

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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

Volume LXXXV

St. Louis, MO • December 12, 2023

Issue No. 12

For unto you is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

And to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.



Merry Christmas to All! - Don & Pam Burke

Camp Dorm Renovation

Merry Christmas everyone! We hope you are having a blessed holiday season!

As of this writing, we have the campgrounds shut down and ready for the cold weather. A few hunters took advantage of our facilities, staying at camp and going out to hunt on state land.



Work on Dorm 7 has begun and will continue through the winter months. We have the old restroom stalls pulled out, have cut out the trench areas, and are preparing to bury the plumbing. We are very grateful to

the NMCC FCA group who spent the day at camp on Friday, Dec. 1st. The New Madrid Fellowship of Christian



Athletes, led by Gloria Houston and Lisa Cox, brought 30+ high school students to camp on a field trip. They began the day by carrying the concrete out of the trenches. We then let them play paintball, took them to see Big Spring and returned for a camp train ride. It was a great day..., but personally what made it great was their help clearing out the concrete.

• See DORM page 3 •

Alive Student Conference

December 28-30 • DoubleTree, Chesterfield, MO

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 #1Ballroom
9:00-12:00..... Recreation at KoKomo Joe's4105 N. Cloverleaf Dr.

Friday, December 29, 2023

10:15-10:30..... Prayer Time Ballroom/Lobby
10:30-12:00..... General Session #2Ballroom
12:00-1:30..... Lunch..... Off Campus
2:00-3:00..... Break Out SessionBallroom
3:00-6:45..... Free Time and Dinner Off Campus
6:45-7:00..... Prayer Time Ballroom/Lobby
7:00-8:30..... General Session #3Ballroom
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 #4Ballroom

*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel,
which means God with us.*

State Missions

Dear BMAMO Churches,

I hope things are going well for you and your church for the Lord's sake. I'm excited about the Christmas season here at Bethel and throughout our association.

I thought I would depart for a moment from the usual approach in these articles and bring to you someone else's ideas and thoughts as fodder for discussion.

A few disclaimers though before we dive in. First of all, I do believe that you and I should be open to other people's opinions and other churches' ways that do not contradict scripture. It is so important for us to continue to grow, and many times to facilitate growth we have to get new ideas and expose ourselves to what other people are doing.

You have heard it said, I am sure, that the definition of insanity is "doing the same thing and expecting different results." I'm fearful that as an association of mostly medium size to smaller churches we have grown a thick skin and an aversion to that statement, and that we've almost clinched our jaw and fist and said, "Well, we'll show you!" and still have not been willing to change.

I'm prayerful and hopeful that is not the case for this association. I do not offer these things with the opinion that I believe we're doing the aforementioned approach as much as I'm just so desirous to make sure that we are open to change.

In my opinion, the scripture is very clear: The message of Jesus Christ crucified, buried, risen, and coming again is not open to debate. It cannot change. It will not change. And for all of the tenets of the Word of God that affect eternity, we cannot change the message. But – and this is a huge contradiction – "but" when it comes to methods of sharing the gospel, methods of reaching people for Christ, they can, do, and should change!

Therefore, what I am sharing with you comes from Thom Rainier, and I want to be careful to give him all the credit. I'm going to be using from him the seven secrets of a healthy church. I'm not going to get into his, if you will, intellectual property on building those points. We're just going to talk about the points as they stand alone and what you and I as pastors and churches can gather from them. I just want to start a healthy discussion in this area.

One last thing before I dive into the first one. I truly do believe until we get mission plants on the ground, the biggest part in the area of my job as Missions Director is to help our churches grow and become healthy churches. This is because healthy organisms reproduce, healthy adults reproduce, healthy churches reproduce! You know we've had that discussion with the tomato plants in the past, so here we go!

These are the seven secrets of a healthy church according to Thom Rainer:

1. The church's leadership and the laity hold to a high view of scripture.
2. Healthy churches and their leaders seek to be relevant.
3. Healthy churches and their leaders hold to the primacy of preaching.
4. Healthy churches have a healthy small group structure.
5. Healthy churches emphasize corporate prayer and church prayer ministries.
6. Healthy churches take membership seriously.
7. Healthy churches are highly intentional about evangelism.

So just looking at the first one today, I believe that this is a pretty easy one for our group, if you will, and the type of Baptist that we are. I'm sure that there are examples within our ranks



MISIÓN BELÉN (Bethlehem Mission)

Juan Fernandez
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But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1:20,21)

"Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad, Prospero Año y Felicidad!" We wish you a Merry Merry Christmas, from our family to yours. We are so blessed to celebrate this Christmas serving our Savior and Lord. We have seen God's direction and provision to continue presenting the message of the gospel for salvation of those who believe.

