

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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

Volume LXXXV

St. Louis, MO • April 11, 2023

Issue No. 4



Philippine Church Organized and Pastor Ordained

Bro. Josh Wright

The Meramec Landmark Baptist Association sent Sister Mae Lahmann, Brother Tony Kingston, Pastor Josh Wright, & Pastor Melvin Meade to the Philippines March 13-23 to encourage BMA Missionaries Stan & Donna Scroggins as well as to participate in the organization service of New Testament Tigbawan Baptist Church and the ordination service for Pastor Alfred J.R. Suico.

New Testament Baptist Church in Sullivan, MO is the mother church of New Testament Tigbawan Baptist Church in Tigbawan, Southern Leyte, in the Philippines.

In addition to these great blessings, there were also three people saved on this trip. We praise the Lord and give Him the glory for all the great things He did through this trip!

Personal Reflections from Bro. Melvin Meade . . .

For me the experience started the day I first got the call and responded from the Meramec Association scheduled trip that had been postponed since Covid started. The purpose was to organize the New Testament Baptist Church of Tigbawan, Southern Leyte and to ordain Brother Alfred J.R. Suico into the Gospel Ministry on March 19, 2023. The team was made up of Pastor Josh Wright, Mae Lahman, Tony Kingston and myself.

• See *Philippine Church* page 6 •



Missionary Stan Scroggins presenting Pastor Alfred J.R. Suico with his ordination certificate and Bible

Annual BMA Registration

The annual meeting of the BMA of America will convene at Antioch Baptist Church, Conway, Arkansas, April 25-27. Registration for the meeting is simple. Go to the registration table when you arrive for the meeting, and the Enrollment and Finance Committee will check you in for the meeting and issue ballots for your messengers.

Those churches that are unable to send messengers may still represent by letter. You may download a copy of the church letter from the BMA website bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting. If your church is petitioning for affiliation at the meeting, you will need to complete the special section for petitioning churches. Letters may be presented at the meeting or mailed to: BMA Recording Clerk, 4601 Texas Boulevard, Texarkana, TX 75503.

Please help with the meeting expense by bringing or sending a contribution to the Meeting Expense Fund. You may bring your church's offering to the annual meeting and turn it in to the Enrollment Committee, or mail it to: BMA Recording Clerk, 4601 Texas Boulevard, Texarkana, TX 75503.

BMA Seminary Announces Seminary Sunday

BMA Seminary Sunday has traditionally been recognized on the Sunday following graduation at BMA Seminary. This year, however, that Sunday coincides with Mother's Day. We understand that many churches include special acknowledgement and celebrations of the mothers in their congregation on that day, and we have no desire to compete with this occasion. So, this year we are inviting churches to have special prayer for our graduates and take up an offering for scholarships on either Sunday, May 7 or Sunday, May 14. We are always encouraged by the support we receive from this effort to recognize the achievements of our graduates.

BMA Reports And Recommendations Available

The 2023 edition of the BMA Reports and Recommendations is available for viewing and download from the BMA website bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting. Along with all of the information concerning the national meeting on April 25-27, 2023, at the Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, Arkansas, churches may now read, print, or download a copy of the reports and recommendations from the national departments and committees in order to be ready to consider this business at the upcoming meeting.

Posting the information on the BMA website has offered simplified and much more economical means of distributing these reports to the churches and messengers of the BMA. In the past few years, the BMA Minute and Meeting Fund has saved literally tens of thousands of dollars by taking advantage of this technology.

However, the church support of the Meeting Expense Fund is still vital to the funding of the national meeting. Various committee and meeting expenses are still underwritten by this fund, so it remains critical that churches continue to contribute to the Meeting Expense Fund. You will notice in the report from the associational recording clerks that the fund is currently overdrawn from the expenses of the past two years, so please respond to this need.

BMA Recording Clerks

Greg Medenwald • Randy Shepherd • Jerome Cooper

The Lord is good,
a refuge in times of trouble.

State Missions

Dear BMAMO Churches,

It is my sincere prayer that this article finds you doing well in the Lord. I have enjoyed hearing feedback from many of you on these articles about discipleship and tomatoes and the correlating lessons.

In review, this is our thesis or sermon in a sentence: Tomatoes make tomatoes that make seeds that will make other tomato plants that will make other tomatoes. Therefore... Disciples make disciples that plant seeds that will make other disciples that will make other disciples.

Remember the challenge from last year's symposium was to take the tomato and plant it, harvest the fruit, save the seeds, plant them this spring, and continue the cycle. Then ask the Lord to teach you Biblical lessons on discipleship through this experience.

Today's lesson: IT IS REWARDING! There is something very relaxing and healing about getting your hands dirty and caring for a living plant so that it will soon produce fruit, all along knowing that this particular plant is alive because you got involved in the process of reproducing said plant.

