

# The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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

Volume LXXXVI

St. Louis, MO • February 13, 2024

Issue No. 2

## National WMA Project

Theresa Reus, Project Promotion Chairman

Last year Lydia Dunlap went on a mission trip to South America. She wrote about the experience, describing giving out shoeboxes and being asked to teach some of the local kids how to jump rope. After showing them how to swing the rope for themselves, she teamed up with a young mom to swing a longer rope for them to take turns jumping. She went on in her article to describe her feelings on realizing the young mom was actually her age and the differences in their lives because of the cultures they were raised in.

I enjoyed the article very much but it sent my thoughts in a different direction. Thinking about the two girls swinging a rope for the kids to jump gave me a mental picture of how we can work with others too. Each person has a job but on different ends of the rope. You have to work together in a good rhythm to get the right results.

This is a great example of how the WMA can work together with the workers at the Jeevan Prakash School to provide for their students. We can't all go to India to help with this ministry or education of the children. But we can work on our end, doing what we can to keep the rope swinging. If we raise money for the much needed renovations, there are plenty of laborers in India ready to do the renovations. We will be working together to provide the kids with a safe, comfortable place to learn.

The children are attending school now in a building that needs foundational work to be safer. There is no ventilation for the building that houses all grades. The temperatures in their area often exceed one hundred degrees. The school is unable to provide safe drinking water. Most of us would agree this alone is a dangerous combination. We would not want our own children in this situation.

Those that run the school have stepped out on faith and have begun renovations. Already the lack of adequate restrooms has been addressed. As money comes in they will continue to do any repairs they can without disrupting ongoing classes. The bulk of the construction would need to be done when the school year ends for them in April. Let us try to have our funds in and ready for them to draw from by then. Our hope is that more than enough will come in for the building repairs. The extra can be used to replace the well-worn furniture. New tables and chairs would be such a blessing and brighten up the school. Maybe these renovations and updates will attract more students to the school.

Surely a familiar verse in a situation like this is Ecclesiastes 4:9, “Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor.” Over the years we have worked together to raise money for many projects. This year is no different. Let us work together to bless the children and staff of Jeevan Prakash School with a safe and comfortable learning environment. We can do our part in swinging the rope on our end and have faith the Lord will provide someone to swing the other end.

Please send any contributions to the national WMA project, c/o Janet Widger, P.O. Box 23, Salem, MO 65560.

**Sunday, February 25 is World Missions Day**

**BMA GLOBAL**

**JERRY KIDD MISSIONS OFFERING 2024**

With 400+ ChangeMakers planting over 400 new churches in 65 countries, you can be part of funding new churches worldwide! Celebrate BMA Global's growing church planting ministry and God's global mission.

Register your church at [bmaglobal.org](http://bmaglobal.org) to order promotional materials, and receive a free pastor polo.

**SENT  
To The Nations**

On Sunday, February 25, pray for our missionaries and lead your church in giving to the Jerry Kidd Missions Offering. We value your partnership!

(See page 5 for more.)

## Online Registration Available for BMA National Meeting

Pastors and messengers attending the 2024 BMA National Meeting in Branson, Missouri will have the opportunity this year to register and pay their minute/conference donation online and book hotel reservations from the same site, [www.bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting](http://www.bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting). There is also an online registration form for ministries wanting to secure their spot to display at the National Meeting.

The BMA National Meeting will be held April 16-18 at the Chateau on the Lake Hotel and Convention Center in Branson, Missouri. In addition to taking care of vital business of the Association, there will be inspiring worship services and ministry investment opportunities designed to help your church. Two of the highlights of the event will be a gospel concert by Point of Grace and teaching by Mac Lake. Messages will be presented by BMA President Dr. Clif Johnson, Bro. James Schoenrock and Bro. Kirk Shelton.

Once registered, attendees will simply proceed to the registration table located in the lobby of the hotel to receive their ballots for voting.

### 2024 Annual Missouri State WMA and Brotherhood Meeting

March 2, 2024, 10 a.m.

