ceviche, tamales and Brazilian snacks afterwards. Thank you, Jesus!

Discipleship Process. We are training our people to be prayer-guided Christians, rooted in the Word of God and with compassion to people – starting at home. We believe that the man of the house can be trained and equipped to lead his wife and kids. We continue having home

FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS January 2023

<u>Checking Account:</u>	
Balance Dec. 31, 2022	\$ 24,211.44
<u>Income:</u>	
Missions	\$ 4,209.73
Total Income	\$ 4,209.73
Total Available	\$ 28,421.17
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Director, salary	\$ 450.00
Secretary, salary	200.00
Juan Fernandez, support	2,333.33
Director, meetings	50.78
Website fees	1,365.04
Office expenses	63.00
Total Expenses	\$ (4,462.15)
Balance Jan. 31, 2023	\$ 23,959.02
<u>BMAMS Revolving Loan Investment:</u>	
Balance Dec. 31, 2022	\$ 111,783.96
Investment from sale of Landmark, Carthage, IL	109,000.00
Interest	766.58
Balance Jan. 31, 2023	\$ 221,550.54
Total in All Accounts Jan. 31, 2023	\$ 245,509.56

Renewal Retreat

Date: March 24–25, 2023 (6 p.m. Friday – noon Saturday)
Location: Camp Garwood
A free event for men 18 and up

As the Renewal Retreat has changed through the past eight years, its purpose has evolved with it. Its current intent is to build upon the renewal process seen in the early years and get to the work of the gospel and ministry in our local churches.

This year, three sessions are planned which will focus on mentoring men.

- “Men Mentoring Men” – Bro. Josh Wright
- “Fathers Mentoring Sons” – Bro. Ben Kingston
- “Pastors Mentoring Laymen” – Bro. Brian Kingston

Bring your Bible, clothes, bedding, and personal items needed for two days with an overnight stay. If you have any questions or want to RSVP, call or text 636-629-2526, or email bethelbaptistchurch@live.com.

Ben Kingston

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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Bible studies in different areas of the city. We have a process in which the family gets the privilege to hear the gospel and respond to the message. We pray that each family completes 10 Bible stories of hope and then we move on to the second part of the discipleship process.

• See *MISIÓN BELÉN* page 3 •

WMA

State WMA Meeting

Ladies, our Missouri State WMA Meeting will be at Zion Baptist Church in St. Louis, at 10:00 a.m., March 4, 2023. We look forward to seeing everyone!

Our theme is "Growing in Godliness." II Peter 1:5-7 is our theme verse.

We are very excited to announce that our speakers will be Sis. Dottie Steelman and Sis. Juanita May. Please be praying for these precious ladies as they prepare for the meeting.

Kari Hartlein

Reminder: WMA Luncheon Honoring Ministers' Wives and Widows

The WMA of BMAA invites the wives and widows of ministers to be our honored guests at a luncheon on Wednesday during the National Meeting. The luncheon is open to all ladies and will be held on the campus of Central Baptist College at a cost of \$15 per person. However, as our guests, the ministers' wives and widows will attend for free.

All ladies wishing to participate should register by sending in your name and phone number. Please indicate with each name if that person is a wife/widow of a minister.

Registration deadline is April 12. Registration may be sent in any form below. Payment (payable to WMA of BMAA) should be mailed. A return confirmation will be sent once your registration is processed.

Email: jawidger@hughes.net • Text: 314-566-7794
Mail: WMA of BMAA • PO Box 23 • Salem, MO 65560

National WMA Project – Daniel Springs Camp

This year's National WMA project is raising funds for some pressing significant needs at Daniel Springs Camp in Gary, TX. The camp needs new electric generators plus grounds and swimming pool improvements.

Daniel Springs is used throughout the year for annual camps and for various church groups to meet. Many Missouri children have attended the National GMA or Galilean camps there. It is also available to house people evacuated during hurricane season. So having the facilities in good working order is a ministry that impacts a lot of people.

We in Missouri are blessed with wonderful camp facilities. Many of our folks consider Camp Garwood as a significant mission point where both church and unchurched kids hear the gospel. Daniel Springs Camp is not in competition with Garwood, and the National WMA is not asking that any of Camp Garwood support be redirected to this project. But for those able to, giving even a few dollars will help make needed improvements so those attending Daniel Springs can enjoy the camp experience, too.