Praises

- Praising the Lord for the privilege to share the gospel during Thanksgiving dinner. Thank you for praying that the seed of the gospel brings these families to surrender to Christ.
 - For each one of our churches who has been praying and checking on us while we continue reaching out to our Hispanic families.
 - For the privilege to present the gospel on social media and while visiting our neighbors in our community. We have started a new Discovery Bible Study on Friday 6:00 pm at home
- See MISIÓN BELÉN page 8 •

FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS November 2023

Checking Account:

Balance Oct. 31, 2023 \$ 6,291.10

Income:

Missions	\$ 1,810.74
Ins reimb, loan fund	2,525.71
Total Income	\$ 4,336.45
Total Available	\$ 10,627.55

Expenses:

Director, salary	\$ 450.00
Secretary, salary	200.00
Juan Fernandez, support	2,333.33
Director, mtg expense	78.10
Brad Miller, website	198.05
Total Expenses	\$ (3,259.48)
Balance Nov. 30, 2023	\$ 7,368.07

BMAMS Revolving Loan Investment:

Balance Oct. 31, 2023	\$ 115,133.96
Interest	725.50
Balance Nov. 30, 2023	\$ 115,859.46
Total in All Accounts Nov. 30, 2023	\$ 123,227.53

*For unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given*

of churches that have not held to this standard, but I know here in Missouri BMA churches are very faithful to the very high view of scripture.

Now, to draw the net on today's article, here's my question for you: As the leadership and laity of the church, have you evaluated how close to scripture you are staying? For example, are your people reading the Word of God daily? I believe that would represent a high view of scripture! Are you making sure that the actions and words and deeds of your life mirror the principles and values and absolutes of God's holy Word? What does discipline look like in your church? Is scripture or opinion being preached? Sunday school teachers, are they trained and do they disseminate the Word of God well? Do you have a library in your church, and is it equipped to help the people of your church study and understand the Word of God? You see where I'm going, and I think everyone reading this article is more than capable of building an evaluation tool to make sure that you're keeping a high view of scripture. I agree with Thom 100% that the healthy church and her leadership hold to a high view of scripture.

May the Lord richly bless you and yours in this holiday season!

Bro. Ben Kingston

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WMA

Assistance Invited

The 2024 annual meeting of the BMA of America will be in Branson, Missouri in April. As representatives of the host state, we, the Missouri WMA, welcome your assistance. You do not need to be an active WMA lady to help with and on WMA day, which will be April 17.

First, we plan to prepare 250 welcome bags. If you can donate items and/or finances for these bags, contact one of the following: Sara Buckley, Deiatre Gillam, Amy Asher, Tanya Adams, Vicky Henbest, Donna Mayfield, Maureen Hutchinson or myself, Janet Widger. These ladies are from different areas of Missouri and Illinois and will coordinate with you to pick up any items you have. These should be 250 of the same item. If you or your group cannot provide that many, you can contact a person or group that may want to help but are also unable to do that many. Or, you can contact Janet Widger who will be keeping a record of what has been committed and may know what is still needed.

Second, we need 20 or more table centerpieces. These will be on the tables for the luncheon honoring ministers' wives and widows and then will be used for attendance prizes. Centerpieces do not need to be alike. Contact Sara Buckley if you would like to donate a centerpiece or if you have any questions.

Third, Missouri WMA President Sara Buckley will be looking for and contacting ladies to serve on committees and also be available the day of the meeting to help wherever needed. She has a lot of responsibility on her in this position, so let's show her how much we appreciate her by being available to serve and help when she contacts you.

Janet Widger, Chairperson,
MO WMA 2024 National Meeting Committee

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Camp Garwood

• From DORM page 1 •

When completed, the dorm will have three private apartments, new restrooms, and the dorm will be divided in a way we can house both male and female campers for most retreats. We anticipate this will be a huge improvement for camp. Dorm 7 is the old dining hall and is a central building on the camp property. This remodel will also be a tremendous safety benefit eliminating the step up.

Camp was given a generous donation to get the dorm remodel started but will need some additional help to see it completed. Our current concern is getting the insurance bill paid off. The Missions Department pays the bill and we reimburse them with funding that comes in over the winter. That has worked



fairly well

over the past

few years, but with the remodeling we are asking folks to remember camp this winter. If we can see a slight boost in our winter funds, I think we'll be OK.

Be watching for some opportunities to help this winter. First Matthews is planning a pancake day Feb. 10th and a Bible trivia night on Feb. 22. Go ahead and mark your calendars and be watching for more details soon.

Camp 2024 will be July 29-Aug. 2. I hope you'll be there!

Chris Polk



A Glimpse of the 2023 Celebration Conference

(photos by Chris and Laura Polk)



Bro. Dustin Wisely, Speaker



The Erwins



Redeemed Reunion



First Baptist Magnolia
Worship Team

Updates from Our Churches

First, Potosi

Greetings from First Baptist Church, Potosi. It has been a while since I have felt like sending in an article. I had Covid and then Post-Covid Syndrome, aka Long Covid, which caused many health issues. Hopefully, most of that is behind me and I can keep you informed of the activities of the church.

So many have been baptized, and our church continues to grow for the Lord. Our pastor has been preaching powerful sermons which are streamed online.

Our WE (widows) group is having a luncheon at the Black Bird Cafe on December 10, and the other women of the church are invited to attend. Taste of Christmas is December 3; it begins with dinner and then we go to the auditorium to listen to our speaker, Jaclyn Rowe, before returning to our tables for dessert. Each table has a hostess who has decorated her table, and they are always beautiful. This is an outreach project to invite those who need to know Christ, so that they can hear His Word presented to them.