There is a very distinct correlation to discipleship, and the rewards are many. Personally, you "get under the spout where the glory comes out." When we disciple, we are literally fulfilling the Great Commission. God is faithful to reward His faithful servants.

Cooperatively, it is rewarding to the church in which you and the disciple are members. The Great Commission is built upon multiplication, and this will only happen as we all shoulder the responsibility and privileges of discipleship.

As an association, we will grow as we reproduce ourselves through discipleship. How rewarding that will be for the glory of God?!

P.S. Please plan to attend this year's Missions Symposium at Kewanee Baptist Church in Kewanee, MO on May 19, 2023, at 7:00 pm. We will ordain Bro. Juan Fernandez at this meeting.

The state mid-year meeting will be the following day, May 20, 2023, at 9:00 am – also at Kewanee. We look forward to seeing you there! You just never know what you may receive or be challenged to do.

Come prayed up and looking up.
Ben Kingston



MISIÓN BELÉN (Bethlehem Mission)

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

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God" Luke 18:17

Praises: New worship band, style, and performers

Since the month of January of this year we have been gathering to worship, learn and pray with 3 to 4 families who join us at Misión Belen in the building of Bethany Church in Overland. Now the Lord has provided the enthusiasm and time to prepare a choir with our younger congregation.

We have Lucas that plays guitar, Abraham (4) who loves worshiping Jesus with such joy. He sings, "I have a friend that loves me, Jesus is his name," (translation to English since his language of heart is Spanish). His parents are making an extra effort to practice this song with this young man, and we are preparing three more that will be presented during our family worship time on Sundays. Victoria (6) also loves to come and grab the microphone to worship Jesus at the top of her lungs!!! We enjoy and glorify the Lord for her enthusiasm to do it, despite the fact that she has been shy to stand in front of people for almost a year.

Eleanor (4), Juanito (18 months), and Isaac (14 months) are learning by watching these three lovely kids lift up their voices and talents for the LORD! We are hoping that this choir continues growing as we are talking about changing our meeting times to 12:45 pm instead of 10:45 am. Pray for us. We need wisdom to continue presenting the Lord in these gatherings as people start filling their lives with God's Word.

Each service we have the joy of worshiping in spirit and truth in three languages: Spanish, Portuguese and Spanish. We are so blessed for each family that the Lord has brought to join us for services. At Misión Belen we are committed to focus on "sending capacity" rather than seating capacity.

Daily Prayer Network: (#prayernetworkmo, #redeoracionmissouri) Text your prayer request to this number (314) 415 0248 or via Facebook, Misión Belen (our new page on FB). Once you text us you will receive a notification

FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS March 2023

Checking Account:

Balance Feb. 28, 2023 \$ 23,790.89

Income:

Missions \$ 4,996.74
Total Income \$ 4,996.74
Total Available \$ 28,787.63

Expenses:

Director, salary \$ 450.00
Secretary, salary 200.00
Juan Fernandez, support 2,333.33
Website 39.95
Men's Retreat 870.17
Total Expenses \$ (3,893.45)
Balance March 31, 2023 \$ 24,894.18

BMAMS Revolving Loan Investment:

Balance Feb. 28, 2023 \$ 221,550.54
Interest 0.00
Balance March 31, 2023 \$ 221,550.54
Total in All Accounts March 31, 2023 \$ 246,444.72

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to join a Zoom meeting – feel free to let us know if you'd like to join the Zoom or simply text: "Prayer ONLY." If you choose to accept the invitation, we will pray with you and for you. Join us! God is doing awesome things!

Upcoming Events:

Prayer Walk

- Every day at 12:00 pm. Join via text, Facebook page or set up a Zoom session to pray in real time even if you are not in the St. Louis, Missouri area.

Discovery Bible Group

- DBS in Clarkson Valley, Pacific, Ballwin, and Pacific and Overland. The contacts in Pacific and in Overland are not being successful in following the Lord. Please pray for each one and their contacts that have joined in the past for Bible study. Their names: Jose, Adan, Noe.

- DBS to come soon!!! A Discovery Bible Group to start in our home town in Granite City, Illinois.

English as Second Language Outreach

- ESL class in St. Charles, Florissant and Overland. Pray for each one of the students and their families near and far. We have students from Honduras, El Salvador, Mexico and Venezuela.

- Spanish class in Florissant. It is such a joy and privilege to serve our church family members from Lindsay Lane. It is not easy to learn the language, but their hearts are willing to build bridges to our Spanish speaking community. Thank you Jesus!

VBC

- Vacation Bible Clubs are around the corner! We can stress the importance of the summer outreach opportunities. This summer we are planning to have VBC in three places, during the last week of June, the second and third week of July. We hope to have some commitments by the parents to send these wonderful treasures of children to Camp Garwood and join our Sunday Worship Choir!