Offerings for the National WMA project should be sent to:

National WMA • % Janet Widger • PO Box 23 • Salem, MO 65560

Sometimes I've been known to press a fork into the bottom of a pie plate to get the last little goodies of a chocolate pie. Consider giving just those little bits for the benefit of Daniel Springs. If you can pass along a whole pie, go for it. But I do believe that even the smallest offering can help a lot.

Connie Reifsteck, Project Promotion Committee

Ordination Service

Bro. Brenden Sanders was ordained into the Gospel Ministry at Friendship Baptist Church, St. Clair, MO on Sunday, January 15, 2023. Approximately 16 ordained pastors and deacons comprised the ordination council. Leading in the ordination were: Moderator – Michael Hearst, Clerk – Josh Wright, Introduction of the Candidate – Benjamin Kingston, Examination of the Candidate – Ben Kingston, Message and Charge – Johnny Dover, Ordination Prayer – Nolan Sanders, Presentation of the Bible – Phil Sanders.

Bro. Brenden is the Pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church, Bourbon, MO.



Brotherhood

Men, Mark Your Calendars

- ☑ Men's Retreat – May 5-6, at Camp Garwood. Theme: Be God's Men. Speaker: Jerry Adams. Activities include crawfish boil and fish fry; fellowship around the campfire; cornhole tournament, skeet shooting, and axe throwing.

• MISIÓN BELÉN from page 2 •

We call the second step the history of God's provision for salvation. This is a series of 20 histories in the Old Testament and 20 in the New Testament. We are currently doing these Bible studies also in both languages, Spanish and Portuguese. Praise the LORD!

Prayer Requests

- For God's work in our contacts, the calling for each one to be baptized and continue growing in the grace and knowledge of God's Word and work.
- For our February outreach on the last Saturday of the month, that the families who participate will connect with God's Word and become faithful laborers for the kingdom.
- For a new place to hold our daily outreach, Bible and tract distribution, translation of documents, class to learn English, the haircuts and continue reaching out to the families in the area where most Hispanic families hang out.
- For our new house in the St. Louis area. We are praying for God's provision for a house that we can utilize for reaching out in the community and be able to celebrate Bible study outreach and training for our new contacts.
- For each public occasion that highlights the importance of having a Spanish-speaking ministry, such as baby dedication, wedding, renewing vows, rededication to Christ, etc.

• Contact Information •

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Camp Garwood

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Updates from Our Churches



Bates Creek, Potosi

Hello from Bates Creek! Isn't it a neat thing to watch God at work?

Recently our church started to be blessed with visitors each week. Then God started sending us new members! First, we were blessed with a young couple joining that has a desire to work with our youth!! Wow! Thank you, Lord! We had a great group of kids and sponsors attend Youth Alive. Thank you to our sponsors and to the Youth Alive committee for all of their hard work. It was another fantastic teen conference.

We have been praying for the dad of a family that comes to our church. He is a great man, and God answered our prayers in a great way. He came forward to join one Sunday. It was such a blessing to our church.

Our youth group asked for a way to make their classroom "teen" friendly. The church approved it, and the teens and youth leaders worked hard on painting it, getting new furniture, etc. The teen room looks great, and it is full of teens each week. It is a great thing to see!

We had one of our teens come forward to join and be baptized. He is a great young man, and we are glad to have him. We also had a family of four come forward to join and be baptized. Wow! Thank you, Lord for sending so many blessings!

Our WMA has been strong at our church for a while now, but our Brotherhood has grown greatly, and it is a cool process to watch. If you are

interested in getting a WMA or a Brotherhood going in your church, reach out to us. We are willing to help.

Finally, I shared all of this to simply encourage each of our churches. God is at work and doing great things! He is coming back! We all have an important job to do until that day. We need to spread the gospel. We have so many ways to do that, but are we doing our part? Continue to pray for our growing churches as Bates Creek isn't the only one that is growing! May God bless each of our churches in a special way so the gospel can be spread.

*Bryan Buckley, Pastor
Sara Buckley, Reporter*

Abundant Life in Christ, Charleston

We mourn the passing of member Judith Myres.

We continue to fine tune our overseas ministry. The equipment is in place that allows them to translate our service videos into their languages, and we are sending them our Sunday School outlines and children's worksheets that go along with the videos so they can also translate and use those. We are still months away from any baptisms and mission status, but as of now things are continuing to progress toward that direction.

Rodney Dunlap, Pastor

Mt. Olive, Salem

Greetings from Mt. Olive in Salem, Missouri!

On November 5, 2022, we had our Thanksgiving Dinner. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and thankful-

ness for what God has done at Mt. Olive during 2022.