Stony Point Missionary Baptist Church  
13129 Old 8E, Mineral Point, MO 63660

WMA Theme: You want me to do what, Lord?

WMA Speaker: Sis. Hannah Fernandez  
(Sis. Hannah is the wife of our Missouri state missionary, Bro. Juan Fernandez.)

\*A noon meal will be served.

## State Missions

Dear BMAMO Churches,

Well, believe it or not it is February. Before you get this paper we will have celebrated Valentine's Day and probably Presidents' Day, and believe it or not we're almost 10 months away from Christmas 2024.

I know, I know, bite my tongue – but here's the reality: Time stops for no one, and you and I must be busy about the work of the Kingdom.

Two months ago I started a series in this column on Tom Rainer's list of the things that healthy churches do, so today we're tackling item number three: Healthy churches and their leaders hold to the primacy of preaching.

Now certainly this one I believe as BMA churches and more specifically Baptist churches this should be a slam dunk – and I believe it is, certainly within our Missouri churches. I know that our pastors and preachers and churches are totally and wholly sold out to the preaching of God's Word and the unadulterated presentation of the gospel. But for the sake of this article we're going to assume that there are a few things that aren't being taken for granted and just hit the high points on how a church can make the scripture and the preaching of scripture its highest task.

First of all, according to Romans 10:14-15 preaching is the means God has set aside for the sharing and presentation of the gospel. This is God's plan. Secondly, the word of God is sufficient within itself and through the preaching to be the revelation of God to mankind.

Those first two points, if we will soak them in and pray, will lead us to healthy growing churches. There are other elements that support those first two points.

The preacher and the entire church need to make the understanding and practicing of God's Word their highest achievement in their daily life. This will bring transformed lives, which is the greatest business card of any church. Next, the pastor and the church must pray for God to open the hearts and minds of each and every listener and believe that He will do just that.

Next, do not be afraid to make it as simple as possible. Something that the Lord has really gotten across to me recently is that even myself as being someone that knows the gospel and has lived the gospel for all these years, I still am unbelievably and undeniably blessed when I hear someone simply state the gospel from a position of authority. We need to trust the Spirit's moving and using His Word to the glory of God. May the Lord richly bless you as you strive to be faithful to the primacy of preaching the Word of God.

PS: There is arguably so much left on this proverbial table, so please don't think I am limiting this subject as much as trying to hit the high points.

Bro. Ben



### MISIÓN BELÉN (Bethlehem Mission)

Juan Fernandez

pastorjuanfernandez@gmail.com • 618-581-8056

*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 1:8)*

We are asking you to join us here in Belen to praise the Lord for his provision for our service, protection, provision and special fellowship with you and your church families during these three years of being on board. We are so blessed to call you brothers and sisters in Christ. We have seen God's leading our ministry into a new stage of growth by focusing in our hometown area. The surrounding 25 miles are now the focus of our efforts to complete the discipleship process.

The stage we are now is that we are doing prayer walk and connecting with local Hispanic business owners to post flyers inviting new friends to join us in a Bible study on Friday 7:00 p.m. at our home. We are planning to continue improving the garage and the backyard for this coming spring and summer in order to hold our family outreach ministry. We are getting some bids on what it takes to make it a safe place to gather with other families. We have been blessed with many healthy relationships in the neighborhood since we moved here back in 2019.

Praises:

- For God's blessing for Hannah and myself as we celebrate our 10th wedding anniversary. Thank you, Lord.

- For each one of the faithful donors and church family members who continue supporting us with finances, prayer, and words of encouragement through social media, letters, or postal cards. What a blessing, thank you very much. May the Lord continue blessing us and bringing fruits of our labor for the Kingdom's advance.

Prayer:

- For men of peace in the community. We are praying for five homes in the area that we can visit to evangelize, disciple and train to become the spiritual leaders in the community.