• See MISIÓN BELÉN page 3•

WMA

State WMA Meeting



Missouri WMA held its annual meeting on March 4 at Zion, St. Louis. Juanita May and Dottie May were program speakers, and Bro. Bryan Buckley preached for the joint meeting of WMA and Brotherhood.

Newly elected Missouri WMA officers: (left to right) Asst. Secretary, Kari Hartlein; Bible and Tract Distributor, Bea Evans; Asst. Treasurer, Juanita May; Treasurer, Connie Reifsteck; President, Sara Buckley; Vice President, Deiatre Gillam; Secretary, Norma Womble; Historian, Tracy Goede

Camp Garwood

Greetings from Camp Garwood. We've had a busy spring already at camp. We have replaced the water pressure tank on the upper pump. The old tank was coming apart internally, sending styrofoam beads through the water lines, clogging toilet valves and faucet strainers, etc. We upgraded from one to two tanks in an effort to increase our capacity during high use times.

We've also replaced the culvert under the dorm 3 entrance road, replaced some lighting from old fluorescent to retrofit LED, and repaired a few leaking toilets.

We're looking forward to some retreats and activities this spring. I hope you guys are too! Next on the schedule is an FCA retreat planned by Kewanee's Gloria Houston. The NMCC Fellowship of Christian Athletes will spend the weekend at camp on April 20-22. They plan to do some service projects while at camp and enjoy the time away. I'm sure we'll have a train ride, too.

On May 5-6th we will host the annual Brotherhood spring retreat. Jeff Polk will return to boil up a crawfish feast while Melvin Barnett fries catfish for the more conservative crowd. We always have a great time at this retreat. I hope you will join us!

May 19-20th. Mission Symposium/Mid-Year meeting at Kewanee!

June 2-3rd. This is not at Garwood. But I hope several of our campers come to the Brotherhood fishing tournament.

New Date! New Date! June 23-24 GMA retreat! The GMA retreat had to be moved from its regular weekend due to a scheduling conflict. Please check your calendars, ladies. Whether you have a GMA program or not, gather up your young ladies and bring them to this retreat. These girls always have a lot of fun and would love for you to join them. They would love to introduce your girls to ooga booga. (Don't ask me; it's a GMA thing).

June 30-July 1st. Be sure to mark your calendars for this! Baptist Publishing House Director Jordan Tew will be at Camp Garwood! We are excited for this weekend. If you have any questions or thoughts about our Sunday School literature, this will be a perfect time to have them answered. Bro. Jordan will be teaching. We'll have some recreation and some relaxing.

• MISIÓN BELÉN from page 2 •

• Fundraising Event: for purchasing new sound and video equipment – more details to come soon.

About Summer Outreach Events... Expectations are so high!

Last summer, 2022 we had the blessing of having your church family members and the GMAs come and join us providing prayer, handing out flyers, bringing and serving snacks, playing games, tutoring Bible memory verses...and a testimony to our community about Jesus' love and care for the little ones. Soon we will be posting the exact dates and places for this amazing time with our children. We have three places in mind: Ballwin, Overland and Chesterfield.

Thank you again for praying, giving, and coming to bless us with your talents and time to serve our families when possible.

May God continue blessing you!!

In His service
Juan Fernandez
Acts 20:24

Don't miss this opportunity to hone your skills. A detailed schedule will be released later.

Camp Week July 31-Aug 4th. Pray. Pray. Pray. For this year's camp. All the workers. Speakers. Band. Teachers. Campers. Weather. Recreation. Everything about camp needs to be drenched in your prayers.

For those who want to make contributions online, you can use this Paypal address: campgarwood@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you soon!

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Updates from Our Churches



Lower Doe Run, Ellington

We were blessed to see visitors this month and to welcome Janet Howard back into the fellowship. We enjoyed the message by Brother Alan Dane, "A Time For Every Season," on Sunday that our pastor was away on the Philippine trip. We are experiencing a lot of sickness both in the church and in our community. We are thankful for Facebook and cell phones and those who can use them for God's glory. One of our members, Alexis Barker, who is attending college in Florida, is preparing for a mission trip to Puerto Rico. We are thankful when our young people find a church while they are far from home.

We are praying for a great BMAA meeting as well as the State Symposium and Association meeting in Kewanee. We are praying for the upcoming revival meetings and pray that we will truly be revived.

*Melvin Meade, Pastor
Carolyn Meade, Reporter*

Bethel, Sikeston

Happy spring to all. We are so thankful to see spring arrive, but with spring come tornadoes. We pray for all that have been hit with these tornadoes recently. It's so sad to see all the devastation and lives that were lost during this time.

