

# The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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

Volume LXXXV

St. Louis, MO • November 14, 2023

Issue No. 11

## Happy Thanksgiving!

*Give thanks to the Lord,  
for He is good;  
His love endures forever.*



At this special time of year, we thank God for His bountiful blessings, including you, our fellow laborers, and the many ways you continue to support the ministry of *The Missouri Missionary Baptist*.

*Don and Pam Burke*

### State BMA Meets at Sikeston

The Baptist Missionary Association of Missouri met October 14th at Bethel Baptist Church of Sikeston. Although the solar eclipse that morning was itself eclipsed with overcast skies, for the churches represented nothing eclipsed the fellowship of the meeting.

Pastor Billy Davis extended a welcome to everyone; then we joined together in congregational singing led by Matt Bolen, accompanied on the piano by his daughter Mattie. Following this Bro. Joe McElroy shared some devotional thoughts for the morning.

Moderator Brad Banderman called the business meeting to order. Final Enrollment Committee figures reported 34 messengers, 9 visitors, and \$2,100 in offerings to the Minute Fund.

Highlights from the department reports included the details of the upcoming Alive Conference. (See separate announcement in this issue.) Camp hosted 207 campers this summer, with 16 professions of faith – and plans major renovations for one of the dorms in the coming year. Publication Committee report noted that no application has been received for the open position of editor for *The Missouri Missionary Baptist*, and as such, the Association voted to re-elect Don Burke as interim editor. The Loan Association reported a fund balance in excess of \$450,000 (including just over \$10,000 in the Grant Fund).

In the Missionary Committee portion of the meeting Ben Kingston shared the Missions Director's report, and Juan Fernandez gave an update of his Hispanic work in the St. Louis area. The committee voted to retain the same officers for another year (Brian Kingston, chairman; Michael Kelly, assistant chairman; Brian Meade, clerk; Jeff Moorman, assistant clerk). The committee (and subsequently the full Association) also approved the recommendations of the Special Missions Committee, which included continued support for Bro. Fernandez and the allocation of \$1,000 from the Missions Fund for the

Missions Director to use to set up a BMAMO Missions booth at the National BMAA meeting in April 2024.

After a wonderful lunch provided by the host church, Pastor Davis shared the annual sermon, taken from Philippians 4. Ben Kingston voiced the Association's appreciation to Bro. Davis for the message.

The messengers voted to retain our slate of associational officers for another year (Brad Banderman, moderator; Brian Meade, assistant moderator; Don Burke, clerk; Matt Bolen, assistant clerk). Also elected to the various committees were:

- Camp: Dan Wisely (term ending 2028)
- Alive: Bryan Buckley (2027)
- Publications: Don Burke (2026)
- Special Missions Committee: Bryan Buckley (2030)
- Loan Association: Dennis Baker, Brian Whitlock, Matt Bolen, Don Adams, Eddie Paul Oats. (Unlike other committees which are elected on a staggered basis, the full Loan Association committee is elected en masse every five years.)
- Enrollment: Melvin Meade, Lee Miller, Joe McElroy
- Resolutions: Brian Kingston, Terry Sharp, Michael Kelly

Bro. John Beardsley presented to the Association his desire to compile a history of the BMA of Missouri, asking churches to contribute their individual histories to that work.

The 2024 Missions Symposium and Mid-Year Meeting will meet on May 17th and 18th at Bethel, Lonedell. The Annual Meeting will be October 12th at Kewanee, New Madrid.



## State Missions

### The Night Before Gun Season (Hunter's Christmas)

I know that this is an article about missions from your missions director, but since this Saturday is November 11 - the opening day of 2023 gun season - I wanted to share with you this writing that I did last gun season in 2022 to illustrate a point of the Great Commission. We are not to be "of" this world but "in" this world, letting our light shine no matter what we do. The apostle Paul said do all to the glory of God. So, as you go this month don't forget that you are on mission with God winning a lost world to Himself.

*"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."* (2 Corinthians 5:20-21).

Let me begin by explaining that this is not a poem, but a writing of the importance of the night before gun season to a sincere Christian hunter. There is nothing on this planet or in this universe to compare to the incarnate Christ lying in a manger preparing to carry the weight of the world on His shoulders to the cross to pay for the sins of all mankind. This is in no way a writing to compare this silly event of gun season to Christ or what He did for us as much as to share from a hunter's heart the joy of this evening. In a very small way, it is reminiscent of the joy that we get before opening presents each Christmas. It's a joy that truly only the avid deer hunter or any species hunter on the night before the opening day of their particular season can relate to.

For me, it is a restless night. I'm thinking of my stand placement. I'm trying to remember everything! I'm usually forgetting a few things while I'm remembering other things and thinking about where to place other hunters that I may be responsible for. I'm thinking about the hopes and dreams of some other hunters who have told me of their possibilities. I'm trying to remember to buy my tags. I'm wondering if my truck is ready for the trip, if I'll be able to actually find my stand that I placed the day before in the dark. Where's my flashlight? Oh yeah, that's right! It's in my hunting pack. Where did I put my hunting pack? That's right, it's in the truck. Where are my keys? You get the point!