Overflow has been very busy. Due to vacations and illnesses, the Overflow could not open a couple of times; however, I can give you some figures as to the number of people we serve. Food pantry numbers for September were 135 families, 432 people, 3379 items of food. October numbers were 107 families, 327 people, and 2258 items of food. It is a blessing to work in this outreach ministry. It is so awesome to talk to people about Jesus.

The FBC Kids Club members are working on the Christmas program, and the three little wise men were caught in the gym playing basketball in their king attire. So cute.

One of our littles is going through treatment for leukemia. Please pray for Molly. We have been conducting a meal train for the Obenhaus

family while the mother of six children goes through cancer treatment.

Upward basketball evaluations have been completed, so now the teams will be scheduling practice times. Our MOPS program designed for mothers of preschool children is another outreach program we offer for the community. U-Turn is an outreach for those struggling with anger, divorce, stress, addictions, etc., which meets every Tuesday from 5:00 to 6:00. The Kairos prison ministry was with us again in October.

Women's Bible study on Genesis is taught by Debbie Ainley every Thursday 9:00 to 12:00. The title of the study is The Power of Pain.

The one main fundraiser for the youth is the white elephant sale. This year it brought in between \$12,000 and \$14,000. This is where no child left behind comes to fruition.

There is still a lot of sickness going through the church. Please pray for us as we pray for you.

Jim Ainley, Pastor
Deborah Rauhut, Reporter

Bethel, Sikeston

Greetings from Bethel, Sikeston. We are so thankful for all of the beautiful weather we have been having, unusually nice for this time of year!

We have been working on our Christmas cantata and have been blessed with many members showing up for practice. On Wednesday nights Bro. Billy has been teaching in 1 Thessalonians, "Christian Living in Light of the Rapture." It has been a really good study.

Sis. Donna prepared Thanksgiving baskets this year, with help from the members contributing funds to help with the expenses. Prayerfully, everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving with your families. God has truly blessed us with so much that we cannot give Him enough praise and thanks for it all.

Bro. Shane Pipkin got together a men's breakfast on Dec. 2nd. They reported having good food and fellowship with all who attended.

Sis. Darcee Saucedo put together a Christmas play with the youth. It will be on the 17th of Dec. during the morning service. Dec. 24th will be our Christmas cantata and in the evening a candlelight service. We are also going Christmas caroling on Dec. 11th, looking forward to brightening someone's Christmas!

Some of our youth will be going to the "Youth Alive" conference again this year. We also look forward to what God has in store for us in the coming year!

Wishing you and your families a very merry Christmas and a happy and blessed New Year!!

Billy Davis, Pastor
Joan Wood, Reporter

Westview, Jefferson City

Greetings from Missouri's capital city! During November several people from Westview participated in the nearby city of St. Martins' Christmas parade by giving out free hot chocolate and bottled water. Westview also held a chili supper in November to benefit our Lifeword Sunday offering.

Benjamin Kingston, Pastor
Rae Lynn Hearst, Reporter

Ohlman, Bunker

October and November flew by and now we are in the Christmas season.

We are thankful for Holden May's successful heart procedure. This young man has a great testimony to tell others.

We are thankful that the SALTBLOCK program is going great. Normally it is on the first Monday of the month. In November there were over 30 teens participating. These teens drive from Bunker, Salem, Ellington and areas in between for a time of teen Christian fellowship and a Bible devotional. They organize the time and provide

their own refreshments, with only a couple of adults allowed.

We are thankful that the Wednesday night student ministry is still well attended. In September, we mentioned that we had a "problem" with so many kids being picked up in the busses. It was a serious safety concern. We prayed about the situation and started looking for a bigger bus to replace the oldest bus. We are thankful and happy to say that we have just purchased a 29-passenger bus from a Church of Christ congregation in Cuba, MO. As of this writing, it has been worked on for a couple of issues and will be licensed to start using now. (We do need to change the name on the outside.) We voted to give the replaced bus to a church congregation needing one.

We are thankful that the Lord has also blessed in replacing our outside playground equipment. It was becoming a safety concern. We voted to purchase new equipment at the November business meeting, and before the month was up, the equipment was purchased and donated by a church-member couple. (They of course, do not want any recognition for this generous donation. We are thankful for them.) When the weather is better, it will be installed.

We are also working on a Christmas program which will be December 20th. We are praying that the parents of our Wednesday night kids will attend.

Merry Christmas to each of you from Ohlman.

Terry Sharpe, Pastor
Janet Widger, Reporter

Stony Point, Mineral Point

Hello from Stony Point! We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and had lots to be grateful for.

Sadly, we lost Brother David Hughes in November. He will be missed by everyone. He held several positions in the church and was a great

example of a man of God and an inspiration. Please keep his family and his wife Donna in your prayers.

We are thankful for Bruce Evans for filling the pulpit for Brother Claude while he was ill. Thank you, Bruce! Jim Blount also honored us with a rendition of "It Is Well." You could feel the Spirit of God moving through the church. Brother Claude and Sister Bea handed out appreciation medals and cards to those who have been doing the Lord's work at Stony Point. Sister Bea sang, "Thank You for Giving to the Lord" in appreciation.

