

# The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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

Volume LXXXV

St. Louis, MO • July 11, 2023

Issue No. 7



Blessed is the nation whose  
God is the Lord . . .

## My Year as National GMA President

Caitie Cox, Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church

The National Girls Missionary Auxiliary camp has been something I have been blessed to attend every summer since I was in the 4th grade. Through this camp and program, I have grown stronger in my understanding of the Word, made life-long Christian friends who I know I can count on, and made memories like no others.

This past year, I served as the National President. Being in this position, I learned a lot. I learned what it meant to really be an example for the younger girls. Being an officer also allowed me to meet many people who I might not have met before. My prayers through holding this office were that everything I did would be to glorify God.

Our camp this year centered on the board game ‘Clue,’ and our theme was “Clueless without Christ.” Our theme verse was Colossians 2:10a, “*And ye are complete in Him.*” We spent the week learning about what it really meant to be complete in Christ and how, without Him, we are clueless. Bro. Todd West did an amazing job bringing messages that not only fit our theme but also spoke to girls of all ages. We also raised over \$13,000 for our project this year. The project money goes to AJ, who is a new missionary to unreached people groups.

Being president, I had the opportunity to be in the middle of all of the decision making and planning. I am so thankful for the opportunity to serve this past year, and I am looking forward to seeing how God will use me now that I have completed my GMA steps.



## Missouri State Camp Week

### Camp Garwood

Speakers: Jordan Bowen  
and Caleb Houston

July 31 - August 4

*National Women's Missionary Auxiliary*

Women's Outreach

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(Editor's Note: These are the first two posts from a new blog by the National WMA. For additional similar content, you can go to <https://www.nationalwma.org/blogs/>. Additional posts will be shared here in the future as space allows.)

## Drawing Closer to God – CLOSER (Blog 1)

By Judy Wallace

Our purpose in life is to pursue a closer, more intimate relationship with Christ under the leadership and power of the Holy Spirit through the development of spiritual disciplines set forth in the acronym CLOSER.

It was a long engagement — one year and two months to be exact. Tommy was in Bald Knob farming, and I was finishing my senior year of college by student teaching in Fort Smith. It was hard to stay connected, but we certainly made the effort.

There were no cell phones, and to call long distance cost extra. So instead, we wrote letters. The letters were not just occasional, they were daily! We “talked” on paper and shared our daily activities. I would often beat the mailman to the mailbox to receive the precious writing straight into my hand. I immediately opened each letter, knowing it was from the one who loved me deeply and wanted me to spend the rest of my life with him. It was how we stayed “CLOSER” while apart.

This year, the Inspirational Resource Committee wants to share this series of articles for the purpose of helping you draw CLOSER to our God. Our responsibility, as a group, is to recommend godly resources that help you grow, mature and continue to pursue a more intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. What better resource for this than the Bible! It is God's precious letter to us. It is from the One who loves us deeply and wants us to spend the rest of our lives with Him! It is the source and foundation of many disciplines we need to pursue.

• See CLOSER page 3 •

## Publication Date Change

The August *Missouri Missionary Baptist* will be delayed a week due to church camp. The deadline for submissions will be August 8, and the publication date will be August 15.

## State Missions

Happy July, BMAMO churches,

Hopefully you are doing well. We are praying for all of our churches' summer ministries. Camp is right around the corner. Please pray for both camps to see many saved and people to surrender to full-time ministry.

I will be with a few churches this summer, and it's not too late to schedule a Wednesday evening with me to hear about the BMAMO assessment. Please give me a call if you're interested.

As you may have heard, my Mother passed away on June the tenth. She had lived 83 years on this earth. Betty Kingston is an amazing women. I use present tense because Jesus is the reason any of us have hope beyond the grave, and my Mother was a true believer. For that I am eternally grateful.

Both my mother and father faithfully served His churches for all their adult lives. It is my hope that I can finish well as they did.

May the Lord richly bless you all.

Ben Kingston



### MISIÓN BELÉN (Bethlehem Mission)

Juan Fernandez

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#### “REACHING OUT TO HISPANIC FAMILIES FOR CHRIST”

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” Luke 4:18-19.*

#### Praises!

- New man of peace for Discovery Bible Study, Mauricio. God has been using his Word to change this man's heart, starting with his habits and lifestyle. Now Mr. Roberto is sharing his faith with his neighbors. A week ago, we prepared a gift for Mauricio – a new Bible. Now we are hoping for God's work to do the work on restoring this young man's heart. Praise the Lord His labor is never in vain. As I am typing this update, I just learned that our brother Roberto has been convicted by the Holy Spirit to move to New Orleans to take care of his younger son. His name is Josue, and he is 18 years old. He is deeply involved with wrong crowds leading him to use and abuse of narcotics. God's mercy on his son and each one in brother Roberto's family. His other son's name is Joel. I guess we are sending another missionary to New Orleans. We met brother Roberto in the month of January 2023. More than six months of continuous discipleship and prayer meetings, praise be to God. We are asking God for protection of these young men and wisdom for Mr. Roberto if he can stay here in St. Louis, and instead move his children up here.