It's a night of hoping that my family understands how much I appreciate the fact that they allow me to have this opportunity, which on some level may seem like a neglectful time to them. But in reality, it's just them letting me do something that I enjoy while I try to be faithful to do the same for them. It's also an opportunity for me to give my wife a gift. We call it the "deer season gift."

When you finally get on that deer stand as the sun is coming up, the Holy Spirit is always faithful to encourage my time with Him! I've probably cried as much on a deer stand as I have, not because of those sweet times with the Creator of the very thing that I enjoy doing, and even though harvesting/killing a deer has become more frequent in my older age than it was in my



### MISIÓN BELÉN (Bethlehem Mission)

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

*Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.* (Matthew 13:44)

#### Sunday Morning Visit to Mount Olive

We were so blessed by the hospitality of Brother Larry Nash and families from Mount Olive Baptist Church in Salem, MO. We have been blessed in the last two summers by their unconditional support during our VBS. Mr. Steve and Mrs. Deatre are such support and encouragement to us, spending summertime to come and visit and be a blessing – thank you! Brother Larry and his congregation invited us to bring an update of our ministry and then spoiled us with an amazing fish fry! I have not enjoyed fish so much before this day. Thank you again, precious congregation, for your hospitality!

#### ESL Volunteers

We have served our Hispanic families with our talents, Hannah and I teaching English as

second language to these families since spring of 2021 during COVID!!! The Lord has blessed us with contacts that we pray one day soon will become laborers for the kingdom. We have served our community with these English course spring and fall 2021, spring and fall 2022 and spring and fall 2023. Volunteers are key for success in this service. Our children Victoria, Eleanor and Juanito get to learn about God and his mighty works from other church members while we are serving our families with the class and a devotional on the Gospel of John every evening. This fall we are so blessed that Lindsay Lane Church visited us and helped provide care and fun for our children and two other children from our students. Thank you Tiny, Darlene, Stan and Karl; the work for the Lord is never in vain.

• See MISIÓN BELÉN page 5 •

### FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS October 2023

<u>Checking Account:</u>	
Balance Sept. 30, 2023	\$ 17,184.69
<u>Income:</u>	
Missions	\$ 4,739.88
Ins reimb, loan fund	<u>2,959.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 7,698.88
Total Available	\$ 24,883.57
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Director, salary	\$ 450.00
Secretary, salary	200.00
Juan Fernandez, support	2,333.33
Director, mtg expense	18.48
Special Missions Comm	795.66
Bro Mutual Insurance	<u>14,795.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$ (18,592.47)
Balance Oct. 31, 2023*	\$ 6,291.10
<u>BMAMS Revolving Loan Investment:</u>	
Balance Sept. 30, 2023	\$ 115,133.96
Interest	<u>0.00</u>
Balance Oct. 31, 2023	\$ 115,133.96
Total in All Accounts Oct. 31, 2023	\$ 121,425.06

*\*Note from Missions Director: "This is always our lowest balance month due to the large annual insurance payment."*

younger days, it's not necessary for me to have a great time in the woods!

I'm thankful to the Lord for the blessing of safety upon me doing potentially a very dangerous thing. I'm reminded of all the men who have poured into me their knowledge and wisdom, many of whom are receiving this writing and so I just wanted to emote in this writing how important this evening is to me!

If you're getting this, I know it is important to you, also. Happy hunting! May the Lord richly bless you tomorrow and throughout the hunting season.

P.S. It has become almost a ceremony in my latter days because bow hunting is now truly a passion for me, but laying down that bow that has a kill range for me of about 30 to 35 yards and picking up a gun that I can send a message almost 300 yards accurately is a solemn ceremony I have grown to enjoy.

If you have someone in your life that is a deer hunter and not a subscriber to this paper, do me a favor and get this into their hands. I believe it will bless them.

May the Lord richly bless you is my prayer.

Bro. Ben

## The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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## Alive

### Alive Student Conference

**December 28-30**  
**DoubleTree, Chesterfield, MO**

General Session Speaker: Joshua Corbett  
 Worship Leaders: The Central Collective  
 Recreation: KoKomo Joe's

#### Registration Information

General registration: \$75 per person  
 New church registration: \$60 per person  
 Late registration: \$85 per person  
 Hotel room rate: \$73 per room, per night  
*(Registration and reservation deadline is December 1.)*

*For other information,  
 contact Jeff Moorman at 636-388-5132.*

## Alive Schedule

### Thursday, December 28, 2023

5:00-7:00..... Check in at DoubleTree .....Hotel  
 5:00-7:00..... Registration (Sponsors) ..... Ballroom Entrance  
 6:45-7:00..... Prayer Time ..... Ballroom/Lobby  
 7:00-8:30..... General Session #1 .....Ballroom  
 9:00-12:00..... Recreation at KoKomo Joe's ....4105 N. Cloverleaf Dr.