We have been blessed to have spirit-filled services. We are thankful to hear about the big revival which started in Asbury, KY. We are prayerful that it will keep spreading to all our churches. We all need a spirit-filled true revival! It

only takes a spark to get a fire going!

We have started to work on our VBS. Sis. Darcee Saucedo and Sis. Keeley Bolen are the directors this year and plan on having it the 2nd week in June. The ladies' prayer meeting has been a real success; we have seen many prayers answered. Bro. Billy is still teaching in the book of Hebrews on Wednesday nights, which is very interesting and a blessing.

Our youth are working on a program for Easter Sunday. During the evening service we will observe the Lord's Supper.

Bro. Shane Pipkin was led to start a men's fellowship breakfast with the first one on April 1. They had a really good turnout. Bro. Shane gave a devotional. We plan on making this a regular get-together but don't have any particular dates yet. We will post in the newsletter when we decide on the date and would love for our brothers to come join us in fellowship.

*Billy Wood, Pastor
Joan Wood, Reporter*

Ozark Heights, Potosi

Greetings to all our brothers and sisters in Christ. Beautiful weather brings great encouragement to the soul. We have weathered another winter, and spring is upon us. With the warmer weather we hope our shut-ins have greater opportunities to come join us in worship.

God took another member home; Sis. Jeannie Shy entered her eternal home on March 24th, and we ask you to pray for Bro Jim, Ebin and

the family.

We had a great turnout on March 26th for our 4th Sunday evening talent night with 54 in attendance sharing talents in songs, skits, and readings. This has always been a great time of fellowship. We hope you will join us on 4th Sunday evening talent night at 6 PM with food and fellowship following.

A lot is happening and we hope more of our members will come and be a part. There are more activities being added that give you a chance to grow no matter what your age.

Brotherhood is starting up their next study on the Christian Man with this study being how to build a Godly marriage. We meet each 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 7 PM. All men are welcome to come join us – you do not have to be a member.

Sisterhood (which is formally WMA) has a new study starting up this month on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7 PM.

Sunday school is every Sunday at 9:45 AM, with worship at 10:45 AM.

NEW: Sunday afternoon we have a new program each Sunday at 5 PM called G.I.F.T. Growing In Faith Together for youth ages 12 through 18.

Our business meetings are now scheduled on the 1st Sunday evening each month at 6 PM; we are hoping more of our members will be available to come take part in the business of the church.

Bro. Brian provides a great interactive Bible Study at 6 PM on 2nd and 3rd Sunday

evenings. Talent night is 4th Sunday.

We have Roots to Wings for our youth up to age 11 every Wednesday at 7 PM while Bro. Brian teaches an interactive Bible Study for the adults.

We are working to get everything ready for our May 7th Homecoming. We have finished work on the new room, as well as the handicapped restroom in the Sunday school wing.

We encourage you to join us as we celebrate 61 years of serving the Lord at Ozark Heights Missionary Baptist Church. Bro. Leonard, who served our church through the years, is planning to join us as we serve the Lord and celebrate with worship, lunch, and singing by Christian Crossroads with Bro. Jimmy Gilliam and his band. Bro. Jimmy is well known in the area for his uplifting talent serving the Lord. They will start singing sometime around 1:15 PM, and we hope you will join us. If you don't have a church home, come for worship 10:45 AM, lunch 12:00 PM, or the music at 1:15 PM.

Until next month. We pray for you and your family and would ask you to pray for those on our prayer list, shut-ins, church, church family and pastor.

*Brian Kingston, Pastor
Gary Gilliam, Reporter*

Mt. Olive, Salem

Hello from Mt. Olive! In February we said, "See you later," to one of our former pastors, Bro. Ray Thurman. He was pastor at Mt. Olive September 2012 – June 2020. We cherish the time he was leading us and the memories made. Our prayers are with Sis. Thurman and the family.

Our Valentine banquet was a success! We had a great time of fun and fellowship! We are thankful for the visitors who chose to spend the evening with us! We were represented at the Missouri State WMA and Brotherhood

Meeting on March 4, 2023. Two of our Mt. Olive members were elected as state officers. Our WMA is very excited! We had four visitors at our March Bible study! Our WMA donated Gideon Bibles in memory of Gary Chilton, son-in-law of Bro. and Sis. Swearingin. We are excited about being able to support some of our missionaries with love offerings as our WMA focuses on the "M" in WMA. We are getting ready to start work on a missionary map that will be displayed in the sanctuary.

The Church had our annual Mt. Olive campfire service and fellowship March 26, 2023. We had five visitors join us in spiritual and physical refreshment around the campfire. We are so thankful they chose to join us!

We have been working on our Easter program that will be presented Easter morning, April 9, 2023 at 11 am.

Our pastor, his wife, and 2 other members will be attending the national meeting of the BMAA April 25-27, 2023 in Conway, Arkansas.