- Protection and provision to reach out to Castillo's family for the last 2 and a half years. We are so glad to witness their spiritual journey. Be in prayer for Nahum and Ermilanda as they are facing tough decisions, very time sensitive decisions in which they were challenged since the beginning of our discipleship process. God be glorified and this young couple strengthens God's calling for their marriage and parenting. Please join us in prayer for God to show up in this family and for them to show commitment to continue in the discipleship process.

- For our Discovery Bible Study in Hamed's place. Last Monday when we met, we had four more people joining to hear what this God thing is about. Hamed has completed his first stage of discipleship, and we are moving forward to the second stage. Mr. Hamed has been raised under Muslim faith. During our interaction the comparison of the Bible with the Koran comes up very often. The main learning for Hamed has been to learn that the God of the Bible is merciful. Continue praying that God's Word continues shaping this young man's faith, and also each one in this household will become laborers for the kingdom. Pray for a nurse's aid that has been with him for the longest, Silvia, who asked to include his son Ben in our prayer for protection and also for wisdom to raise this 4-year-old son.

- Last Sunday we celebrated our first Sunday service in the evening (6:00 pm). We had two professions of faith to be baptized, although they prefer to be baptized in a river since they want to be more like Jesus. We are praising the Lord for leading converts into becoming more like Jesus. These two individuals have been faithfully attending every single Sunday since January (although they had been attending less faithfully since we met almost years ago).

#### Prayer Requests

- For new home Bible studies. Man of peace and open doors in the 20 mile radius in St. Louis county.

• See MISIÓN BELÉN page 3 •

### FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS

June 2023

#### Checking Account:

Balance May 31, 2023 \$ 22,685.40

#### Income:

Missions \$ 2,107.32

RLFMS disbursement 109,000.00

Total Income \$ 111,107.32

Total Available \$ 133,792.72

#### Expenses:

Director, salary \$ 450.00

Secretary, salary 200.00

Juan Fernandez, support 2,333.33

BMA - Michael Strong 5,000.00

MMB Paper 25,000.00

Kenneth Gibson Fund 20,000.00

Camp Garwood 30,000.00

Meramec Retreat Center 30,000.00

Minute Fund 4,000.00

Total Expenses \$(116,983.33)

Balance June 30, 2023 \$ 16,809.39

#### BMAMS Revolving Loan Investment:

Balance May 31, 2023 \$ 222,916.26

Disbursement (109,000.00)

Balance June 30, 2023 \$ 113,916.26

Total in All Accounts June 30, 2023 \$ 130,725.65

## WMA

GOD'S BEAUTIFUL DESIGN

# for Women

2023 MO WMA Sponsored Ladies Retreat

## September 8 & 9

(Begins at 3:00 pm on the 8th & ends at 4:00 pm on the 9th)

Registration Fee: \$60  
(Includes Lunch on Saturday)

**Registration Cutoff:**  
**08.25.2023**

Checks Payable to: MO WMA  
c/o Janet Widger 5014 Hwy N  
Salem, MO 65560

**Location:**  
**Drury Plaza Conference Center**  
3351 Percy Dr  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Includes: "Kickback" Dinner & Hot Breakfast  
Room Rate \$135.00 Plus Tax  
Call: 800.325.0720 Group Number 10034537  
Cutoff Date: 08.17.2023

**Speaker: Christy Horton**  
**Theme: "What is A Girl To Do" - Titus 2 Me and You**  
**Music Worship Team: Molly Kingston & Rie Owens**

## The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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## Camp Garwood

Here we are, camp month! What do I need to do? What have I forgotten? We've been working like crazy to get things ready. Still have a lot of regular cleaning to do. Still have a lot of wasps to eliminate. There was a little issue dealing with sewer lines, but it wasn't as bad as we feared. With that under control, these last couple weeks will be focused on fairly normal maintenance and cleanup.

By the time this is in print, you should have your adult screening completed. The last day to complete that process is July 27th.

I'm excited for camp this year. Our speakers, Bro. Jordan Bowen and Bro. Caleb Houston, are great guys who will bring a powerful word. The band Central Collective is back leading our services preparing hearts to hear the word.

On Monday night Bro. Doug Mickan will bring his pals and special talents back to Garwood! Tuesday night is drive-in night.

Wednesday night is church night. We love seeing our church brothers and sisters who can't come all week to camp but come to get the camp experience.

Wednesday and Thursday nights we have train rides.

Each day has an assortment of recreation activities following a morning of learning by some very talented class-time teachers.

Be praying for all of our camp volunteers. Pray that the word is convicting and souls are saved.

What will the Lord do this year at camp? I don't know, but I'm excited to find out.

Don't forget about the check-in station as you enter camp. During heavy check-in times only emergencies will be allowed to leave.

For safety and comfort of campers, no pets will be allowed to stay in the camper dorms. All pets outside during camp week must be kept on a leash. Please clean up after your pets.

Hope to see you there!

Chris Polk

### • CLOSER from page 1 •

This year, we will be using the acronym CLOSER to guide our writings and more importantly, to encourage you in incorporating these spiritual endeavors into your daily lives. This is what the acronym reminds us to do:

- C — Communicate with God through prayer
- L — Learn to study and understand God's Word
- O — Obey
- S — Store God's Word in your heart through memorization and meditation
- E — Evangelize
- R — Renew daily

The writers for this series will be the Inspirational Resource Committee members — Valarie Fish, Susie Edgar, Jackie Ricks and me.