### Friday, December 29, 2023

10:15-10:30..... Prayer Time ..... Ballroom/Lobby  
 10:30-12:00..... General Session #2 .....Ballroom  
 12:00-1:30..... Lunch..... Off Campus  
 2:00-3:00..... Break Out Session .....Ballroom  
 3:00-6:45..... Free Time and Dinner ..... Off Campus  
 6:45-7:00..... Prayer Time ..... Ballroom/Lobby  
 7:00-8:30..... General Session #3 .....Ballroom  
 9:00-??? ..... Entertainment: *Surprise!* .....Ballroom

### Saturday, December 30, 2023

9:00-9:45..... Pack Up ..... Your Room  
 9:45-10:00..... Prayer Time ..... Ballroom/Lobby  
 10:00-??? ..... General Session #4 .....Ballroom

## Camp Garwood



### Snapshots from Fall Retreat

Just over 50 people attended the Fall Retreat on November 3 and 4 at Camp Garwood. Zeb Balentine was the guest speaker, providing entertainment with a comedy routine on Friday evening and then sharing God's Word through a sermon on Saturday morning. Blake and Deekota Wilson led the group in a couple of songs before the sermon. Melvin and Maggie Barnett provided a delicious Friday night chili and hot dog supper and a nice Saturday morning brunch.

Beyond those activities, the schedule was very flexible and relaxed, providing opportunities for fellowship and fun with old and new friends. The weather was perfect, just right for a campfire – complete with s'mores – on Friday night and a variety of outdoor activities on Saturday. Paintball, basketball, a ride on the camp train, and lots of visiting rounded out the morning's events.



## Updates from Our Churches

### Lindsay Lane, Florissant

Greetings once again from Lindsay Lane! What a busy summer! Bro. Brian and others helped with Jesus Camp! Praise God for the precious souls that were saved there as well as those saved at Camp Garwood!

So much has happened this summer! Our kids are learning and enjoying all the activities. We are in a Bible study from Genesis to Revelation with Bro. Don Crawford as leader.

Our state women's retreat was the highlight for many of us! I was thrilled that my three sisters were there to share this time with me! I had knee replacement the 14th so it was a very busy week! Sister Carolyn was my anchor during this time as well as my drill sergeant!! Her hubby got sick and she had to go home to take care of him. I thank God for my church family and the p/t lady for helping me out! I thank God for the wonderful care I received!

Our annual washer tournament was a lot of fun with the winners being our pastor's daughter and friend. Bro. Shane and daughters manned the food table. All proceeds went for repairs to our facility.

Pastor and his dad took a few days to relax and unwind, but that didn't happen! Bro. Albert had an episode that sent him to the hospital! We praise God that he is home and under the care of his sweet wife and his doctors!

During the month of October we collected socks for the homeless. These were presented to Bro. Rice from the evangelistic center in St. Louis. Our chili cook was a great time of laughter and sweet fellowship.

Two dear souls went home to glory. Sis. Eleanor attended our Saints Alive luncheons and made the best pastries you ever sank your teeth into. Sis. Ramariz had been ill for several years. Now they are resting in the presence of our Savior! May God bless 'til we meet again.

*Brian Meade, Pastor  
Kathy Chapman, Reporter*

### Westview, Jefferson City

This past October we enjoyed a Gospel concert and message presented by Ronnie and Mary Lou Warren from Fair Grove, Missouri ([warrensounds.com](http://warrensounds.com)). Ronnie even played the handsaw.

We were blessed this past month with visits from Bro. and Sis. Jerry Adams of Lighthouse Baptist Church – Malden, Dan and Tanya Hutton from Kewanee Baptist Church – Kewanee, and Ethan and Makayla Clark from Columbia, Missouri.

On Sat., Nov. 25, Westview will be participating in the St. Martins Lighted Tractor Christmas parade. Our Christmas program is scheduled for Sunday evening, Dec. 10.

*Benjamin Kingston, Pastor  
Rae Lynn Hearst, Reporter*

### Bethel, Sikeston

Greetings to all from Bethel, Sikeston.

September has been a very busy month for us as Bro. Joe McElroy got our new carpet installed, and Bro. Matt Bolen got our landscaping completed. Both jobs were well done and look very nice; we are so thankful for these two deacons and all their hard work.

During the month of September we had 2 professions of faith. They were baptized and joined the church. We

welcome Kurt Knuckles and Samantha Slayton; may God bless them in their new freedom in Christ! God is so good!!

Bro. Shane Pipken got together a float for the cotton carnival parade to represent our church. Some of our youth rode the float and threw out candy while the adults walked and handed out tracts. We are so thankful for Bro. Shane stepping up to take on this project.

A very faithful attendee of our church, Sis. Sue King, passed away after struggling with cancer for a few months. She will be sadly missed. We will always remember her gift that she shared with us as she sang solos. She was a delight to all of us! Please keep her family in your prayers.

In October we had 4 make professions of faith, followed by requesting baptism and joining the church. We welcome Noah and Josh Kinder, Tristen King, Debbie Grace, and Matt and Aleshia Kinder to our fellowship. During an evening service we had a testimonial service. It is always a blessing to hear how others came to know the Lord!

We honored our pastor and his wife with Sis. Helen Beardsley reading a poem about what a pastor should be, a song (Thank You) by Shelley Kinder, and our youth presenting a card they had made. The church presented them with a gift as a small token of our appreciation! What an awesome, Spirit-filled day we had! I believe we are in revival, folks!

On the 14th we hosted the BMA of Missouri annual state meeting. We had a very good attendance and a great time, including the ladies serving a good lunch.