Our pastor and his wife attended the National Senior Conference in Branson Missouri, November 15-17, 2022. They enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship and encouragement with BMA Baptists from many states.

December 3, 2022, the Mt. Olive men met for breakfast before they worked at the church property hanging the newly renovated church sign. Thank you to everyone who worked on the sign face lift! It looks great!

At our November business meeting we voted to start having a Ladies Sunday School class. We are excited that we are now having a choir during our worship service! It has been many years since voices rang out from the choir loft! PTL!! December 10, 2022, we had a Christmas party in the fellowship hall. We had 2 visitors attend! It was a fun time celebrating Jesus' birth.

Our outreach for December was taking gifts to some of the residents at Salem Residential Care Facility. What a blessing to let them know Mt. Olive Church is here and cares about them.

We were busy during the month of December working on our Christmas program. "Jesus Is the Light of The World" was presented during our Christmas morning service. It was great to worship together in honor of Jesus' birth on Christmas morning!!

December 31, 2022, we had a watch night service to bring in the New Year! Great fellowship, good food, fun

games!

We are excited about what God is going to do at Mt. Olive in 2023!! Wednesday, January 4, 2023, we had our card festival at church before our Bible study. We are planning for our Valentine Banquet February 11, 2023.

Our WMA meets every month on the 2nd Wednesday at 6 p.m. We are excited to start planning our outreach for 2023. We have our monthly WMA Bible Study on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. We are excited about attending the Ladies Fellowship at Ohlman Church February 25, 2023.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Mt. Olive as we continue working for Jesus and Reaching out to our Community!

*Larry Nash, Pastor
Deiatre Gillam, Reporter*

Lower Doe Run, Ellington

Just want all to know that we are still alive and well at Lower Doe Run by God's grace. The ice storm has slowed us more when we are already slow!

We are so thankful for working phones, though they were down for a few days also. Our members are well and able to attend church when the roads are clear. One Sunday we had to close the doors due to the icy parking lot and ramp.

It seems that we have good attendance every other week! We treasure the visitors and pray that God will add them to the church family soon.

The ladies missed two weeks of Bible study at Frieda's house. Sister Maudeline was able to spend a few weeks with her daughter Paula's family in Little Rock. Sister Betty has been placed under Hospice care. We send our sympathy to families of two dear friends of the church: Judy Fish and Ray Thurman. We praise God that we have assurance of Heaven and that we will see them again soon.

We look forward to the fellowship of the State WMA

and Brotherhood in March and the National Association in April. We appreciate all the opportunities to share our faith with new acquaintances and hope with those going through very rough times.

We loved the article last month by Sister Juanita May. Others of the churches join her and serve in Caring Hearts Pregnancy Resource Center in Potosi. Deborah is a receptionist, Merinda and Pam are teachers and I serve in the boutique. There are always places to be hands and hearts for Jesus where you are.

*Melvin Meade, Pastor
Carolyn Meade, Reporter*

Lindsay Lane, Florissant

Greetings from Lindsay Lane. We are praising God for His goodness in bringing us through the ice and snow! For those that needed to be out and about we left them in God's hands! We were affected by the storm but not nearly as bad as our neighbors.

Bro. Mike Jenkins recently had hip surgery and is doing great. He only missed one Sunday! Rachael Leal recently had bone marrow transplant; it did not work as was hoped for. Please continue to pray for her and her family.

Our Valentine banquet will be the 17th. This is a great time of sweet fellowship, fun, and delicious food.

Our prayers are for the Thurman family as Bro. Thurman's health declined. He and Sister Thurman and family hold a special place in our hearts.

Continue to lift Lindsay Lane in your prayers. 'Til next time.

*Brian Meade, Pastor
Kathy Chapman, Reporter*

Oak Hill, Alton

Hello to all from Oak Hill! As of right now we have only missed one evening of worshiping and praising our Lord and Savior. We are happy and feel blessed to only have missed one service.

In December Bro. Patrick

~ Upcoming Events ~

World Missions Day – Feb. 26

MO WMA/ Brotherhood Annual

Meeting – March 4; Zion, St. Louis; 10:00 a.m.

Renewal Retreat – March 24-25; 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.

Easter Walk – March 31-April 2; Bethel, Lonedell; 6:00-8:30 p.m.

BMA of America National Meeting – April 25-27; Antioch, Conway, AR

Men's Retreat – May 5-6; Camp Garwood

SOAR Student Conference – July 3-5;

Gaylord Texan Hotel, Grapevine, TX

Send event info to mmbpaper@gmail.com.