Join us weekly. Pray for us daily. Incorporate these disciplines regularly. It is what He has called us to do!

Some scriptures to read to get started: James 4:8, Isaiah 26:3, Psalm 119:10 and Matt. 5:6.

Prayer — Father, You are our Rock, our Shield, our Redeemer, Savior and Friend. You are Lord of all, our Creator, our Shepherd and Your presence is always with us. Even Your names bring peace into our lives. Plus, there is the wonder that You loved us enough to send Your Son to die for us, as unworthy as we are. How is it that You invite us into Your presence? That You long to fellowship with us? That You want us close to Your heart and partakers of Your Spirit's power? How is it that we would dare refuse Your invitation to draw closer; to take time to study Your word, hide it in our hearts and minds and seek Your face as a daily True North to follow? We cannot follow Your words unless we know them, so help us on this journey to draw CLOSER each day to You and Your path for our lives. Help us love You more so that we may obey You fully. In Christ's precious name, Amen.

Respond to God with your own prayer from what you have read today.

*Note: CLOSER was developed by Rob Gallaty in his discipleship series Growing Up, Firmly Planted, Bearing Fruit.*

## Drawing Closer to God – PRAYER (Blog 2)

By Jackie Ricks

One of our goals this year is to draw closer to God. In the acrostic CLOSER, the first letter stands for "Communicate with God through prayer." Prayer is the main thing that has carried me through life. Just as one wants to talk to her best friend, husband, child or whomever, she should want to talk to God in the same way. I know when something exciting happens, I immediately want to share it. By the same token, when problems arise, I need to discuss matters with someone. Although I love to talk to my loved ones, God is the best One to talk to in either case. God already knows exactly what has happened, but there is a comfort in thanking Him for the good things and asking for His help to discern what to do in any situation.

### • MISIÓN BELÉN from page 2 •

• For a core team of families (at least two families), no need to speak Spanish. We need two families to join our ministry to support our efforts of discipleship, teaching and having fun with our children's ministry. We gather Sunday evening from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. While I focus on the Hispanic adults, the challenges our families are facing go beyond a normal Sunday school class. There is a huge need for counseling and developing new skills as they navigate this new country, culture, etc.

• That the Lord keeps bringing His people together the first Sunday of the month at 6:00 pm to celebrate special dates with a potluck. Special music is also appreciated. If you would like to come and join our service by playing an instrument, singing a song, greeting friends, helping hand out invitations 30 minutes before 6:00 pm on Sunday, don't hesitate to reach out by texting my number 618-581-8056 or by Facebook message. We are seeking to grow in prayer power and presence of people who are willing to go the extra mile to come and minister to our children, to our families. To Him be the glory.

• New ESL outreach for this fall. Students with potential and commitment to complete the course.

• Spanish class at Lindsay Lane Baptist Church in Florissant. Sign up to join us for this Spanish learning experience. Animate!

### • Contact Information •

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Psalm 145:18 states, "The Lord is near unto all those who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth." The more I talk to God, the closer I feel to Him, just as I would to anyone with whom I communicate.

Many times, while driving down the road, I talk to God aloud. People driving near me may think I've lost my mind, but the truth is I'm finding peace and comfort in my quiet time with

• See CLOSER page 6 •



## Updates from Our Churches



### Kewanee, Kewanee

Greetings from Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church.

We kicked off summer with our VBS, *Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light*, which was held June 5-9th. We had a little over 60 kids join us for the week to learn about how to Shine Jesus' Light!

Caitie Cox served as the National GMA President for the retreat held at Daniel Springs Baptist Camp, June 14-17th. There were three professions of faith during GMA Camp. Praise the Lord! The MO State GMA Retreat was held June 23-24th at Camp Garwood. Fun, food, and fellowship were had by all. We have 3 youth and 2 sponsors traveling to the SOAR student conference July 3-5th. Please pray for this conference.

Our summer revival will be held July 10-14th with Bro. John David Smith. Be praying for him as he comes and gives the messages. The district WMA will meet at Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church on July 18th. Caitie Cox will be traveling to Romania July 15-25th with a VSM group. Please keep them in your prayers as they travel and for the kids they will get to minister to while there.

We are excited about Camp Garwood, which will be held July 31st – August 4th. We have several students and adults headed to camp that week! There is still a lot to do at camp, so if you are led to go and serve, please do so! You will be blessed!

We hope you all have a great summer! Stay safe and

cool. Please “like” our Facebook page, Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church, to keep up with future events.

*Dan Wisely, Pastor  
Lisa Cox, Reporter*

### Bethel, Sikeston

The month of June was a busy month, as we made last-minute preparations for our VBS, starting with the kick-off on the 11th and then VBS running the 12th thru the 16th. We had a good turnout each night. The theme was "Babylon." Everyone had lots of fun learning about how God saved Daniel from the den of lions. Our youth did an awesome job of portraying Ashpenaz, Daniel, and King Nebuchadnezzar. The kids were all concerned about what happened to Daniel, as they asked a lot of questions.

We are still studying the book of Hebrews on Wednesday nights, a very inspiring and interesting book.