Saturday, the 21st, was our

fall party, where we had a fun time. There was face painting, games and refreshments, and a good time of fellowship. Bro. Joe McElroy gave a short devotional before everyone went home.

We are planning on going Christmas caroling again in December, the Lord willing, of course! We would love to have you join us if you are able. We have not set the exact date yet, but if you are interested you can contact the church or Sis. Joan Wood at 573-380-1932.

God bless you all!

*Billy Davis, Pastor  
Joan Wood, Reporter*

### Lower Doe Run, Ellington

We are experiencing God's blessings at Lower Doe Run. It has been a very busy month. Visitors are an encouragement for us. We hosted the Logan Creek Association with good attendance in

August. We hosted the Rayfield Reunion on a Sunday afternoon and many came early for worship. What a blessing.

We had Johnny Beardsley to fill the pulpit two times, one for a wedding and one when our pastor had Influenza – Covid. Since then his son and his family have been with us. They have invited another family. God is good.

We hosted the Fall Festival hayride and bonfire in October. There were 29 passengers on the wagon and one driver! Someone had found a small snake and brought it to Brother Meade. He used it in his devotional as he talked about Paul when he was shipwrecked and got snake bit. It kept the attention of the young boys for sure.

We appreciated the cards and gifts for Pastor's birthday and Pastor Appreciation, and also a good raise in salary.

The church voted to add a

### • Contact Information •

#### BMA of Missouri

[www.bmamissouri.org](http://www.bmamissouri.org)

Brad Banderman, Moderator  
1205 Arizona Ave., St. Clair, MO 63077  
[pastorbradbanderman@hotmail.com](mailto:pastorbradbanderman@hotmail.com)

Don Burke, Clerk  
[potospastor@gmail.com](mailto:potospastor@gmail.com)

#### Missouri Missionary Baptist

Don Burke, Acting Editor  
704 Valley Road, Potosi, MO 63664  
[mmbpaper@gmail.com](mailto:mmbpaper@gmail.com)

#### BMA of Missouri Missions

Ben Kingston, Director  
569 Bethel Church Rd., Lonedell, MO 63060

Missions offerings to: Stacie Hatfield  
1220 Park Drive, St. Clair, MO 63077  
[stacieh73@hotmail.com](mailto:stacieh73@hotmail.com)

#### Camp Garwood

Chris Polk, Superintendent  
P.O. Box 371, Matthews, MO 63867  
573-380-1975

#### Missouri Missionary Baptist Loan Association

Dennis Baker, President/Treasurer  
5146 Darkmoor Lane, Imperial, MO 63052  
314-846-1867 • [bbsafety4332@gmail.com](mailto:bbsafety4332@gmail.com)

#### WMA / GMA

Norma Womble, WMA Secretary  
7421 Hillsboro House Spg. Rd., Cedar Hill, MO 63016  
[nrwomble@juno.com](mailto:nrwomble@juno.com)

WMA offerings to: Connie Reifsteck, WMA Treasurer  
P. O. Box 190493, St. Louis, MO 63119

GMA offerings to: Lisa Cox, GMA Treasurer  
767 State Hwy P, New Madrid, MO 63869

#### Brotherhood

Bryan Buckley, President  
12499 St. Hwy P, Potosi, MO 63664  
[medic6905@hotmail.com](mailto:medic6905@hotmail.com)

### ~ Upcoming Events ~

**Celebration 2023** (formerly National Senior Adult Conference) – Nov. 28-30; Chateau On the Lake Conference Center, Branson

**Alive Student Conference** – Dec. 28-30; Doubletree, Chesterfield

*Send event info to [mmbpaper@gmail.com](mailto:mmbpaper@gmail.com).*



small monthly amount for the Missouri Missionary Baptist paper. We appreciate our editor and his wife. The church also sent an amount to the BMA for the national meeting in April.

We enjoyed the Walk for the World with the Cane Creek Association at Big Springs on October 28 and enjoyed the fifth Sunday singing at Ohlman on the 29th. There were few, but we loved the fellowship at both meetings. The Fall Retreat at Garwood was a blessing. Thanks to the camp committee and workers.

Many members stay for lunch every Sunday at the church and the afternoon Bible study. The ladies continue to be faithful to study the Bible on Wednesday afternoons.

What's coming up? We hope and pray for a great re-

vival as we watch and wait for Christ's second coming.

*Melvin Meade, Pastor  
Carolyn Meade, Reporter*

#### Landmark, DeSoto

Hello to all from Landmark, DeSoto! Hope you're all being blessed by this glorious weather God has sent our way. But then every day is a blessing with the Lord, no matter the weather. :)

We've made a little progress on the church building. Hoping for increased speed on repairs over the next couple of weeks. Don't know if we'll be back in the building by Thanksgiving, but sure praying we will be before Christmas. In the meantime, we're still enjoying services and fellowship at the Community Center.

We have several members with health problems and ask for your prayers. Sis.