Grammer had a mild stroke. We are so thankful that the Lord blessed him in his health and recovery. He is currently receiving physical, occupational, and speech therapy.

Bro. Chad and his family had to take Carstyn to Memphis, Tennessee to St. Jude's for a check up which involved two scans. We are praying that they have a safe trip and praying that the Lord blesses his scans and results. Thank the Lord for the blessing that his results are good and he does not have to go back for three months.

My mother (Edith) had foot surgery on January 24th, she had a bone spur on her pinky toe on her right foot. She had to wear a boot that was awkward for her to walk and basically do anything. She has tried to lay down in her bed but couldn't because of the pain and ended up having to sleep in her recliner. She will go back to her doctor/surgeon on Feb. 7th and hopefully he will take the boot off.

February 13th Bro. Jerry Richardson will have knee replacement surgery on his

right knee. We hope and pray that his surgery will be a success and that he will have a speedy recovery.

Next month I hope I will have 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*

Ozark Heights, Potosi

Greetings to our sister churches and all our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are a month into 2023 and we are excited to see what God has for us. This year has started off strong, and we are thankful to see God working in and around our community.

We miss those who can't attend because of their health issues and hold you up before our Lord for healing and comfort. God provides a way to bring comfort and peace into our lives even when we are walking through the valley. We are thankful for his loving Comforter, the Holy Spirit. We want you to know that you are truly missed. Be

comforted in knowing God continues to wow us here at Ozark Heights with visitors, professions and baptisms.

There are some who say it can be depressing to read the reports of sister churches. But I tell you, it is empowering to see that God is working still today, as in the day that His Son walked upon the earth. God has not changed nor His love changed for those who call out to the Father. We must hold to faith that God has a purpose for our efforts. We need to encourage one another, especially in the world we live in today. Satan would have us to believe there is no hope, but we know God is the very source of hope. Continue to sow the seed and leave it to the Master to provide the increase. Remember as much as Satan would love to steal away all hope, don't be deceived. We know the end of the story and our God is victorious!

Bro. Brian continues to bring strong messages and Bible studies which provide great insight to God's desire to use us for His purpose and

His work. We have a youth group "Roots to Wings" each Wednesday evening that continues to grow both in number and wisdom from the teachers, led by Sis. Erin.

This past month, we added four to the church by baptism and one by letter. To God be all glory!

Our services include Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. and worship following at 11:00 a.m. Bible Study is at 6 p.m. every Sunday and Wednesday evening. Talent Night is the 4th Sunday of the month at 6 p.m., followed by refreshments and fellowship.

Men's Brotherhood is on 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7 p.m. and ladies WMA is on 3rd Thursday at 7 p.m.

We will have a Valentine dinner provided by the teens on Saturday, February 11, at 6 p.m. You are welcome to join us. We always have a great time and hope to see you.

*Brian Kingston, Pastor
Gary Gilliam, Reporter*

Landmark, DeSoto

We've had another sad month. One of our church

members passed away suddenly on January 16th. Debbie Conyers attended when she could. She was always in a lot of back pain from a surgery she had several years ago. Remember our church as we continue to miss her. It just doesn't look right to look over to the place where she usually sat just to see it empty. We do have the assurance that she is with her Lord and Savior now and in no more pain.

We were planning to have a fellowship dinner and the Lord's Supper on the 29th, but DeSoto had ice, so we dismissed both services.

Brother Crites has been giving some very good messages which I have particularly enjoyed from one of my very favorite books in the Old Testament to study. In Sunday School we've been studying about the life of Joseph which has fed us good things to use in our lives. Not much to report this month, but we ask that you please keep Landmark in your prayers.

*David Crites, Pastor
Sharon Page, Reporter*

Doug and Diane Lee

Missionaries to the Philippines

(from their December/January newsletter)

Pastors Ordained

We are simply amazed as we watch our students grow in knowledge and maturity from the time they begin their first year at the Bible College, graduate, and then go out into the world to begin their ministry. These past few months have been one of those times when we marvel at how God is working in their lives. Three of our graduates were ordained recently and are working in respective missions and churches.

Pastor Albert Ramos was ordained in December and is pastoring a church in Lublub, Antique, on the island of Panay. Albert is a hard worker and is happy to be in this very remote area working with the wonderful people there.



Pastor Joel Francisco, of the Ata Tribe, supported with the help of a church in the US, has been working with three missions in the tribal villages. He was ordained December 24, and one of those missions was organized as a church the same day.