Sis. Helen Beardsley put a program together to honor our fathers on the 18th. She read comments from older fathers, giving the younger ones advice on how to be a good, godly father. A video of our fathers with their children was shown, and each father was presented with a rechargeable flashlight to represent them being a light in this world. Sis. Shelly Kinder sang a beautiful song about fathers, and Bro. Billy gave a wonderful message about the responsibility of fathers. We have a good group of godly fathers that we are very proud of.

Congratulations to Bro. Shane and Sis. Lisa Pipkin on

the arrival of their beautiful baby girl this month.

Hope everyone had a happy Independence Day enjoying time with your family.

*Billy Davis, Pastor  
Joan Wood, Reporter*

### Landmark, DeSoto

Hello again from Landmark in DeSoto!

I have concluded that we must be doing something right at Landmark, otherwise the devil wouldn't be picking on us so much!

As I reported last month, we were able to overcome the problems we had with broken flagpoles and a vandalized van. Now we're dealing with a broken building! A little over three weeks ago, for reasons unknown to this reporter, a USPS driver decided to try and make a u-turn in his SEMI on our parking lot. For those of you who have visited Landmark, you know our parking lot is VERY small. This did not faze our determined driver. He shimmed and finagled his rig and actually did get it turned around. However, when he tried to pull off the parking lot, his trailer caught on all the main electrical wires that were attached to the roof and side of the building, and PULLED THEM DOWN along with part of the roof and brick siding!

S-o-o-o, we have not been able to have services in our building for the past 3 weeks, nor do we know when the repairs will be completed. Our trustees and the insurance company are working diligently on getting things started.

But God is good! Although we didn't have services that Sunday after the accident (note: Bro. & Sis. Page and I attended Sunday morning services at Zion in St. Louis and had a wonderful time of fellowship there), we were able to rent a banquet room at the DeSoto Recreation Building - less than a half-mile from the church - and have been able to at least have Sunday morning worship service for the last 2 weeks. We will continue to meet there weekly for the foreseeable future.

So keep praying that the building repairs can be completed in a swift and timely manner. In the meantime we will continue to keep all of you in our prayers also.

*David Crites, Pastor  
Barbara Williams, Reporter*

### Abundant Life in Christ, Charleston

We rejoice in a successful VBS that introduced us to new families. Most of all we rejoice that one made a profession of faith during VBS week!

*Rodney Dunlap, Pastor*

### Lower Doe Run, Ellington

We pray that all have had a great celebration on the 4th of July. We celebrate freedom in Christ with you all. We have been so blessed in our lifetime with freedoms that other countries do not enjoy. We recall our first 4th of July in the Philippines. We went to the beach, just our family, and before the day was finished, we had a congregation of young people listening to the gospel in children's songs with our girls. They asked us to come back and we did. That was the beginning of the second mission we helped establish. At that time we celebrated Philippine American Friendship Day.

In everything give thanks... We are surviving the heat and drought. Attendance has stayed regular with occasional visitors, mostly family members visiting. We have

enjoyed two VBS groups, one at Bates Creek, Potosi, and one at Charity, Bismarck. We look forward to VBS missions at Ozark Heights on August 2 and the week of camp at Garwood. Lower Doe Run supports the camp every week in a penny march after Sunday School.

Our ladies are enjoying a Bible Study with Lynn Silvey's book, *After God's Heart*. We thank Bettye Wilson of Mt. Pleasant, TX for supplying a dozen books for our study.

The Morris reunion had a great turnout at the church on the 24th. We were so glad to be a part. The Rayfield reunion is set for August 5.

The Logan Creek Association meets at Lower Doe Run on the 12th. We anticipate a great day in the Lord.

Also two of us, a 6-year-old and a 76-year-old, attended the GMA Retreat at Camp Garwood on the 23rd and 24th. What a blessing it was. We encourage every church to send your girls, even if it is just one! When we presented the GMA program to our churches in the Philippines, our pastors commented that it was equivalent to a Bible college course!

Our condolences to the Dale G. Fish family. He was a great man of God and will be greatly missed in our associated work. We met many old friends at the visitation and are reminded again to pray for one another and for the churches we represent. We must proclaim the Gospel for the harvest is ready and laborers are few. Lord Jesus, come quickly.

*Melvin Meade, Pastor  
Carolyn Meade, Reporter*

### New Testament, Sullivan

New Testament Baptist Church of Sullivan just wrapped up VBS for the summer. The week's theme was *Zoomerang – Returning to the Value of Life*. The kids were able to learn about Australia and its many amazing people, places, and animals.

## ~ Upcoming Events ~

**Revival** – July 10-14; Kewanee; John David Smith, evangelist

**Jesus Camp** – July 16-22; Grades 1-5, Sun.-Wed.; Grades 7-12, Wed.-Sat.; Meramec Retreat Center

**BMA of Missouri Camp** – July 31-Aug. 4; Jordan Bowen and Caleb Houston, speakers; Camp Garwood

**Logan Creek Association** – August 12; Lower Doe Run, Ellington; 10 a.m.; lunch will be served

**DEWr Weekend** – Aug. 18-19; 7 p.m. Fri. – Sat. afternoon; Camp Garwood

**WMA Sponsored Ladies Retreat** – Sept. 8-9; Drury Plaza Hotel Cape Girardeau Conference Center

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

But more importantly, they learned why God values every life. What a blessing that one child accepted Christ as Savior! The church had great participation from adults and teens who served in capacities such as registration, song time, teaching, crafts, snacks, security, games and much more. Pray with our church that God will continue to use the lessons that the children heard to impact their hearts about the value of their life and the lives of those around them.