We are busy and excited about what God is doing at Mt. Olive. Thank you for your continued prayers as we keep on keeping on for HIM!!

*Larry Nash, Pastor
Deiatre Gillam, Reporter*

Oak Hill, Alton

HELLO to all from Oak Hill! We are thanking the Lord for keeping his protective hand over us through these past few weeks from the storms that have occurred. We are praying for people that were hit by the storms and for families that lost loved ones from the storms.

Last Sunday, March 26th, Sis. Hope Drake announced that she was expecting a baby November 17. Hope and her husband Tristen are extremely excited, and so are we.

We have been praying about having a revival next month. When we decide on the date and time, I will be

~ Upcoming Events ~

Revival – April 19-21; Bates Creek, Potosi; various evangelists

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

Men's Retreat – May 5-6; Camp Garwood

Homecoming – May 7; Ozark Heights, Potosi

BMA of Missouri Missions

Symposium/Mid-Year Meeting –

May 19-20; Kewanee, New Madrid

SOAR Student Conference – July 3-5;

Gaylord Texan Hotel, Grapevine, TX

WMA Sponsored Ladies Retreat –

September 8 & 9; Drury Plaza Hotel

Cape Girardeau Conference Center

Send event info to mmbpaper@gmail.com.

sure to let everyone know about it. We are hoping that this revival will spread across our country.

Until next month, when I hope I have more good news to share, we will be praising and honoring our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! God Bless!!

*Edward Casey, Pastor
Jennifer Edwards, Reporter*

Grandview, Springfield

Grandview Baptist in Springfield enjoyed a wonderful Bible Conference with speaker Rev. Jeff Swart of Conway, Arkansas.

The church received strong Bible teaching on doctrines distinctive to Baptists.

Each service had excellent attendance, and a spirit of excitement was prevalent throughout the five gatherings and additional times of fellowship with Bro. Jeff and his wife Debbie.

Numerous people attending stated a renewal to and a better understanding of the pillars of our faith.

Gary Longstaff, Pastor



Kathy and Pastor Gary Longstaff and Bro. Jeff and Debbie Swart

Quarterly Financial Reports

MISSOURI MISSIONARY BAPTIST PAPER 1st Quarter 2023

Checking Acct. Balance 1/1/23	\$ 6,898.49
Offerings	<u>4,674.48</u>
Funds Available	\$ 11,572.97
Salaries	(2,400.00)
Printing & Mailing	(2,132.77)
Other Expenses	<u>(301.97)</u>
Ending Balance 3/31/23	\$ 6,738.23

KENNETH E. GIBSON GRANT FUND 1st Quarter 2023

Beginning Balance 1/1/23	\$ 12,021.43
Income	.00
Expenses	<u>(378.36)</u>
Ending Balance 3/31/23	\$ 11,643.07

BMA OF MISSOURI MINUTE FUND 1st Quarter 2023

Beginning Balance 1/1/23	\$ 3,023.15
Income	.00
Expenses	<u>(17.00)</u>
Ending Balance 3/31/23	\$ 3,006.15

*The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.*

Renewal Retreat

(from Chris Polk, via Camp Garwood Facebook page)



The annual Renewal Retreat was held March 24-25 at Camp Garwood. Bro. Josh Wright, Bro. Ben Kingston, and Bro. Brian Kingston did a fantastic job encouraging and teaching us about male discipleship in ourselves, in the home, and in the church. It was a great weekend with some great brethren. The BMAMO is truly blessed with good men.



• *Philippine Church from page 1* •

I knew that one flight was in a 6 passenger plane and could last up to 2 hours in cramped space, so I could pack only a backpack full of small gifts for pastors and wives! And of course personal items.

The first face I remembered from the past was Louella Page. She was going out of Bacolod as I was coming in. We were 10 feet away from each other but couldn't touch. We were present when she was born in Negros Oriental. Her father was a pastor that helped us begin a mission just south of Dumaguete.



Just a few hours later I was able to see and visit her father, Pastor Samuel Rapado, mother, Lorna, and two brothers and to talk over old times! How we loved them.

The next surprise was when I was eating supper and one of the waiters came over to say “Hi, Pastor Meade. How is Julia?” I accompanied Pastor JoJo to a Bible Study in a barrio in the evening. I was privileged to speak in Chapel at the Bible College and listen to their beautiful choir. I had arranged for a pastor friend from Dumaguete City to visit



me in Bacolod, since it was such a short stay. Pastor Greg Rio, his wife, and son-in-law, Nestor and Nani Duran came. What a blessing.

The flight to Southern Leyte was an experience to remember. It wasn't quite as long as I expected, cramped in, but a beautiful scene from the air.

We were eating later when a young man came by passing out tracts. We spoke and he remembered that he had met me and had been in our home in Dumaguete City.