Crites will be having shoulder surgery in December; Sis. Lorrie Causey will also be having some major surgery very soon. Bro. Earl Denby is recovering from surgery to treat cellulitis. Bro. Dale Hawkins and his wife Sandy are recuperating from the latest nasty respiratory bug that been making the rounds. Bro. Denver and Sis. Sharon Page did battle with this same icky creature, but praise the Lord they're doing much better now. As we ask for your prayers, we will also lift you up in ours. Prayer – SO much better than emails or texts!

We're entering into the holiday season, so I'll leave you with this verse: *"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."* I Thes. 5:18.

*David Crites, Pastor  
Barbara Williams, Reporter*

#### Bethany, St. Louis

Bethany Baptist Church hosted a birthday party honoring Bro. James and Sis. Mary Hoffmann's 80th birthdays. Everyone at Bethany loves and appreciates them for their service and friendship over the years. It was a great time of fellowship.



*Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,  
and into his courts with praise:  
be thankful unto him,  
and bless his name.  
For the Lord is good;  
his mercy is everlasting;  
and his truth endureth to all generations.*

#### • From MISIÓN BELÉN page 2 •

#### Prayer Network

We continue praying 5,5,5: Praying for 5 people for 5 minutes for 5 days every day at 12:00. We have been praying that each one among our Hispanic friends experiences the spiritual birth, discovering God's purpose for their life. It has been almost three years since our journey began with the BMA. We have been through a lot of opportunities to meet new friends while we practice prayer walks, handing out Bibles, and through our Facebook Live broadcast. A personal goal before heading back home to my wife and children is to have been able to reach at least ten men on a daily basis. We are reaching to men who are not members of any church, to unchurched friends, and to those who profess some religion but are not practicing. The American dream has many of these men captive to a tight schedule in which they have a hard time setting up time to at least start getting together for Bible study. The lack of understanding of the Gospel and how God can transform lifestyles makes it more challenging for any of these people to commit to a series of Bible studies. Send us your 5 that we can pray with you. Each one of these souls is precious in God's sight, Acts 16:31.

Our process is simple, we utilize 1, 3, and 7 number of Bible studies for each one of the contacts. The first meeting is to share the Gospel. The next three meetings are to go over faith foundational truths about the Gospel. The seven other meetings are to go over a Bible Study in Discovery. Most of the men can't commit beyond the third meeting. They express desire to have a new life in the moment when the Gospel is presented, but very few have been able to complete the process to become disciples who make disciples. Would you join us in prayer that each one of the men in our contacts receives the Gospel and grows in faith to fulfill God's purpose for his life? Thank you.

#### Discovery Bible Study

We are praying the Lord's provision for six DBS at homes in the 20 miles radius around our place. We are praying for open doors for the Gospel and our ministry to be taken into the level of spiritual health and reproduction in the next two years, to the glory of God.

At this moment we have two DBS happening since August 2023. We are gathering for DBS every Monday from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in Clarkson Valley. We are so blessed to have been visiting this young man since December of last year. Hamed is learning about the Bible being the only authority to lead every man and woman into a relationship with God through the work and person of Jesus. The lordship of Jesus has been always a point of discussion since God's grace continues showing up every time we gather in his house. There is light

that we pray continues shining in this young man's heart and soon in each one of his family members.

Sundays 6:00 p.m. we gather with Liz and Lucas to have a time of worship and Bible study. We have set apart the first Sunday of the month to bring something for dinner. We have been experiencing many challenges in the health of Lucas's mom, Liz, since she is on a waiting list for a surgery sometime this coming month of December – the sooner the better. Would you lift this family in your prayer? And would you also pray for Daniel and Rebekah? They have three young adult children that have been looking to join in different churches around the area. Their original church closed during COVID season and never opened the Spanish worship service again. Pray that the Lord confirms the call for the family to become a core team for our mission for God's glory and honor. Their children are Daniel (13), Luis (18) and Daniela (23), .

#### Prayer Requests

- Pray for at least ten contacts to be reached, that the message of the Gospel is clear and bold for salvation.
- Pray for a connection building, a multipurpose building to be available to gather with each one of the families once a month to worship in Spirit and truth.
- Pray for the three families who we disciplined for more than six months in the last two years, that the seed of the Gospel bears fruit and they continue gathering to worship in a local church wherever the Lord leads them.
- Pray for our prayer network to continue being a blessing and a way to connect with our local ministries and each one of the families in the community.
- Pray for a core team to complete the discipleship process – Evangelism, Discipleship, Membership, Service and Missions (both local and in their country of origin).
- Pray for our children and new friends whose parents are attending the ESL outreach.
- Pray for our two Discovery Bible Studies to be healthy and reproductive.
- Pray for our Thanksgiving celebration.
- Pray for each one of the students and volunteers in our English class. This fall we have between 10-14 every Tuesday and Thursday.
- Pray for our Christmas Eve celebration – the music, the hymns, and each participant – that our service reflects the joy of our Savior's birth.
- Pray for our New Year's Eve celebration, that the message, the music, and prayer to kick off the new year will be full of disciples who make disciples for the kingdom.

Sincerely, Juan Fernandez



The Jerry Kidd Missions Offering is Sunday, February 25th. Mark your calendars and join us in celebrating World Missions Day and giving to BMA Global as together we pursue God's work around the world.