*Josh Wright, Pastor  
Tiffany Wright, Reporter*

### **Ohlman, Bunker**

In just a flash May and June flew by.

The men of the church did an excellent job fixing breakfast and flowers for all of the ladies of the church on Mother's Day Sunday. It was served in place of Sunday School and very well attended (Hmmm).

The rest of May there were graduations and celebrations along with various cemetery gatherings. However, attendance was not too bad for Sunday morning services.

We had our last Wednesday night kids program on May 31st with Bro. Doug Mikan as guest speaker. He did an excellent job presenting the gospel to all in attendance. Two of the youth were visiting from South Carolina; it was good to have them there.

June continued to be busy with cemetery gatherings and people traveling on vacation trips as well as family reunions. On Father's Day, the ladies took an easy way to celebrate the men of the church. They were each given a gift card to Harbor Freight along with a cup. The only complaint was that they did not get their traditional plate of cookies.

Juanita May, Janet Widger, Angel May and Paisley May attended the MO GMA Retreat at Camp Garwood on June 23rd and 24th. For the Saturday morning session, the guest speaker was Allison May Harper. She did an excellent job telling her testimony of how learning

through the GMA program as a young girl had helped her as an adult and the struggles of having a family of her own.

Janet Widger went to camp that Friday morning to work on one of the many upkeep chores that Chris Polk had posted about. Then on the 29th and 30th she was there to work some more. With the excessive heat, many breaks had to be taken, but along with some from other churches, a few of the chores got done. There is always something that you can do to physically help with at Camp Garwood. When you invest not just your finances but physical labor into the camp, it becomes more personal.

Speaking of Camp Gar-

wood, as we go into July, we are looking forward to annual BMA of MO camp time. There will be approximately 50 (adults and youth) from or with Ohlman. We appreciate our young people inviting their friends to attend.

While this should technically be for July's report, I'm saving the BEST news for last! Sunday morning, July 2, Alton May presented himself for baptism and Clay Jensen presented himself for baptism. The baptistry was already prepared for Bro. Clay as he and Bro. Terry had discussed this move earlier, but with Alton making the move, it was the icing on the cake.

*Terry Sharpe Pastor  
Janet Widger, Reporter*

## **The Master's Builders Work at Jacksonville College**

School was out and Memorial Day was behind us, so it was time for the Master's Builders to head to Jacksonville College for our annual visit, starting work on June 5th! This would be our eighth time to work at JBC since 2012, and job #183 for the Master's Builders.

During our stay, we had six campers parked in the Collins Dorm parking lot and six men and one couple staying in the SBTC Girl's Dorm. This made it very convenient for the Builders as some of the folks came and went at different times during the two-week job. We so appreciate having the flexibility for some to use the dorms while we work, as it allows for several to come who do not have campers.

The Master's Builders were asked to come and help with constructing additional boys' dorm spaces. In 2021, the Builders helped by converting a few classrooms and offices into rooms for living, showering, and laundry rooms. This year, the Builders were asked to help convert 6 large open classrooms into 4 to 6 single bedrooms each, totaling 25 new living spaces for young men. We also constructed 20 wardrobes to make sure each student would have closet space.

Randy Decker was the alumni representative on this project and coordinated all the materials and plans for us. Randy also worked right alongside us each day and it was such a blessing! Materials and supplies were provided with funds raised by the Alumni Association of Jacksonville College. The love they showed for the college during this work was both amazing and inspiring!

The Builders were also asked to build an office inside the Golf Facility for the golf coach. It was certainly hard to keep the men on track with all that golf equipment calling their names though!



The Master's Builders were blessed to have extra help on these campus projects with three additional men coming in at different times during our two-week stay. We were so glad they gave of their time, talents, backs, and knees to help us. Roger Adams from Waxahachie,

Texas, Farrell Pollard of Jacksonville, Texas, and Ed Shelby of Mansfield, Texas. Ed came to help and then decided he'd like to join our Master's Builders "family"! Thank you and Praise the Lord for him and his wife Cindy! We are thanking God for these men who are willing to serve the Lord and help with this ministry. Additional thanks to: George Baker, head of maintenance for Jacksonville College, who is always ready to see that we have all we need and lend a hand to help when he can. Chef Kevin, and the cafeteria staff, who cooked and served our lunch and evening meal every workday. What a blessing it was not to have to worry about cooking! First Baptist Jacksonville for providing a wonderful meal one Friday evening along with some sweet fellowship.

Also, many thanks to the FBC Jacksonville "M&Ms" ladies' group, who always invite us to join them for their June meeting. This meeting always includes games, a wonderful devotional, lots of delicious flavors of M&Ms, and a delicious meal! They always make our ladies feel so welcome! And finally, a big shout out to the city of Jacksonville who always seem to provide a festival for us to enjoy while we are there!



We always look forward to our time at Jacksonville College each year. We ask you to join us in praying for them as they search for a new President to lead them in the way God would have the school to go. This college needs our prayers and support more than ever. We also ask you to pray for God to send workers for our Master's Builders group to come along side us as we continue to work for His Glory!