The organization of the church and ordination of the pastor went very well. The Sunday was full with several attending. They served a delicious lunch, then they baptized 3 believers.

On Monday, there was an approximately 5-hour boat ride from Leyte Island to Cebu Island. There was time to sightsee and relax before the long trip back to the USA. I was able to meet a good friend, a motorcycle businessman, in Cebu. Then we waited for our flight in the International Airport. That was the longest and most tiring of the trip from Cebu to Seoul, Korea and on to Detroit and STL. I was so happy to see Carolyn at the baggage claim area. After we said thanks and goodbye to my companions we headed for home! I thank God for the opportunity and all of you that prayed faithfully for us on our trip.

Mwauka Bwanji (Good Morning) from Zambia!

From the Quillmans' March Newsletter

Sharon and I are excited to be writing this newsletter. God has been doing some miraculous things over the last couple of months. Most of the time we are sharing with you about the work within the villages, but this month we wanted to share a little about the work within Livingstone itself. Our heart in ministry has always been to reach ALL of the people, everywhere – and now in Zambia – no matter where they may be found. Bro. Johnmichael Poulin, the regional coordinator for South America and Africa, preached a sermon at the 2022 BMAA national meeting last year. In this message, he challenged us to “take ALL of the Word, to ALL of the people, in ALL of the world.”

I remember this sermon well as God spoke to Sharon and me in a powerful way. We began to seek out ways that we could do just this, take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to ALL of the unreached areas of Zambia and not pass any opportunity that God put before us. Isaiah 55:11 says, “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” So many times, we focus on the “not returning void” (which is a very exciting promise) but skip past the second half: it will accomplish what God pleases and it will prosper where He sends it.

We were invited by the owner of a local lodge to come and bring the Word of God to his employees, so we did. We have been continuing our Bible study group at the White Rose Lodge with their employees since October of 2022. Our intention was to reach the staff there because due to their work hours, most of them never have the opportunity to attend a church service. Many people here in Livingstone are working 12-14 hours per day (or more), 6 or 7 days per week. We have been walking them through “The Story of Hope, Discovering the Provision in God’s Plan.” This is a chronological study of the Bible beginning with creation and ending with the believer’s reward of eternity in Heaven with God. This is an excellent small group study for new believers or anyone wanting to discover more in God’s Word. If you are not familiar with this study, contact Bro. Eliezer Semedo, the regional coordinator for Portuguese-speaking countries at the BMAA Missions office

in Conway, and he would love to share more about this study with you.

This group started with only 4 or 5 employees but has now doubled in size. One of the men named Chanda who works down the road as a “garden boy”, taking care of all the property and grounds, heard about the study, and asked to join. A woman that lives 2 houses down was walking to the store and heard me teaching. I must have been using my BMA pastor voice, and she stopped and asked if she could join in. The next week she joined us and brought her



daughter and her friend that lived down the road. Then again that week a man rode up on his bicycle selling dried macaroni and stayed to listen; he is now a faithful member of our group. During our study, Godfrey, one of the workers at White Rose, pointed out 2 men in the field across the road who had been stealing corn. Godfrey stood to get their attention to run them off and I asked him to wave them over. To everyone’s surprise, they walked over, and I asked them to sit.

Now, one of the first things we have told everyone we are teaching here is that we want them to have a Bible in their own language that they can read. I do not

• *See Good Morning page 7* •

Master's Builders at Work!

Nelda Malone - Reporter

With 2023 well on its way, it was time for The Master's Builders to get back to work! The Builders began two weeks of work at Daniel Springs Encampment on March 6th. As per our usual, our first job of the year is at the camp in Gary, Texas. This was job #180 for our group and our 13th time to have the privilege of helping out at the camp since The Master's Builders ministry began in 1991. Our first visit to the camp was in 1995 with Bro. James Speer as Camp Director.

As always, our plan was to complete whatever tasks that Jason Prewitt, Camp Director, had planned for us to do. His list included, and work was completed on, the following:

*Build a 100 ft retaining wall *Build a storage building for the camp store *Remove old canteen serving counter while preserving all the camp staff names inscribed over the years *Install a door in camp store and office *Build three "carpet ball" tables and one new GaGa pit *Repair 50 chairs *Install side rail boards on the new camp dump trailer *Replace metal posts with wood posts on the dining hall *Remove cinderblock room from canteen area *Prepare the kitchen and canteen for spray foam insulation *Remove and replace windows in the canteen for the new serving bar.

We had 8 RVs parked at the Daniel Dorm, and we were excited to be able to hook directly up to the electricity and water outlets that were installed by our men last year. They are so nice! These are available to anyone with an RV when they use the event facilities at the Daniel Dorm. We also had two couples and two men that stayed in the camp worker's dorms down near the cafeteria. We welcomed two new members, Billy and Dawanna Keys, from De Valls Bluff, AR. What a blessing they are to our Master's Builders family already!