Pray for each of these young men as they continue their ministry.

Baby Freedom

In an earlier newsletter, we shared with you about Baby Kloyd Freedom Albes, who is in desperate need of heart surgery. He is the son of Jack Lloyd Albes and Angie Albes, two of our BMA alumnae. Pastor Jack is a Filipino missionary pastor, whom we have been supporting for quite a while and is working with a mission about 2 hours south of Bacolod. Freedom's heart condition has worsened. His doctor has said he needs to have surgery as soon as possible because the pulse rate of one of his veins is way higher than normal, which makes it hard for him to breathe. The cost of the surgery is Php500,000 (\$10,000). To schedule the surgery in Manila, they need PHP200,000 (\$4,000) down payment and the surgery can be scheduled. We are thankful that some of you have responded after our last newsletter. His surgery has become urgent. If you can help with any amount, please send funds to BMA Missions Office, PO Box 878, Conway, AR 72033 or Mill Creek Baptist Church, 11 Old Kiln Rd., Picayune, MS 39466. Please specify "Freedom's surgery."





BMA of America National Meeting April 25-27, 2023 - Conway, AR

Tuesday Morning, April 25

Location*

9:00 Tours BMA Global Ministry Center

Tuesday Evening, April 25

6:00 Worship Antioch Baptist Church
 • Antioch Worship Band
 • President Dr. Clif Johnson
 7:30 Meet Your Missionaries (Fellowship Time)..... Antioch Baptist Church
 8:45 Close

Wednesday Morning, April 26

7:30 Breakfast provided by CBC Central Baptist College
 8:00 New BMA Pastors' Orientation Central Baptist College
 9:00 WMA Meeting Central Baptist College
 9:00 Brotherhood Meeting Antioch Baptist Church
 9:30 Pastors' Conference Antioch Baptist Church
 • The Leadership Imperative / Dr. Steve Crawley
 • Preventing Abuse & Protecting Your Church / Brotherhood Mutual
 • Helping Members with Mental Health Needs / Lee Poe
 • Leading for Growth / Pastor Bill Eliff
 • Spanish Speakers Breakout / Elvis Garcia
 10:30 Tours (until 1:30) BMA Global Ministry Center
 12:00 State and Local Leaders Lunch BMA Global Ministry Center

Wednesday Afternoon, April 26

1:30 Worship / Pastor David McMurray Antioch Baptist Church
 3:00 Legacy Missionary Service Antioch Baptist Church
 • Introduction of New BMA Missionaries

Wednesday Evening, April 26

6:00 BMA Dinner on the Ground Conway Expo Center
 8:30 Close

Thursday Morning, April 27

8:30 BMA Department Reports Antioch Baptist Church
 12:00 Close of National Meeting

*Important Conway Addresses

Central Baptist College – 1501 College Ave. • Antioch Baptist Church – 150 Amity Rd.
 BMA Global Ministry Center – 611 Locust St. • Conway Expo Center – 1505 E. Oak St.

Chaplain Guthrie Awarded Medal

Chaplain (Colonel) Kevin Guthrie, a BMA Chaplain, was recently awarded “The Order of Martin of Tours” medal, a prestigious U.S. Army Chaplain Corps regimental award, during the 2022 Religious Leader Symposium in Southbridge, Massachusetts. Chaplain Guthrie was awarded for “Demonstrating the highest standards of integrity and moral character, displaying an outstanding degree of professional competence, selflessly serving soldiers and families, and contributing to the promotion of the Army Chaplaincy.”

According to Chaplain Guthrie, “Chaplains represent two professions, the profession of arms as a military officer and the profession of the clergy.” He added, “A chaplain’s primary job is to nurture the living, care for the wounded, and honor the fallen.”

A 2003 graduate of the BMA Seminary, Chaplain Guthrie is now assigned to the United States Army Materiel Command as the Command Chaplain. He is scheduled to retire from active duty on November 1 of this year after serving over 36 years in the Army, with the last 20 years as a chaplain.

Pictured is the U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains, Major General Solhjem, presenting the Order of Martin of Tours award to BMAA-endorsed chaplain, Colonel Kevin Guthrie.



Did You Know?

How Old was Jacob When...?

How familiar are you with the life of Jacob? Take a moment to give your best answers to these six questions about this Israelite patriarch.