We all enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving feast with lots of delicious food and gathered in fellowship. We have lots to be grateful for this year -- our homes, families, loved ones, and God.

We will be back next month. Until then we hope you all will be well and praying that God continues to rain down blessings upon you all!

Claude Evans, Pastor
Delaina Stegall, Reporter

Lindsay Lane, Florissant

Greetings from Lindsay Lane. It seems as though we are having all four seasons in one weekend! If you do not like the weather, hold on, it will change! We pray everyone enjoyed the Thanksgiving holiday. We enjoyed our holiday lunch with a lot of visitors.

Pastor's father Albert Meade gave us a scare recently with a trip to the hospital, but is back home. Please keep him and his sweet wife Dianne in your prayers. We know that God is faithful in every situation.

Two of our ladies will be having knee surgery the week of the 5th of December – Sis. Chris Dunigan and Sis. Loleta Shell. Both have the same doctor and both the same hospital! We've had sort of an epidemic starting with Sis. Terry, Bro. Truman, and myself!

We will be hosting soups

and carols on the 10th. We hosted our first Christmas bazaar on the 2nd. It was well attended with several vendors. Our young ambassador, Mr. Ben, (7 years of age) made sure everyone received a brochure regarding our statement of faith and the plan of salvation!

Now for the sad news. Pastor Mike McKenzie went home on the morning of Dec 1st. This is sad for us, but we know he is in the presence of the One he preached about. We will miss him. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, let's keep the true meaning of Christmas in our hearts.

*Brian Meade, Pastor
Kathy Chapman, Reporter*

Lower Doe Run, Ellington

Seasons Greetings! We celebrate with you the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

God has blessed us with three new families to minister to and worship with. We are adding two new classes for Sunday School. Pray that we can continue to grow both physically and especially spiritually.

We hope to have completed a singing to the Riverways Manor and to the Brent Tinnin Home by the time the paper goes out and have a schedule for the year. We haven't been able to do this since Covid shut us down.

I'm including a quote written by our dear custodian last week: "Dear Brother Melvin and Sister Carolyn, this is my tale of woe as to how and why the container of olives in the fridge is indeed no more. Alas, a bottle of root beer was laid on its side on the top shelf of the refrigerator and while that in itself was no problem, the cap on the bottle was not on tight. Do you see where this is going? Big puddle that ran over, splashing as it went. The end result was everything mostly came out and major cleaning went on. When the aforementioned container of olives was being put back into the refrigerator, I lost control of said contain-

er and it ended upside down with the lid popped off, the container split down the side and a large pile of olives oozing on the floor. I considered trying to save them but I just couldn't do it. May some hungry varmint have a full belly. Sorry. If you'd like me to replace them I'll be happy to or pay you for them. Isn't life interesting one way or another? I'm still feeling incredibly blessed. Our God is so very good to us. Joyful Holidays to you."

And to all of you from us.
*Melvin Meade, Pastor
Carolyn Meade, Reporter*

Oak Hill, Alton

Hello to all from Oak Hill! It is very hard to believe that in a few weeks it will be Christmas. In the month of December, we do not have plans for anything special. December does have five Sundays, and as far as I know we will have our fifth Sunday dinner on the 31st; everyone is welcome.

Sunday night November 5th we started watching a series of five messages from Dr. David Jeremiah on "The Great Disappearance." On the videos he discusses how things will be when the rapture occurs. We finished watching the videos on December 3rd. I hope we will be able to share the knowledge that we gained from watching these videos.

We thank the Lord that on November 15th Weston Wayne Drake was born. He weighed 6lbs. 15oz. and was 21.5 inches long. On October 14th we had a baby shower for Tristen & Reba (Hope) Drake, where they received clothes and many other baby items to use with Weston.

We hope everyone had a blessed and wonderful Thanksgiving and also that everyone involved had a safe and successful deer season.

Our Walk-of-Faith fish fry was on October 21st. We had a great time eating fish, chicken, hush puppies and many other dishes. October 29th was the fifth Sunday, and as always we had our dinner in the fellowship hall, enjoying a time of good food and

fellowship with our brothers and sisters.

We pray that everyone will have a blessed and joyful Christmas and an awesome and amazing New Year! Until next month, when I hope I will have more good news to share, we will be praising and honoring our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! God Bless!!

*Edward Casey, Pastor
Jennifer Williams, Reporter*

First, Matthews

Merry Christmas. The Lord has blessed us the last couple months. We had one saved and baptized, one very sweet lady join our church, and one family join by letter.

We are pleased to announce that Bro. Melvin Barnett will be ordained as deacon in the very near future. We had a great revival with Bro. Adam Thomas who brought great messages, and attendance was awesome.

We were saddened by the death of Bro. Wayne Parker, and just ten days later Sis. Liz Parker passed away. They were great servants of the Lord who loved helping everyone. They are greatly missed.

December is a busy month. We are getting things ready for Bethlehem Village. Every year it gets bigger and better and brings a lot of excitement. The kids love the live animals. It's a blessing to watch their eyes light up when they see the large animals.