I encourage each of you to "Follow" and "Like" us on Facebook. You can see what we do each day and pray for us. Just type in "The Master's Builders" on FB (the one with the arbor logo) and follow us.

If you have questions about this ministry, please contact: Mike Green at (972)935-3877, David Axe at (903)918-0729 or Eddie Sikes at (479)462-1675. Reporter – Nelda Malone



## Minister's Resource Services Name Change

Minister's Resource Services' (MRS) board of directors is pleased to announce its official name change to BMA Financial Services, which will do business as BMA Financial. The new organization comprises the merging of two national agencies—MRS and BMA Foundation—and combines existing financial services provided to the Association into one entity. While the Foundation will remain a separate legal entity, it will now be under the auspices and governance of BMA Financial.

This decision, recommended by both the MRS and BMA Foundation boards, was endorsed by the BMA Coordinating Council and approved by the churches at the 2023 national meeting held in April. The new agency, through its strategic partners, offers our churches financial services encompassing retirement and benefit programs for BMA ministers and employees, benevolent services, risk management insurance, payroll services, Foundation investment management, charitable gift annuities, and financial and estate planning assistance. The new name better reflects the array of services offered.

This change also eliminates the need for two executive directors and two separate boards, thus improving overall efficiency and resulting in better stewardship of the church's resources. The measure should reduce costs while providing economies of scale for the management of the retirement and endowment funds.

"By incorporating these financial services under the BMA Financial umbrella, the organization aims to streamline operations, enhance efficiency, and reduce overhead expenses," said Dr. Steve Crawley, the newly elected Executive Director of BMA Financial. "This consolidation of resources will allow us to better serve our constituents by doing more with less."

The branding process of BMA Financial will come in stages. Plan participants will see gradual changes starting with digital materials including a new website. Until the revamping of the site is completed, [www.ministersresourceservices.com](http://www.ministersresourceservices.com) will serve as the online access point for BMA Financial.



The numbers are in! BMA churches gave close to \$400,000 to the Jerry Kidd Missions Fund during World Missions Day 2023. Your faithful giving is responsible for the ongoing partnership with ChangeMaker missionaries and the planting of churches around the globe.

Thank you for your continued commitment to God's global mission. As always, if there is any way that we can serve, please let us know.

*BMA Global Relationship Manager Sidney Vines  
sidney@bmaam.com*

## ~ Letter from Missions Department ~

Dear churches of the BMA,

We greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We pray that God is blessing you and using you to exalt his Son. It is our prayer that God is using you mightily in his mission to make disciples of all nations.

We are writing this letter to inform you of an issue that has come to our attention. Several pastors from Africa, some connected to the BMA and others with no connection at all to the BMA, have been contacting churches, pastors, and individuals directly asking for financial help.

We would like to ask you to please refrain from supporting any of these individuals directly. We are asking this so we may be good stewards of God's money. For instance, one of these individuals asked for money for Bibles, but \$10,000.00 has already been given for Bibles in this region.

Others are asking for money for building projects. We have a program in place to help with these projects: it is called the principle of the thirds. We ask the church to raise one-third of the project, and then we will loan them one-third interest free. Afterward we will gift them one-third from donations from generous church members like yourselves. If funds are given directly to individuals, the program of the thirds will fall apart.

The motivation of the principle of the thirds is twofold. First, we want the churches to take ownership of their own building projects. Second, we hope they will learn that we want to work with them and not for them.

There have been many other requests for funds, ranging from help with medical bills to buying vehicles. Some of these requests may be legitimate, but there is no way to know when they do not come through the proper channels. We already have channels in place for these countries to make their needs known in the United States.

If you have any questions, please contact John Michael Poulin, BMA Global Regional Coordinator for Africa and South America, at [johnmichael@bmaam.com](mailto:johnmichael@bmaam.com). If you have any questions about other regions, please contact Dr. John David Smith at 501-455 4977.

God bless,

John David Smith  
President of BMA Global

John Michael Poulin  
Regional Coordinator for Africa and South America

Michael Goodwin  
President of EIM

Tim Tyler  
Founder of Water for Christ

### • CLOSER from page 3 •

my friend — God. (Obviously, don't close your eyes when you do this!) Some conversations with God are long, but some are as short as "thanks" or "help!" Quite often, I simply think of a situation where I say, "Lord, Your will." There is no correct formula for prayer.

However, with that being said, let me tell you something I came up with years ago as I was writing Sunday School literature for Baptist Publishing House. It has helped me many times to remember not to monopolize God's time by only asking for help or by not acknowledging that He will take care of everything in His own will. Since I love acrostics, I came up with this one for PRAYER, along with verses to read. Maybe it will help you as you draw closer to God through prayer:

- Praise — Psalm 107:31-32
- Repent — I John 1:9
- Ask — Matthew 21:22
- Yield — Matthew 26:39-45
- Expect — I John 5:14-15
- Rest — Matthew 11:28

Prayer — Lord, thank You for being there, no matter what time, day or night, that I come to You. You listen faithfully to everything I say or think. Since I don't have to talk aloud, I can pray even in the midst of a crowded room. Please help me to remember to come to You first, whether it's to rejoice or to cry. Show me, Lord, what You would have me do and how to be more faithful in bringing You all my hopes, dreams and desires, as well as my troubles. Thank You, again, for being God. In Jesus' name, amen.