Each morning, at 7:00 AM, our men begin their workday with a devotional, prayer requests, and "circle up" prayer. This year they have started a new tradition of singing "The Family of God" before they break up to begin their workday. The Spirit was truly moving in this time together each morning. What a way to start your day!

We want to thank Jason and Jessica Prewitt, and Morgan Sandifer, who work tirelessly at Daniel Springs. They are the best and took great care of us while we were there! Jason can even cook! Who knew a smoker could be so valuable? HaHa! We were able to enjoy several group meals of smoked meats and even had a wiener roast one evening on the camp fire pit. Such wonderful fellowship was enjoyed!

Thank you to our dear friend, and Jacksonville College alumni, Randy Decker. He came and worked with our men several days and brought the devotional on the first Wednesday night. Randy also led group singing two evenings in a row! On the second Wednesday night, Leo Sketo, from Midway Baptist Church in Mississippi, brought the devotional and Wayne Wimberly, from Old Center Baptist Church in Texas, led us in group singing once again. We certainly made a "joyful noise"! Those old Heavenly Highway hymnals that were donated to us were sure put to good use this trip!

Our ladies enjoyed our Bible Study time each day. We had daily devotionals and also continued our study from the book and video series, "More Women of the Bible." On Tuesdays, we enjoyed "Game Day" with our sisters from Bethel Baptist Church, in Clayton, TX.

There's no way we can report all that is done on our jobs, but our Facebook page is a great resource. Rose Bittner doesn't miss much in updating the work done each day on our page. "LIKE" us and follow us on Facebook as we try to continue serving the Lord. PLEASE pray for our men and pray for more workers to be brought to us.

If all goes as planned, we will begin work at Faith Chapel, in Flippin, AR, on April 3rd. We will be building a new sanctuary and plan to be there three weeks. Come by and check in on us if you can or come work alongside us. We would love to meet you and fellowship with you.

If you have questions about The Master's Builders Ministry, contact:

Mike Green at (972)935-3877 or David Axe at (903)918-0720 or Eddie Sikes at (479)462-1675.



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want them to just take my word that what I'm saying is true, but read what God's Word says about it. So, because of this we gave everyone a Bible, a pencil, and a notepad to aid in their weekly and daily studies. As the 2 "maize thieves" sat down, I handed each of them a Bible, pencil, and notepad. For the rest of the study, I was receiving strange looks from the regulars, and I could tell the 2 men were uncomfortable as well.

After we had finished our study, everyone began to leave and I was quickly pulled to the side and was informed of what the issue was. These 2 men would just take the things we gave them, and we would not see them again. My friends in the group did not want to see Sharon and me taken advantage of. We quickly used this as a teachable moment and told them to just pray for these 2 men. The following week as we were preparing to pray and begin our study, Sharon looked over to see a man on the other side of the fence listening. As she beckoned him over we realized it was one of the men from the week before. He is now a faithful member of our group! He is one of the first to show up and always has questions from the week's study. In fact he has attended so regularly that we traded his regular Bible to one of the more expensive study Bibles. The group joked with him that he "got a promotion."

We have not seen his friend... yet, as we are all praying for him, but Godfrey has said that no more corn has been stolen. You see, God's provision is not just for those who are "good," but His provision is for all - even "corn thieves." In Matthew 9:12-13 we see Jesus being questioned about the same things; "But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, they that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Please continue to pray for this group of young believers in Christ and for those that are listening and watching "beyond the fence" that we may continue to reach the unreached in Zambia.

Zikomo Kwambili (Thank you very much)

PRAISE

New believers in Chibinga recently baptized
Study group at White Rose

Our transmission has been replaced on the 4x4

PRAYER REQUESTS

Chanda as he shares the Gospel with his family
Godfrey to be reconciled with his wife and family
Headman Raymond's son Andreas (epilepsy)
Baby boy in Chibinga with severe umbilical hernia and
other medical issues

NEEDS

Funding for our monthly support

Remaining balance for tires on 4x4

*Like cold water to a
thirsty soul, so is good news
from a far country.*

Seminary to Offer New Programs

The Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary is excited to announce the opening of two new academic programs: the Master of Arts in Disciple Making and the Certificate of Disciple Making.

Both programs are designed to help those interested in fulfilling the Lord's Great Commission to make disciples.

For several years, BMA Seminary has emphasized evangelism and disciple making throughout its degree programs. However, these degrees typically focus upon preparing men for positions of pastoral leadership. The seminary's new programs are designed to help professional and/or volunteers in ministry to prepare themselves for obeying Christ's Great Commission to make disciples.