The Bible shares little of Jacob’s early life. There are a few details told about his birth, and later a couple incidents of him tricking his brother Esau and later his father Isaac. When Esau grew bitter over the trickery, Jacob left home for the old country – to let his brother cool down and to look

How old was Jacob when:

1. He went in search of a wife?..... _____
2. He married Leah, then Rachel? _____
3. Joseph was born? _____
4. He left Paddan-Aram?..... _____
5. Joseph was sold into slavery?..... _____
6. He moved to Egypt?..... _____

(read on for answers)

for a wife. But the Bible gives no hint about his age.

Jacob reached the family homeland of Paddan-Aram. There he worked for seven years for his uncle Laban in order to marry his daughter Rachel. At the wedding Laban switched Rachel for her older sister, Leah. A week later Jacob married Rachel and worked another seven years for her. Yet there is still no hint of his age.

Naturally babies were soon born – to Leah, but not to Rachel. In the jealousies that arose between the sisters, the two wives of Jacob soon became four as each sister gave her handmaid for him to wife as well. By the end of this second seven-years Jacob was father to eleven sons and a daughter. The youngest of the boys (and Jacob's favorite) was Joseph, the only son (at that time) of Jacob’s favorite wife, Rachel.

After six more years Jacob returned to Canaan with his family.

Later as teens and young adults, Joseph’s brothers’ seething hatred drove them to feign his death and sell him to an Egypt-bound caravan. In Egypt Joseph was a slave, later imprisoned, and was eventually raised to rule the nation, second only to Pharaoh. And while in this position he was reunited with his brothers and then invited his father Jacob to move with his whole clan to Egypt where he could provide for them. Arriving in Egypt and introduced to Pharaoh, Jacob mentioned his age for the first time: 130 years old.

Joseph was 30 years old when he earlier rose to power. And by the time Jacob arrived there had been seven years of plenty plus the first two years of famine, making Joseph 39 years old when his father was 130.

Knowing now that there was a 91-year difference in the two, we can determine that Jacob was well over one hundred years old (at least 108) when he was tricked by his sons into thinking the teenage Joseph was killed by a wild animal (although he was really sold as a slave). He was 97 when he left Paddan-Aram. At 91 when Joseph was born, the description “the son of his old age” seems a lot more fitting than we may have before realized. Still earlier, Jacob was around 84 when he first married Leah and Rachel (who were undoubtedly much younger than him); and he was a mere 77 (approximately) when he first went in search of his Valentine.

So, if you think you are too old for God to fit you into His plan, look again at His work in the life of Jacob.

World Missions Day is February 26, 2023

CO-MISSIONED
 A SHARED MISSION - A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Register your church at
bmamissions.org/worldmissionsday

Jerry Kidd Missions Offering

MISSIONS
 baptist missionary association of america

Language School

Mickeal and Sharon Quillman

January in Zambia is typically amid the “rainy season,” but this year like so many other places the rains have been scarce. The temperatures here were staying in the high 80’s to low 90’s which wasn’t bad and would cool down as soon as a shower would come through. Just like in Arkansas, however, the humidity would hit as soon as the shower was over. We had a visit scheduled with Bro. Johnmichael Poulin and had given him advance notice of what the weather had been like up until he arrived. That week, it rained daily, and the temperature dropped to the mid 60’s and 70’s. On occasion, it almost felt a little chilly. He swore when he left he would never believe us that Africa is hot, haha. We had a great visit with Bro. Johnmichael the week he was here, and we got to spend a lot of time in the car with him taking him from and to Lusaka for his flights. Since we are still in the middle of language acquisition, most of our time with him was spent talking about how the language works, what things will look like

when we finish language school, and really just getting some much-needed encouragement.

Since we are in the middle of learning the language we thought it would be neat to explain a little of what we’ve learned and what makes it difficult. In English we have subjects, objects, nouns, verbs, pronouns, etc., and all of the tenses rest on the verb. In Chinyanja, the sentence structure is subject, tense, object, verb; and it all combines into one word. For example:

- I am praying - Nipempela*
- I have prayed - Napempela*
- I will pray - Nizapempela*
- I was praying - Ninali kupempela*

This week, we were working on verb extensions. So instead of saying I am praying we added “for you.”

- I am praying for you - Nikupempelela*
- I have prayed for you - Nakupempelela*
- I will pray for you - Nizakupempelela*
- I was praying for you - Ninali kukupempelele*

Say that last one three times fast. We struggle with just saying it once, haha. If you would like to

see a little more of our language homework, check out the poem we had to translate on the *Pastor Quill* Facebook page.