We are looking forward to having Bro. Juan Fernandez bring our morning message on the 10th of December. We will have a Christmas dinner and great fellowship on the 20th. Some of our youth are planning to attend Youth Alive. Our prayer is they will come back home excited to share their experience with their friends.

We pray for God's blessings on all.

*Chris Polk, Pastor
Ethel Adams, Reporter*

Mt. Olive, Salem

Exciting things are happening at Mt. Olive! August 18 our pastor Bro. Larry, Sis. Rhonda, Bro. Steve Gil-

lam, and Sis. Deiatre Gillam represented Mt. Olive as we worked a booth at the Dent County Back to School Bash! Many prayers were prayed that day for the students getting ready to head back to school. Here it is December already! Prayers are still going up for our school students and teachers!

Some of our WMA ladies attended the Missouri State WMA Retreat in Cape Girardeau. Our monthly WMA meetings and WMA Bible study have been well attended every month, and we have had visitors almost every time we meet! To God be the glory! Our WMA is reaching out to our missionaries with prayers, love offerings, cards, Bibles, etc. We strive to be mission minded and reach out to our community here at home and reach afar to our missionaries on the field both in the United States and foreign countries!

The church has had special services throughout this year with missionaries as our guest speaker, sharing with us their ministry on the mission field. It's always a blessing to be able to put a face with a name!

September 29 we had a progressive dinner. It was a wonderful night of fellowship, good food and laughter! October 21 we had a corn hole tournament and a chili cook-off and finished filling up treat bags for our October 31 outreach at the campground! The outreach was a big success! Every treat that was put into a bag was given with love, with scripture inside! November 10 we had a Thanksgiving meal in the fellowship hall. So much to be thankful for and so much to look forward to!

We will be having our Christmas party December 9. We are looking forward to a fun time celebrating Jesus' birthday! We are busy now preparing for our Christmas program, which will be December 24 at 11am. Everyone is welcome! We will be having a watch night service December 31 starting at 7pm. Everyone is welcome!

To God be the glory as we

strive to keep on keeping on for Him at Mt. Olive! Thank you to our prayer warriors; please continue to keep us in your prayers!

*Larry Nash, Pastor
Deiatre Gillam, Reporter*

Landmark, DeSoto

Ho! Ho! Ho! and Hallelujah, it's Christmas season! Time to celebrate the birth of our dear Savior and give thanks for His tremendous love and sacrifice.

Here at Landmark, we're still giving thanks that we can gather together to worship Him, even if it isn't in our church building yet. Slow progress is being made -- the outside (roof, brickwork, gut-tering) is all completed. Now we're waiting on the inside. I get impatient, but all things are in God's time, not mine.

Please keep remembering us in prayer, not just for the building, but especially for several of our members who are dealing with serious health issues and other burdens. We give special thanks to Bro. Crites for acting as God's under-shepherd to all of us wayward, ornery sheep, and trying to keep us on God's path. Remember Sis. Crites, as her shoulder surgery is coming up in the next couple of weeks, and Sis. Lorrie Causey, who will have surgery this Thursday, December 7.

In the meantime, we hope that all of you had a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving, and are hoping for the same for Christmas. We will continue to remember all of you in our prayers also.

Merry Christmas!
*David Crites, Pastor
Barbara Williams, Reporter*

Ozark Heights, Potosi

Greetings from Ozark Heights! I (Bro. Gary) have had a lot going on health-wise over the last months and apologize to those who enjoy reading the article from your church. God has all our trust!

The church voted to begin the funding process of building a new fellowship hall after the severe water damage

• See UPDATES page 7 •

<p><i>National Women's Missionary Auxiliary</i></p>  <p>Women's Outreach</p> <p>Robin Tyler, Editor robin@robin Tyler.life</p> <p>Judy Wallace, Third Vice President tandjwallace@gmail.com</p> <p>www.nationalwma.org</p>	<p>From the National WMA blog (https://www.nationalwma.org/blogs/)</p>
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Witnessing

Jackie Ricks

One of the areas where I fail is evangelizing.

There was a time when I thought it was enough just to live life to serve as an example to others and I didn't have to talk about it. I don't know if I was too shy (can anyone imagine that?) or what, but I didn't really tell others about salvation. Oh, there had been a time when I was first saved at the age of eight that I tried to tell everyone, but then somewhere along the line, I had stopped.

I had no problem teaching a Sunday School class, WMA, Sunbeams or GMA, but I just didn't talk to anyone one-on-one unless that person specifically asked me how to be saved. Then I heard a preacher say that if we lived the life but never told anyone about Jesus, others would think we were just a "good person" and never know why we were who we were. That hit home.

At one point, I went through Evangelism Explosion (EE) and even became a trainer. However, I still always preferred someone else to lead out in it. We don't have a regular program at our church now and I am back to my old ways most of the time. Are you like me? What can you do to improve?

First, pray regularly.

Pray the Lord will show you the people He has prepared already to hear His Word. It's best not to walk up to perfect strangers and ask them if they're going to heaven. It's better to get to know something about them and their interests.