God has blessed BMA Global. Today we have over 400 missionaries working in 65 countries and we are currently starting 400 new churches. As we continue to grow, we must think forward about the future funding of our worldwide church planting ministry.

So join us for our annual world missions emphasis campaign that celebrates God's global mission by registering your church at [bmaglobal.org](http://bmaglobal.org) to order promotional materials and receive a free pastor polo. Then on February 25, 2024 join with other BMA churches in celebrating what God is doing around the world, praying for missionaries, and giving generously!

We value your partnership and pray that you will lead your church in giving toward the Jerry Kidd Missions Offering.

## Building Blocks in Zambia

The fall months in the United States begin the hot season for us here in the southern province of Zambia. Many things start to take place – farmers begin planting, the elephants are making their way back for water and food, and the rain is soon upon us.

For the past two months we have been making blocks for the church building. This has been a new experience for me and Sharon. Driving to collect sand from the roads and digging up rocks a few kilometers from the church instead of just going to purchase blocks from a hardware store. With the help of the men from the local villages, we are able to make about 300 blocks per day. Once the blocks come out of the form we had crafted, they must sit and cure for 14 days. These blocks must also be watered three times per day to ensure that once they are complete they will be strong and able to stand on their own for many years.

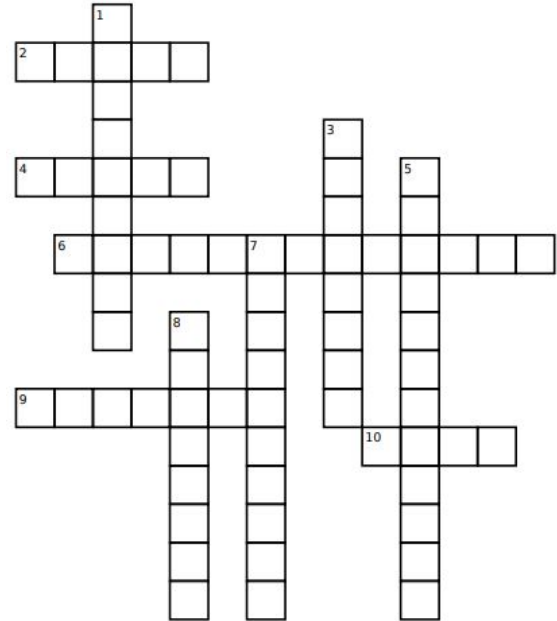
This reminded me of why Sharon and I moved from a small town in Northeast Arkansas, to the rural areas of Zambia, Africa. Our heart is to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who were previously unreached. 2 Timothy 2:2 has been our battle cry as we reach out into these local villages: *“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”* God began preparing us for this ministry many years ago, allowing us to gather “sand & gravel” from the many pastors and leaders who took the time to pour into us. Now as we are preparing the “blocks,” we must ensure that everyone is transformed into the image of Christ. We meet weekly for Bible studies within the villages and offer biblical foundations for many new believers as well as those who are still seeking. I meet three days per week with men who have a calling upon their lives to be pastors, teachers, and leaders, training them to reach their own community. Sharon is beginning to meet with the ladies from the local villages to offer a more in-depth biblical teaching designed just for them.



Our prayer is for the local community to have pastors and leaders who can go and plant churches, raising up leaders, and to begin to multiply the work of the Lord. There are a lot of tools and curriculum that is available – and we utilize those as that, a tool; but the foundation of our teaching comes from the Word of God. Everything we do here is centered on the Bible.

## Thanksgiving Puzzler

Here is a chance to think about some of what the Bible says about giving thanks. Maybe you can fill in the blanks from your own Bible knowledge, or you may need to look up the specific references where the phrases can be found. If you get stuck, there are some hints provided on page 8 of this paper. (If you are interested in sharing this with anyone else, feel free to make copies.)



**Down:**

1. The one who offers thanksgiving as his \_\_\_\_\_ glorifies me
3. With thanksgiving let your \_\_\_\_\_ be made known unto God
5. I will thank you in the great \_\_\_\_\_
7. In \_\_\_\_\_ give thanks, for this is the will of God
8. And now we thank you, our God, and praise your \_\_\_\_\_ name

**Across:**

2. I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole \_\_\_\_\_
4. But I will sacrifice unto thee with the \_\_\_\_\_ of thanksgiving
6. I will give thanks to the Lord because of his \_\_\_\_\_
9. Thanks be to God, who gives us the \_\_\_\_\_ through our Lord Jesus Christ
10. Do all in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him

I remind the church, pastors, and leaders every time we meet that the Word of God is our anchor to truth. When we teach and preach, everything should come from His word and not just an opinion. Already we have given out over 400 Bibles in local languages to the community. Sharon and I want the people to know that what is being taught is not from us, but

from God. This is the “watering” of the blocks, the daily encouragement to read for themselves what God is saying. We even have a woman within our church who is working to teach those who cannot read in any language to be able to read the Word of God. We have others who get their children to read the Bible to their families. We have also placed three proclaimers from *Faith Comes by Hearing* who read the Bible in the local languages. These proclaimers are placed at a headman's home in three different villages and reads the

Word of God all day long. Anyone who comes by is able to stop and hear the message from the Bible.