This week our land cruiser has been in the shop getting the gear box replaced so we can get back into the villages when the roads are bad. We will get back to the Bible studies and discipleship while we learn the language this next week. Be on the lookout for a blog post coming soon.

Prayer Requests

- Headman of Chibinga village as he is being disciplined as a new believer
- Discipleship of all the new believers
- Salvation of all unbelievers in Chibinga
- The Gospel to spread into 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 (This money has been pulled from our work fund as the need was immediate, but we pray the funds will be replenished.)

It's Tour Time at CBC!

Now is a great time to schedule a tour of Central Baptist College. The Office of Admissions is ready to give you a personalized campus tour that promises to be the best you have ever experienced.

There are various kinds of tours that CBC offers.

Personalized One-on-One Tour

Whether on your own or with your family and friends, let us show you all CBC has to offer. Along with a reserved parking spot with your name on it, plus a personalized agenda designed to answer your questions about CBC, you can expect to see:

- Mustang Outfitters to shop for CBC gear
- Cooper Educational Complex
- Story Library and Café 52
- Watkins Academic Building
- Dickson Hall
- AR Reddin Fieldhouse
- Scheduled meeting with a faculty member in your major area of study



- Scheduled meeting with representatives of music or athletic departments if you have interest in those areas
- Visit to Financial Aid Office, Registrar's Office, and Business Office
- Personal visit to the President's Office

Register for your personalized tour at cbc.edu/visit. (The site also lists discounts for partner motels.) Or contact the CBC Admissions Office at 501-329-6873.

Group Tour

We also host groups from churches, youth groups, schools (public or private), or any other group you may have. Groups will enjoy many of the elements of the one-on-one tours, including Admissions packets and Viewbooks. To register for a group tour, contact the Admissions Office at 501-329-6873.

Other Tours

If your group is traveling near Conway, please plan to visit the campus. With Lifeword and BMAA Missions located only blocks from our campus, it would be worth scheduling a trip with Conway as your destination. Contact Jessica Faulkner, Director of Public Relations at jfaulkner@cbc.edu or 501-205-8800, and she will make sure we are ready for your visit.

SOAR 2023

DEVOTED

DEVOTED
DEVOTED
DEVOTED

JULY 3-5, 2023
GAYLORD TEXAN, GRAPEVINE TEXAS

REGISTRATION

\$135.00 PER PERSON
DEADLINE IS JUNE 4, 2023

\$150.00 PER PERSON
AFTER JUNE 4, 2023 DEADLINE

GAYLORD TEXAN

\$139.00 PER ROOM
UNTIL JUNE 10, 2023



CHRIS VINES



NATHAN BREWER



SOAR COLLECTIVE



STEPHEN CASTLEBERRY



DONNY PARRISH

CBC Announces Academic Achievements

Central Baptist College has announced the Fall 2022 President's and Dean's Lists. Included on those lists are:

President's List

Caroline Byers
Kennett, MO

Heidi Maxwell
Saint Clair, MO

Michael Kelley
Poplar Bluff, MO

Dean's List

Ashlynn Pratt
Sikeston, MO

What is Love?

As teens and even as adults we have a lot of questions about love. While answering all of them in this limited space might be difficult, we can consider the basic question: What is love?

The world's idea of love is "to fall in love." But how does that compare to the Bible's description of what real love is?

Passive Victim vs. Active Participant. "He fell in love," sounds like love ambushes us, or we randomly stumble into it. But real love is not about being a random, passive victim. Biblical love is rooted in the active Greek verb, *agapo*. It is not about something that sneaks up on us, but something we proactively pursue.

Main Focus: Myself vs. Others. God made us to need companionship. Even in the perfect creation God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone." But now impacted by sin, a relationship is often no longer simply the joy of interacting with and building up another person, but is a tool for self-serving ends.

The world's view of love focuses first on myself and what I can get. But Biblical love puts others first, motivated by what we understand to be best for them. And to genuinely "be in love" means we make an ongoing commitment to value this person more than all others (except God) – more than our parents, our siblings and even our own children. Our relationship is not primarily about our own benefit, but about our commitment to what most benefits the other person.

Feelings vs. Valuing. The core element of love is to value. To love someone is not primarily what we feel about them, but the decision we make to genuinely value them in all our actions and attitudes. And to genuinely "be in love" with someone is the commitment to maintain that value above all others.

Does that mean true love has no feelings that go with it? Absolutely not! Truly and sacrificially valuing someone will in time grow feelings for them. The Song of Solomon is overflowing with the feelings the young bride has for her husband and the young groom has for his bride. And those feelings that accompany true love should be just as real today. But feelings are the by-products of love, not our primary pursuit.