Gradually bring up the subject of church or God. If you can work in your own testimony, then that helps. (Of course, that means you might want to think about it ahead of time and decide what is important in your own testimony.) Then once they are more comfortable with you, ask them if they know where they would spend eternity if they died tonight. Hopefully, that will open the door for further discussion.

There are many different approaches to sharing the gospel, but the main points stay the same.

One of the most important points is that salvation is a free gift, offered to all. (Romans 6:23) A person cannot be saved until he is first "lost." In other words, he has to realize that he needs Jesus in his life. So stress the fact that everyone, including yourself, has sinned. (Romans 3:23) Be sure that the people realize

that God is love, but He is also just and will punish sin. (1 John 4:8; Jeremiah 31:30) By this point lost people may think that it is impossible to make it to heaven. That's when you explain the good news that God sent His son Jesus to pay our sin-debt. (John 1:1, 14; 1 Peter 2:24) And, finally, you must help them to understand that faith in Jesus Christ alone is necessary for salvation. (Ephesians 2:8-9) Don't forget to take them through making a commitment if they are ready for that. If not, then make sure to follow up again later.

Obviously, this is not the only way to present the plan of salvation. I used the EE plan because that's what I'm most familiar with, and I explained briefly because this is not a long blog. The course actually takes several weeks and includes going out and actively witnessing while you learn. The BMA Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, TX teaches an evangelism course with EE certified trainers, requiring it for many of their degree plans. I assume that people could possibly audit the class as well, but I'm not sure. I don't think it would be possible to do it online, however, because of the hands-on witnessing during the sessions.

There are other ways to present the gospel. You may be familiar with the Roman Road, which uses mainly scriptures from Romans. Or you may have used a Gideon Bible and the scriptures in it, with the plan in the back. Four Spiritual Laws are often given on a handy tract that you can give to people and discuss. There's even a hands-on approach with the Evangicube. No matter what method you use, be sure to include the fact that salvation is secure. No one, not even the person himself, can do or say anything that can un-do what Jesus did for us. (John 5:24; Romans 8:35-39)

Hopefully, you didn't really need this blog other than as a reminder of what we all need to be doing. If you haven't been witnessing, then let this encourage you to get back to it. Don't be like me and reach the point where you think of the wasted years you have had without being close enough to God to do what He intended for us to do.

Scriptures to read: Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8

Prayer: "Lord, help me to remember to tell others about what You've done for me and how they can have that assurance as well. Don't let me use anything as an excuse for not doing Your will. Thank You for giving me the courage, the knowledge, and the ability to say what I need to say at the right time. And please send the Holy Spirit ahead to prepare the person with whom I will be speaking. Thank You for saving my soul and allowing me to share with others. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Respond: Think about your testimony. It's not like anyone else's. What were you like before you received eternal life? How did you receive it? And what does it mean to you? Be brief, but emphasize the positive to gain anyone's attention of their own needs. You may even want to write it out and go over it a few times to help you remember what you might want to say when you're on the spot.

CBC Announces 2024 Homecoming Court

Nine women have been selected for the 2024 Central Baptist College Homecoming Court. They are Rylie Brissette, Sierra Dodson, Audrey Johnson, Caroline Skinner, Natalie Smith, Kailey Sullivan, Hannah Varnado, Ashanti Williams, and Abby Wilson. These women were selected by their peers to represent Central Baptist College.



The 2024 Homecoming Queen will be announced between the Lady Mustangs and Mustangs basketball games at approximately 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 13.

Other Homecoming Events

Homecoming activities will be held on Friday, January 12, and Saturday, January 13. We are looking for a big crowd to join us for homecoming this year. The schedule of events for the weekend include:

Friday, January 12

- Annual Chili Cook-Off, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Childers Dining Hall. The annual Chili Cook-Off will take place in the Mabee Student Center. Students, alumni, and faculty/staff are encouraged to compete. The event will take place during lunch. Registration is FREE; all we ask is that you provide enough chili for our students to sample. CBC Dining Services will provide hot dogs to accompany the chili. Prizes will be given for the best chili and for overall presentation. To register a Chili Cook-Off team, email Peggy Pillow at ppillow@cbc.edu.

- Harvest Party Throwback Night, 6:00 p.m., Childers Dining Hall. Calling all alumni! Join us Friday night as we enjoy an evening of fun. This year we will be featuring a Harvest Party Reunion. The evening will consist of dinner, games, and entertainment provided by Dr. Zeb Balentine (2008). The cost for the event is \$5 per person. To register, visit cbc.edu/homecoming.

Saturday January 13

- Mustang Pre-Game Tailgate, 11:00 a.m. Join us on the lawn for tailgating, lunch, games, and inflatables. To reserve a space, contact Mallory Guyton at mguyton@cbc.edu.

- Lady Mustangs vs. Harris-Stowe. A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse, 1:00 p.m.
- Homecoming Crowning. Join us in between the women's and men's basketball games for the announcement of our 2024 Central Baptist College Homecoming Queen.
- Mustangs vs. Harris-Stowe. A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse, 3:00 p.m.

I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas...