So, thank you. Thank each and every one of you who have prayed for us, sent money for us to purchase these Bibles, sent the funding to help build the church, and to those who have poured into us for so many years. Without you, we couldn't do what we are doing here. We all have an influence where we are planted. Whose blocks are you going to water today?

• See ZAMBIA page 7 •



## The Master's Builders Work at Brookeland Missionary Baptist Church

After a couple of weeks' rest, the Master's Builders loaded up and headed to Brookeland, Texas to work with Pastor Jerry Gilbert at Brookeland Missionary Baptist Church. Work began on October 9th, with seven men and five women from the Master's Builders. This was job #185 for the Master's Builders. Brookeland is a small community between Sam Rayburn Reservoir and Black Bayou in Louisiana. The Builders were called to help build rooms in a 5,000 square-foot, metal-sided, multi-purpose building on the church grounds. Six campers were set up on the church grounds with one builder, Bobby Samuels, opting to tent camp at the site! With the beautiful fall weather he certainly enjoyed his time outdoors!

Since the early 1980's, the Brookeland Baptist Church family has been praying about the construction of this building and the vision to help reach the Brookeland community for Christ from within its walls. They came together to raise the needed funds, and God answered so many prayers along the way. The building has a 25x30 room upstairs designated for meetings for all ages. Included upstairs is a small apartment for visiting



evangelists, church speakers, or even displaced families. Downstairs, they have space for student and children's ministries, a small kitchen, storage, and restrooms. The main area of the building is large enough for sports activities and larger gatherings of all kinds. The Master's Builders enjoyed getting to know Pastor Jerry Gilbert, wife Tammy, along with many of the Brookeland church families. Several meals, and a few of the gatherings, were held in the parsonage for some added blessings! What a wonderful opportunity to fellowship with many of the church families! Each day the ladies met for Bible study and prayers with some

evangelists, church speakers, or even displaced families. Downstairs, they have space for student and children's ministries, a small kitchen, storage, and

of the women from the church. What a blessing it is to be able to pray with, and for, each other!

While the Master's Builders were beginning to build the walls in the new building, Bro. Jerry, many of the church members, and folks in the community were finishing up a total remodel of both the fellowship hall and the sanctuary in the church building. This work began 2 years ago and is in the final stages with prayers to possibly be completed by Christmas. This was a much-needed update to the building, and most of the work was done with labor from within the church family. Also, an update to the parsonage was recently completed by the church body. As we all labored in this work, we were each reminded of the words from 1 Corinthians 3:6-7, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase." Praising God for the promise of increase!



The Builders would like to thank the Brookeland Church family for all the good food, sweet fellowship, help with the building needs, and for the opportunity to serve them. A special thank you to each of the church members who helped with the construction on the building, as well as the community members who came to lend a hand or just to check out what we were doing. All throughout the community folks were interested in hearing about this work! Special thanks to all the church members who made sure we ate well, had plenty of ice, and shared some of the "labor of their hands" from their small community farms.



Please pray for this church family, and all churches, as they endeavor to make disciples and spread the gospel. 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.

- Rose Bittner, reporter

## Falling Leaves

Ken Adams (via Baptist Trumpet)

I retired. I expected to have time for parties and fun events; and I do. But it seems I now attend more funerals than birthday parties and anniversaries combined. After I did the math, I realized I was closer to old age than I am closer to middle age. I suppose that has been true for a long time, but I have avoided the math. Now I have time to think about it. I've always known I was going to die, but now I am convinced of it.

I have resisted joining a golden-agers group at my church for several years, but now I'm in. It's more fun than attending funerals. It is actually a great experience. For instance, we recently went to Petit Jean Mountain to look at the leaves. We have leaves at home, but it is more fun looking at someone else's. Plus, they are supposed to turn colors earlier than ours.

I don't have many leaves in my own yard. We only just planted a tree a year ago. It doesn't have many leaves. I may not even have to rake them if God answers my prayer for all 12 of them to blow into my neighbor's yard.

When they turn color, I will worry that the tree has died, but probably only the leaves will die. The tree should survive to grow a new set in the spring. Leaves are beautiful as they die. Still, when they fall, they are dead.

It is strange that, though we must rake fallen leaves, God created beauty in death.

Though our grief often blurs it, there is also beauty in a Christian's death.

Death is the end of suffering. It is the end of old age. Death is the doorway to a more fulfilling life. No more sickness. No more sorrow.

From God's perspective death is a blessing. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints" (Psalm 116:15). A blessing for Him and a blessing for us, for we will forever be in His presence.

As the tree remains, though it loses its leaves, our core being remains after death. Ultimately, God will decorate our soul with a new body. But unlike the annual shedding of trees, this body will never show signs of death. God "will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body..." (Phil. 3:21 ESV).