And that is what true love is. And you know, when we get that straight many of our other love-related questions almost answer themselves, such as:

- *How do I know if this is real love?* Are you willing to make a forever-commitment to value this person in all your actions and attitudes, above everyone and everything else (except God)? And are they willing to live by the same commitment? If not, it's not real love.

- *What can I do to make someone love me?* Love is valuing another person enough to do what is best for them. God's example is that giving a person the freedom to make their own choices is best. All we can do is show them that we value them, and leave their own choices in their hands – and the overall outcome in God's hands.

- *What if I've fallen out of love with her? I don't love him any more.* Remember, true love is primarily a decision to value someone, not based on feelings. Our feelings do not determine our reality – you can still make the choice to love (value) even if the feelings are not there at the moment.

- *Is there such a thing as love at first sight?* If someone is so moved at the very first sight of a person that he (or she) commits to forever value that person in their actions and attitudes, then sure, love at first sight can be a thing.

You are invited!

Bethel Easter Walk

A live, outdoor, walking theatre production of the life & last steps of Jesus.

Includes live animals, Roman soldiers and an ending that could change your life forever!

For more information call (636) 629-2978
or visit www.BethelLonedell.com.

Where:

Bethel Baptist Church
569 Bethel Church Road
Lonedell, MO 63060

Free Event for All Ages

Over 100 cast & crew!
Complimentary snacks & drinks
Handicapped carts available

When:

March 31 – April 2 (Friday – Sunday)
6:00 PM – 8:30 PM
(Guided tours leave every 10–15 min
and last 45 min.)

Directions:

From I-44 take exit 239 to Hwy 30 E
(8 miles), turn left onto Bethel Church
Road, ¼ mile to Bethel Baptist Church on
left.

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. (0123)

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.

Faithful Pilgrim Reaches Journey's End

Lonnie RayVon Thurman, 85, of Potosi, Missouri, passed away February 2, 2023, at his home. Born October 5, 1937, he was the son of the late Harlon Roy Thurman and Zelma Beaton Maddox Thurman.

On October 14, 1955, Ray married Dorothy Coble Thurman. He is survived by his wife and three children, Craig (Luanne) Thurman (Caswell, AK), Cynthia (Mark) Thoenen (Jefferson City, MO), and Lonnie RayVon (Fara) Thurman Jr. (Texarkana, AR); four sisters, Peggy (Curt) Reinbott (Harviell, MO), Sue (Charles Carner) Beller (Harviell, MO), Joy Davis (Jonesboro, AR), and Marilyn Lee (Jonesboro, AR); two brothers, Jim (Violet) Thurman (Jonesboro, AR) and Roy (Rosalee) Thurman (Jonesboro, AR). He is also survived by six grandchildren and fifteen great grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Gene Thurman; and brothers-in-law, David Lee and Thomas Davis.

Ray pastored numerous churches, including Bruin Park Baptist Church (Anchorage, AK), Cook Inlet Baptist Church (Anchorage, AK), First Baptist Church (Munford, TN), Landmark Baptist Church (Corning, AR), Neelyville Baptist Church (Neelyville, MO), Breton Creek Baptist Church (Potosi, MO), and Mt. Olive Baptist Church (Salem, MO). He enjoyed wood working, playing the guitar, electronics, song writing and singing.

Burial was at Antioch Cemetery, Oxly, MO.

*Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his saints
(Psalm 116:15)*

Pastor's Wife Laid to Rest

Judy Ruth Owens Fish went home to be with her Lord and Savior February 3, 2023. A long-time Zalma, MO, resident, she was born to Thomas Earl Owens and Ruth Lorraine Miller Owens in Poplar Bluff on January 24, 1947.

Judy had a love for people and a joy which exhibited itself in music and laughter.

On November 22, 1969, she became a preacher's wife when she married Dale G. Fish. She enjoyed supporting him through the work of Zalma Missionary Baptist Church and the various associations the church was a part of.

Judy is survived by husband Dale G. Fish, daughter Susan (Greg) Peninger (Leander, TX), son Timothy Fish (Fort Worth, TX) and grandsons Joshua Peninger (Tyler, TX), Adam Peninger (Austin, TX) and Luke Peninger (Leander, TX). She was preceded in death by her parents and her siblings Dale Owens, Frances Conover, and Allie Marshall.

Burial was at Berrong Cemetery, Zalma.