Respond to God in prayer every chance you get today. Learn to communicate with Him on a regular basis.

*Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart  
and with the full assurance that faith brings.*

**Girls Discipleship Retreat  
Sponsored by the National Girls  
Missionary Auxiliary**

Lane Flynt, Director of National Youth Auxiliary

All 184 people at this year's retreat had a wonderful time. As of the end of the retreat, we have raised approximately \$14,000 for the 2022-2023 project. At the completion of the retreat, we had a report of two professions of faith.

This year's retreat was open to all girls, not exclusive to GMA groups. Camp pastor was Bro. Todd West. The retreat provided numerous breakout sessions for the girls and ladies.

Our project for 2023-2024 is the Pasley family in France, with a goal of \$20,000. The 2024 retreat is scheduled for June 11-14. We have set an attendance goal of 300 for next year.

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**Missouri Represented  
at National Retreat**

(Photos by Lisa Cox)



**2022-2023 National Officers**  
including President Caitie Cox from Kewanee



**Missouri attendees from First, Matthews and Kewanee  
Missionary Baptist**

(left to right): Jill Polk, Shelia Polk, Lauren Russell, Logan Carroll, Karen Magee, Caitie Cox, Laura Polk, Chloe Polk, Gianna Barnett, and Lisa Cox



**Queens from Missouri**

(left to right): Caitie Cox, Imperial Queen; Chloe Polk, Imperial Queen; Gianna Barnett, Imperial Queen; and Logan Carroll, Queen

**Where Have We Been!?!?**

Mickeal & Sharon Quillman, Missionaries to Zambia

The last couple of months have been packed full of exciting things happening. We would both like to thank the BMA Missionary Care Team for bringing us in for the National Meeting in Conway and the Care Conference in Hot Springs.

The trip to the States enabled us to finalize our permanent work permits. In Zambia, you cannot be in the country while they are being applied for and cannot return until they are fully approved. The last part is something we were not aware of until we landed in Johannesburg on the way back home. This little fact allowed us to have an unexpected 2-week layover in Johannesburg.



Upon returning to Zambia, it was time to prepare for our 1st team to arrive... in only 5 days! We spent that time collecting the needed supplies for our team project - constructing the building for our newly planted church, Chabantu Missionary Baptist Church. The team from Temple Baptist Church (Jonesboro, AR; Pastor Andy Neal) arrived and we went to work. We began by digging the holes and footing for the building. It was a great experience for those in the village to work alongside us as we worked to ensure the building would be square. This was a great time for Bro. Andy and me to teach on the importance of The Cornerstone for the church and in our individual lives. The building is not yet completed, but we will update everyone on the progress as it continues. During the team's visit, we were able to have a traditional meal each day with the men from the surrounding villages. For those who had never eaten a traditional village meal, it was quite the experience. I think that 2 of the men survived on peanut butter crackers and beef jerky for the entire week!

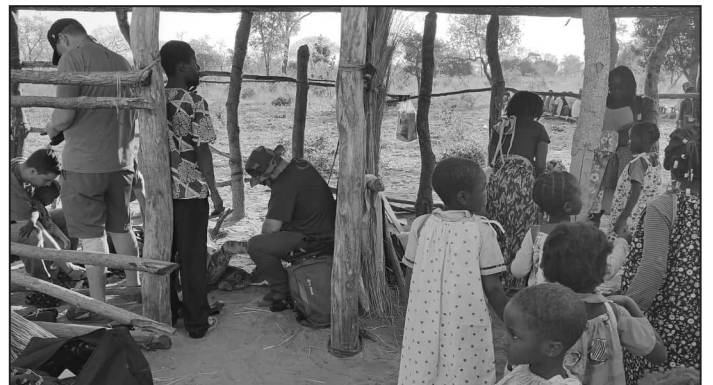
On Sunday, Bro. Andy preached from Mark 1:14-15, proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Three of the men we have been praying for stepped forward and prayed to receive salvation!



The brother of the headman of Chibinga also came forward to be baptized after being saved during our Christmas program. We then piled into the back of our trucks and drove many of the church members 5-6

miles to be baptized in a small "lake" used for watering cattle. The ladies from the church sang worship praises in Chitonga the whole way there and back. Once we arrived, we began shooing the cows out of the way so we could bring the crowd to the water. Bro. Andy and Bro. Clinton Morris joined me in the lake to baptize our new brothers in Christ.

One of the last days we were in the village, we utilized the two preachers on the team by having a mini conference. Bro. Andy and Bro. Clinton were able to teach the many who came about The Authority of the Word of God and Evangelism. After the lessons the church presented us with a program as a way of thanking us for all we've done. There was singing by a few men with their homemade guitar, singing by the children from Bicrof Hope Academy Chibinga, and a skit based off Revelation. Once the program was finished, we began passing out shoes donated by Temple, dresses donated by Round Mountain Baptist Church, and toothbrushes donated by Steve and Michelle Schmidt and Higginbotham Family Dental of Jonesboro, AR.



The day after we returned to Zambia, we were driving to meet up with our translator and the radiator exploded. This week we are searching for a replacement engine. As of this message, we have located one in South Africa and are beginning the negotiations on pricing. Please pray with us that we can get this engine for a good price and that it solves all the issues we have had with our vehicle since purchasing it.