(KendrickLAdams@gmail.com)

### • From ZAMBIA page 6 •

#### Prayer Requests:

- Spiritual warfare
- Senior headman Patrick to accept Jesus Christ as the one true God
- Andreás, headman Raymond's son; he has severe seizures
- Chabantu Missionary Baptist Church plant
- The new community school, Chabantu Baptist Academy, and the 58 children (and growing daily) who are attending
- Dan, Felix, Lackson, Winford, Michael, and Mapiki as they are attending pastoral and leadership training
- Mainza, Tekla, Nora, Christabell, and three Ambuyas (grandmothers) who are in the ladies' training

#### Needs:

- Monthly supporters
- Bibles in local language
- Finances to complete church building and school
- Water trough for baptism
- Solar pump for well
- Proclaimers and Bible sticks from Faithcomesbyhearing.com

#### Praises:

- The new villages that have been opened to us for Bible studies
- Over 2500 blocks have been made for church building
- All of the new believers in Christ!



*National Women's Missionary Auxiliary*

**Women's Outreach**

Robin Tyler, Editor  
robin@robin Tyler.life

Judy Wallace, Third Vice President  
tandjwallace@gmail.com

[www.nationalwma.org](http://www.nationalwma.org)

From a recent post on the National WMA blog  
(<https://www.nationalwma.org/blogs/>)

## Prayer Changes Things

By Susie Edgar

One of my favorite stories about preachers' kids was told this way: One Sunday morning the preacher's wife could not be in service so the pastor took their 4-year son and had the little one on the second row.

The pastor got up to preach and the little boy started to wiggle. The pastor gave his son, "the eye."

The little boy settled down. So, the pastor went on to the second point. The little boy started to wiggle again. By the time the pastor got to his third point he said, "Folks, I'm sorry but I have to take care of something." He takes his little boy, throws him over his shoulder and heads for the nearest exit. As they were walking toward the exit the little boy looked at the congregation and said; "Dear people pray!"

Now that boy knew how to pray in a crisis!

There are many ways to pray. We have tried most of them in our lifetime but the first instruction on prayer came from Jesus to his apostles when they asked, "Lord, teach us to pray."

Jesus said:

*After this manner therefore pray ye:*

(Pray like this:)

*Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.*

(Father in heaven, holy is your name.)

*Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.*

(We pray for your kingdom to come, your will to be done like it is in heaven.)

*Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

(Give us our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.)

*For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.*

(For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.)

*Amen.*

How is your prayer life today?

What does it mean to have a lifestyle of prayer; to be in continual prayer and to have a regular time of prayer?

I will not incorporate something into my life as a normal part of my life unless I feel it is necessary. I have discovered that about exercise. I don't really like to do exercise but the older I get, the more I can see that it is necessary.

I am convinced that the same thing is true about prayer. We will not make a prayer life unless we believe it is a necessity for our lives.

If you have not come to the conclusion that prayer has to be a way of life or a necessity for life, your prayer life will suffer.

Why is it important to have a prayer life? Because we are commanded to pray:

*Pray without ceasing (I Thes. 5:17).*

*And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray and not to faint (Luke 18:1).*

*Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God (Phil. 4: 6-7).*

*Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually (I Chronicles 16:11).*

I have become convinced that when God commands us to do something it is because it is necessary for us to have joyful lives.

Our success in prayer is because of many hours spent practicing the art of prayer. Hours alone, speaking with the Almighty, practicing how to be in the secret place with the Lord. Our public performance is defined by our private practice.

The goal of prayer should never be the roaring approval of the crowds but rather the approval of our Father in heaven. What will God say about your prayer life when you stand before Him?

Remember, God is still on His throne and prayer does change things.

### Thanksgiving Puzzler

Here are scripture references to help with each clue in the crossword puzzle on page 6.

- | Down:          | Across:        |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. Psalm 50:23 | 2. Psalm 9:1   |
| 3. Phil 4:6    | 4. Jonah 2:9   |
| 5. Psalm 35:18 | 6. Psalm 7:17  |
| 7. 1Thess 5:18 | 9. 1 Cor 15:57 |
| 8. 1Chr 29:13  | 10. Col 3:17   |

## 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.

**Paul Dunn**, of First Baptist, Bourbon, is available for pulpit supply. Contact him at 573-205-6211 or mrpdad4@yahoo.com. (0923)

**Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Caledonia** is seeking a pastor. If you are available and seeking God's will for a place to serve, please contact Dean Johnson at 573-210-3700 or Charlotte Cooper at 361-563-0756. (0923)

**Bethany Baptist Church, St. Louis**, is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. For information contact James Hoffmann at 314-277-8644 or jmhoff@charter.net. (1123)

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.

## Central Baptist College Invites Applications for Vice President for Finance

Central Baptist College in Conway, Arkansas seeks an innovative and experienced financial administrator and leader with a proven track record in the management of financial systems to serve as vice president for finance. Reporting directly to the President, the Vice President for Finance (VPF) serves as chief financial officer of the college. The VPF will provide strategic leadership and oversight of the College's finance and accounting functions, business services and auxiliary enterprises, human resources facilities and physical plant operation and information technology.

The successful candidate will have an MBA or master's degree in business management, accounting or a related field and a minimum of five years accounting/finance related experience in a supervisory or managerial role.

The VPF is a 12-month full-time position with remuneration and benefits commensurate with experience.

Interested candidates must send a cover letter, resume (including references), and statement of faith as PDF attachments addressed to CBC President Terry Kimbrow at tkimbrow@cbc.edu.

For more information see [www.cbc.edu/jobs](http://www.cbc.edu/jobs).

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