Officially beginning in the Fall 2023, the Certificate of Disciple Making will be available for men and women who are qualified to study at the undergraduate level. This means that individuals with or without prior collegiate studies may complete the eight courses required for the certificate.

The Master of Arts in Disciple Making will be available to men and women qualified to study at the graduate level. This means that individuals with a properly accredited bachelor's degree in any field of study may complete the twelve courses required for the degree. An undergraduate degree in religious or biblical studies is not required.

The new programs will focus upon equipping students with what they need to grow spiritually and to make disciples who can also make disciples. Courses can be taken on campus and/or online or by a combination of both. For more information, please contact the seminary dean's office or visit the seminary's website at www.bmats.edu under "Prospective Students."

Central Baptist College Hosts 4th Annual Scholarship Gala

Central Baptist College hosted its fourth annual Scholarship Gala on March 28. The black-tie optional event featured keynote speaker, Harry Miller, and was held at the Conway Expo Center.

The proceeds of the event benefit student scholarships, and Central Baptist College President Terry Kimbrow announced \$1,085,208 had been raised through event sponsorships and private donations.

The highlight of the evening was an interview with Harry Miller facilitated by Yalanda Merrell. Harry is an Ohio State student who announced last year that he was medically retiring from football due to declining mental health. Harry shared his amazing testimony of living through times of deep depression and thoughts of suicide. When he medically retired from football, he said people would say, "What's wrong with Harry?" He was at the height of his football career, NFL agents were recruiting him, and he was a 4.0 Mechanical Engineering major. On the outside, he seemed to have it all together. On the inside, however, he was falling apart.

Miller talked about how God has worked in his life over the past year bringing him to the realization, "I have a story that must be told." He was asked about what a "hero" looks like to him. His response, "Kids have all these posters of these athletes who are big and muscular and in these beautiful poses that make them look strong and powerful. I'd like to see a poster of Michael Jordan sitting on the curb crying." He said, "That's the kind of hero I want." At the end of the interview, Harry received a standing ovation from the over 400 attendees of the Gala.

In his announcement of the \$1,085,208 total that had been raised through this event for student scholarships, President Kimbrow acknowledged 57 event sponsors, and many additional individuals and businesses who made contributions towards the total. "I am beyond grateful for the generosity of so many," said President Kimbrow. "The Central Baptist College Board of Trustees, businesses, not only in Conway, but across the state of Arkansas, and other individuals who are such faithful supporters of Central Baptist College all came together to make this an unforgettable night for the support of Christian Higher Education."

Contributions are still being accepted. To contribute visit cbc.edu/gala and complete the online giving form. Checks may be mailed to Central Baptist College, 1501 College Avenue, Conway, AR 72034 with "2023 Scholarship Gala" on the memo line of the check. For more information contact Amy Reed, Director of Development at areed@cbc.edu or 501-205-8934.



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.

John Beardsley, of Kewanee (New Madrid) is available for pulpit supply. Contact him at 573-703-3860. (0423)

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.

What's Happening?

What is happening at your church? Are you making plans for VBS, revivals, and other activities? Does your local association have an annual or mid-year meeting coming up?

Especially as spring and summer approach, you may be working toward activities that you want to share with others in our state. We would like to focus on those items in an "Upcoming Events" format in the paper.

If you will send us information about your plans, we will be glad to share them with our readers. For events scheduled in the distant future, we will keep the information on file and run it as the date approaches.

Deaths

Debrah "Debbie" Coleman Evans went to be with her Heavenly Father on Friday, March 10, 2023, at the age of 73. The wife of David Evans, Debbie was a faithful member of Stony Point Missionary Baptist Church where she served as church clerk and pianist and enjoyed singing for the Lord.

Ruby Poteet, 80, of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, went to be with the Lord, her Savior, on March 16, 2023. She was a member of Oakland Heights Missionary Baptist Church, White Hall, AR. She loved to volunteer her time, including serving in national, state, and local positions in WMA and GMA.

Mary Dement passed away on April 3, 2023. She was a member of Ozark Heights and was the loving and devoted wife of deacon Bro. Bob Dement who passed away on December 8, 2022.

If you would like to share information about the deaths of members of your church, we can include that in the paper. You can send us the person's name, where they lived, church where they were a member, brief mention of their work (deacon, teacher, etc.), and we will print the notice in this section. We also try to print full obituaries for pastors, pastors' wives, and other prominent leaders as we are provided with the information and as space allows.

Hotel Information for Mid-Year Meeting

Bro. Dan Wisely, host pastor for the BMA of Missouri mid-year meeting, has provided the following phone numbers for motels in Sikeston.

Pear Tree Inn.....573-471-4100
Drury Inn573-472-2299
Hampton Inn.....573-621-4100
Holiday Inn Express573-475-9522