Mickeal and Sharon Quillman

"I want a hippopotamus for Christmas. Only a hippopotamus will do. I don't want a doll, no dinky Tinkertoy. I want a hippopotamus to play with and enjoy!" I used to sing this song all the time when I was a kid, never thinking that I would be living in a place where I actually have hippos! Two weeks ago, Sharon and I were given the opportunity to go canoeing on the Zambezi River with a couple of friends we have made here. We were told that this area of the river only had 23 hippos in total and where we would be the hippos never go.

As we began our journey down the river everything was fine. We were going through different rapids and small waterfalls, and I was beginning to relax. For those that know me, you know that I do not like water – swimming, tubing, canoeing, etc. But my wife loves it, so into the water I go. We turned a small bend and there were some rapids approaching, so Sharon in the lead canoe and me in the following canoe placed our oars up as instructed by our guides. Suddenly, I heard a loud splash and the guide in Sharon's canoe started yelling and whistling loudly.

Sharon grabbed her oar and started paddling vigorously. It was then that I noticed them: two full-grown hippos ran from the bank and into the water. Sharon was safely ahead but my canoe was right next to them now. I can tell you this, I have never paddled a canoe faster than I did this day. Fortunately, the hippos only gave a small chase of 10-12 feet before giving up due to the rapids.

As we are ministering here in Zambia, we are always teaching and reminding the new believers to be on guard. As they are coming out of animism and other false religions into following the one true God, Satan is always lurking and scheming to attack. The Bible likens him to a roaring lion (which we have here as well) seeking those he can devour. We are to be prepared to fend off these attacks, but sometimes we do not see them coming and are caught off-guard because they come from areas we were not expecting.

One of our recent new believers is the wife of a

local headman. She has been very faithful to attend all our Bible studies, even walking 90 minutes to attend them. Her husband is still not a believer and still follows the traditional witchdoctor and their beliefs. One of her first challenges came when the headman wanted to take their seed for planting to the witchdoctor and pay him to "bless" them. For those that are not familiar with animism and witchdoctors, the simple explanation is it is the belief that all living things have a soul; plants, animals, rocks, mountains, rivers, people, etc. It is a very evil practice of dark witchcraft with roots based in the occult. She told her husband that this was a false god and they should ask the one true God to bless them.

This caused a major battle for her, as women here are seen as subservient to men and not to question their husbands. In this patriarchal society, women are not even addressed by their name, but as "the mother of" their firstborn child's name. When we arrived the next day, Sharon noticed that she was not her normal happy self and went to speak with her. She explained everything that happened and how she refused to go with her husband to the witchdoctor. He said if she wouldn't go to the witchdoctor that she wouldn't be going to Bible study either. Even though they live in this patriarchal system, her husband has always treated her more as an equal. The headman's wife was not expecting this attack from her husband of 20 years. She also let Sharon know how she told her husband that she would be asking "her God" for the true blessing. She was then worried, because as a new Christian, she did not even know if it was ok to ask God to bless their crops, but she knew it was not ok to pray to a false god.

Sharon gave her a hug and told her that we can ask our God for anything and explained John 14:14 to her. We told her that we would also be praying

that God would give her a harvest that could not be explained other than the one true God had blessed her faithfulness. During our Bible study, which she



was not allowed to attend, we had a special prayer time for her, the fields, the rains, and the future harvest. We know that Satan likes to appear and cause problems, but our God is all powerful and provides what we need when we need it. While we were praying, I noticed it was getting harder to hear. The one true God had sent rain, while we were praying! The sound of the rain on the metal roof was almost deafening so we just began to praise God for sending it.

We all know the importance of having a good harvest of crops, but here it is the difference in life and death. One bad season of crops can mean starvation for an entire community. I would ask that you would pray for her to remain strong in her faith, to pray for the headman to have his eyes and heart opened, and for me as I continue to seek ways to share the true Gospel of Jesus Christ with him. In addition to the material crop, please be praying for the spiritual harvest here as we see God moving and changing lives. Also be praying for the spiritual attacks that come our way around every bend. Also, please do not get me a hippopotamus for Christmas!

Prayer Requests:

- Headman of Simondo and his wife
- Planting and rainy season to be fruitful
- New Bible studies
- Health during the anthrax outbreak
- A location to build Bible school
- Spiritual warfare
- Chabantu Missionary Baptist Academy Primary School

Current Needs:

- Solar pump and tank for water well
- Place to baptize near the church
- On-going monthly supporters

Praises:

- Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Jonesboro, AR providing funds for church building completion
- Being welcomed into four more villages to begin Bible studies
- Lackson completing book 1 of BTCP
- Four new students beginning pastor training



• **From UPDATES page 5** • to the cabinetry in our basement. We had just remodeled a couple years ago and were very disheartened, but God opened a new door. Within two months we are over 20% of our goal. God is in control and continues to WOW us as we serve Him.

We continue to see salvations, baptisms, additions by letter, along with good atten-

dance. God is worthy of all our praise!

We have started a monthly teen class that had great attendance at our first meeting in November.

We had a fall fish fry and hay ride in October. We also had a pie auction by the WMA to help rebuild our kitchen; that event raised \$1900. Our God is limitless.