*See, the fields are white for harvest.*

**The Christian and Patriotism**

Can a Christian also be patriotic? If we are “ambassadors for Christ” (2 Corinthians 5:20) and thus “our citizenship is in heaven” (Philippians 3:20), should that limit our sense of patriotism and citizenship here on earth? Do those like the Amish, who refuse to display American flags and to avow loyalty to an earthly kingdom for fear that it may be at odds with our heavenly citizenship – do they have it right? Are we to be devoid of a sense of national loyalty to our earthly citizenship – in our daily life, and even more so in our worship experience?

While pondering on this question my mind recalls scriptures where the Israelites expressed a lot of nationalism. And at times tones of that nationalism made its way into their (inspired) worship. The Jews routinely recount in their worship the workings of God within individuals and events of their national history. The Psalms are replete with references to God’s work in exalting the nation. “*The Lord has remembered us; he will bless us; he will bless the house [nation] of Israel*” (Psalm 115:12). And as Paul addressed the synagogue in Pisidia (Acts 13:16-17) he said, “*Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt....*”



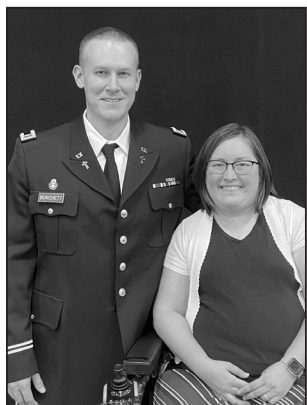
That begs the question of whether we should be reluctant to do and allow the same.

Of course, any sense of patriotism should never lead us to think we are better than any other nation. And naturally when it comes to nationalism within worship context, we must be cautious about what we emphasize. When we so focus on the nation and its blessings that we eclipse the focus on the One who has blessed us, we’ve got things out of whack.

Sure, there are ways that no nation can compare with the nation of Israel and God’s special workings with her. But even so, I tend to believe that the nationalism in scripture which portrays Israel as a nation blessed by God still can serve as a pattern that allows for a measure of patriotism in our daily life and even in worship as we acknowledge God’s blessings upon our great nation.

**Chaplain Burchett Receives Award**

First Lieutenant Ryan Burchett, a chaplain in the Texas State Guard and the Pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Winnsboro, TX recently



received an award of recognition for completing the Direct Commission Officer Orientation Course. This course spans a period of three months, with one month dedicated to online educational training, followed by in-person training at Camp Swift located in Bastrop, TX. The course prepares all officers of a variety of specialties with the tools needed to lead their troops well. It is anticipated that Ryan will be soon be promoted to the rank of Captain. Please keep Chaplain Burchett in your prayers as he prepares for a possible deployment to the Texas border in the near future.



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

**Faithful Pastor's Home-Going**

Dale Gilbert Fish went home to be with his Lord and Savior June 27, 2023. He was born May 5, 1947 to Earl and Electa



Fish near Zalma, Missouri, which he called home for most of his life.

He surrendered to preach as a young man. Initially called as interim pastor of his home church, Zalma Missionary Baptist Church, he was ordained August 25, 1968, and faithfully served there as pastor until his death.

His wife, Judy Ruth (Owens) Fish served at his side from the time of their marriage, November 22, 1969. Together they attended

most meetings of the Cane Creek Baptist Association, the Baptist Missionary Association of Missouri, and the Baptist Missionary Association of America. Judy preceded Dale in death February 3, 2023.

Dale is survived by his daughter Susan (Greg) Peninger of Leander, Texas, and son Timothy Fish of Fort Worth, Texas; sister Helen DeClue and brother Jon Fish; and grandsons Joshua Peninger, Adam Peninger, and Luke Peninger.

Burial was at Berrong Cemetery, Zalma.

*Our fathers' God, to Thee,  
Author of liberty,  
To Thee we sing;  
Long may our land be bright,  
With freedom's holy light,  
Protect us by Thy might,  
Great God, our King.*

**Quarterly Financial Reports**

**MISSOURI MISSIONARY BAPTIST PAPER  
2nd Quarter 2023**

Beginning Bal. Chking 4/1*	\$ 6,783.23
Offerings	3,773.46
Disb. Landmark/Carthage Prop.	<u>25,000.00</u>
Funds Available	\$ 35,556.69
Editor Salary	(2,400.00)
Printing & Mailing	(2,491.50)
Other Expenses	<u>(113.89)</u>
Ending Balance 6/30	\$ 30,551.30
* Corrected	

**KENNETH E. GIBSON GRANT FUND  
2nd Quarter 2023**

Beginning Bal. Chking 4/1	\$ 11,643.07
Disb. Landmark/Carthage Prop.	20,000.00
Expenses	<u>(0.00)</u>
Ending Balance 6/30	\$ 31,643.07

**BMA OF MISSOURI MINUTE FUND  
2nd Quarter 2023**

Beginning Bal. Chking 4/1	\$ 3,006.15
Disb. Landmark/Carthage Prop.	<u>4,000.00</u>
Funds Available	\$ 7,006.15
Printing Minutes	(1,503.00)
Clerk Hire	(1,300.00)
Other Expenses	<u>(172.53)</u>
Ending Balance 6/30	\$ 4,030.62