We continue to have power-

ful and amazing Bible studies on second and third Sundays at 6pm and every Wednesday at 7pm. Brotherhood is on second and fourth Thursdays at 7pm. Every Wednesday evening at 7pm is "Roots to Wings" for our kids. God is faithful! WMA is on third Thursdays at 7pm. The ladies recently had their ladies' dinner with 21 attending.

God is moving at Ozark

Heights as we plan for all the events in December. "Oh how I love Jesus" still rings loudly as we prepare to celebrate His birth. We pray for our shut-ins and hope to see

you soon.

We send our prayers for all our sister churches, missionaries and their work.

Brian Kingston, Pastor
Gary Gilliam, Reporter

Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

And behold, the star that they had seen went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.

The African Call

Pastor Danny Bullock, Antioch West Baptist Church, Magnolia, AR

By now many of you pastors and churches have read the challenge from Johnmichael Poulin to heed the call from African pastors to come help them learn and better understand the Word of God. Allow me to share with you my experience in Tanzania over the past nine years as an encouragement for you to accept this challenge and link hands with these men in Africa.

In 2014 Mike Goodwin, President of EIM (Evangelistic International Ministries), took me with him to Tanzania on an assessment trip to see if there truly was a legitimate need to begin a teaching ministry in that country similar to what Johnmichael is now proposing to be done in other areas. After meeting most of the twenty-two Baptist pastors who had sent an appeal to EIM, Mike promised them that we would bring teams of three-to-four pastors three times annually for three and a half years. He tasked me with executing that plan. God brought together



close to twenty different men from four states to teach Biblical, theological, and practical courses. Leaders from BMA Seminary, Central Baptist College, BMA Global, LifeWord, and multiple churches went there to teach.

Was all the money spent and all the time invested worth it? We think so. The original twenty-two churches and pastors have now multiplied to almost fifty. The pastors took our outlines and lessons back to their churches and taught those subjects to their congregations and used them to disciple young preachers who are now going out to plant more churches.

If you are wavering about whether or not to have your church join this endeavor, allow me to share what a blessing this has been to me. Pastors, I believe that you will benefit from doing this more than you realize. You will certainly benefit those that you will teach, but remember that the one who studies to teach and preach always learns more than those who listen. I cannot fully explain to you how much better I understand the Bible today than I did when we began in 2014. Feeling the weight of the responsibility of teaching pastors who would then in turn teach hundreds of others led me to study harder than I probably ever had before. I did not

• From MISIÓN BELÉN page 2 •

• Praising the Lord for the visit of Brother Ben Kingston and Brother Larry and Shelby Barker in our home in Granite City, Illinois. Brother Larry and Shelby spent time visiting and celebrating Eleanor's 5th birthday. So thankful for refreshing conversation and productive prayer time with these lovely visitors. Such a blessing.

• That the Lord has gathered us to worship Him every week since January 2023. Different schedules make getting together difficult, but the Lord continues adding those who are saved. Daniel and Rebekah are back gathering to worship with us on Sunday evenings.

Prayer

• For our new contacts, that we can connect and share the gospel and communicate the purpose and vision for our ministry among Hispanic families. Pray for fertile soil that become faithful laborers for the kingdom.

• For our visit to Matthews church on Dec. 10. We are so blessed to have the opportunity to share our work and preach a message to church families in this congregation.

• Also, the visit to Faith Baptist Church in St. Charles on Dec. 17; Pastor Tom and his wife Janette have asked us to cover the pulpit during this Sunday.

• For my dad's health; his name is Juan Manuel Fernandez.

• For our home improvements. We are remodeling and repairing our home to become an official Belen place – a home of hospitality and healing for those who are seeking to join us



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.

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. (1223)

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.

Deaths

David Alan Hughes, 76, of Irondale, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on November 18, 2023. He was a long-time member and Sunday school teacher at Stony Point Missionary Baptist Church. David had a love for God, and it showed through the people he touched with his caring heart and mission to serve others.

want to teach anything incorrectly and have that error be repeated. Consequently, I grew in my own knowledge and comprehension. Because of that not only did I benefit, but those who have sat under my teaching and preaching over the past nine years have also told me that they have benefited.

One final blessing will be experienced by those who accept Johnmichael's challenge. Your time in Africa will probably result in your ministry having a far wider scope of influence than you have here in America. Few pastors influence more than ten congregations in their lifetime of ministry. Those who go to Africa and spend three years to teach 20-30 pastors who will then duplicate that many times over can eventually leave a legacy of influence over hundreds of congregations and thousands of people.

I hope you will join other pastors and churches in helping BMA Global impact the African continent. If you would wish to speak with me directly about this, feel free to contact me at danbull0550@gmail.com or 870-904-5032.

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.

For more information see www.cbc.edu/jobs.

under God's agenda. We are inviting new friends to join us to celebrate Victoria's 7th birthday.

We are so blessed to be part of the missionary work and being supported by each one of the congregations who are sold out for the Great Commission. What a mighty God we serve!

In His service, Juan and Hannah Fernandez

And when they saw it, they made known what had been told them concerning this child.