### FINANCIAL REPORT BMA OF MISSOURI MISSIONS January 2024

<u>Checking Account:</u>	
Balance Dec. 31, 2023	\$ 5,639.10
<u>Income:</u>	
Missions	\$ 4,906.68
Ins reimb, loan fund	1,000.00
Zalma accounts	<u>20,547.92</u>
Total Income	\$ 26,454.60
Total Available	\$ 32,093.70
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Director, salary	\$ 450.00
Secretary, salary	200.00
Juan Fernandez, support	2,333.33
Director, mileage	205.63
Spec Missions Comm	713.53
Brad Miller, website	1,200.00
Zalma, final electric	236.00
BMAA, meeting booth	<u>450.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$ (5,788.49)
Balance Jan. 31, 2024	\$ 26,305.21
<u>BMAMS Revolving Loan Investment:</u>	
Balance Dec. 31, 2023	\$ 115,859.46
Interest	<u>730.07</u>
Balance Jan. 31, 2024	\$ 116,589.53
Total in All Accounts Jan. 31, 2024	\$ 142,894.74

*See what kind of love  
the Father has given to us,  
that we should be called  
children of God*

- For the prayer network to continue being a blessing to many of our contacts.
- For our monthly outreach in our community.
- For our new disciples to start in the process, thank you, Jesus.
- For our musicians and preparation for Easter celebration. May the Lord continue adding those who are going to be saved.
- For all the projects around our new mission field to be completed timely and to continue being the light and being the salt that this community needs.

In His Service,  
Juan Fernandez

### The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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## WMA & Brotherhood

THE MISSOURI BROTHERHOOD WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO THE NATIONAL BROTHERHOOD

MISSOURI STATE BROTHERHOOD  
**RENEWAL RETREAT** 2024  
WHO AM I? APRIL 26TH - 27TH  
AT CAMP GARWOOD

WE WILL DIVE INTO WHO AM I AS  
A MAN PHYSICALLY AND  
SPIRITUALLY

WE WILL KICK  
OFF WITH A FISH FRY  
AT 7PM FRIDAY

THERE WILL BE A MESSAGE  
FRIDAY NIGHT & SATURDAY  
MORNING

THEN BREAKFAST AND  
A LIGHT LUNCH ON  
SATURDAY

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT:

THE DORM IS AVAILABLE FOR  
HOUSING SO YOU JUST NEED  
YOUR BEDDING, TOWELS AND  
PERSONAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS

MISSOURI MISSIONS DIRECT  
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MISSOURI BROTHERHOOD PRESIDENT  
BRYAN BUCKLEY 573-854-2251  
NATIONAL BROTHERHOOD PRESIDENT  
MARK JONES 662-322-6516

**CORNHOLE - SKEET SHOOTING - AXE THROWING - BOW SHOOTING**

Greetings from the Missouri State Brotherhood. We are excited for the upcoming retreat. We are working alongside of our State Missions Director to combine the Renewal Retreat and the Brotherhood Retreat for 2024. We are hopeful that the men of your churches can come enjoy the blessing of sessions and fellowship. The Brotherhood hopes to bring the men together to let them grow in their relationship with Christ and the brethren. We feel it is important that the retreat is free of cost and hope that remains the case in the future as well. We ask if it is possible that your church would prayerfully support the Brotherhood so we can continue to have events to cultivate Christian bonds

between the men of our churches. You can send any support to: Missouri State Brotherhood, c/o Roy Callahan, 501 Clark St., Potosi, MO 63664. It would be a tremendous blessing to the Brotherhood.

## Camp Garwood

Greetings from Camp Garwood!

Over the winter months we have continued to work at camp nearly every weekend. We're in the process of running power and water to the basketball pavilion, along with the dorm remodel.

Dorm 7 is the old dining hall. It's been a busy winter. After pulling out the old fixtures and walls, we cut and busted concrete where the trenches would be dug for new plumbing. After digging the trenches, we installed water and sewer piping for three apartments and 4 new dorm restrooms. Basically, we are building 7 restrooms in a 30' x 30' space. Hopefully, we'll have concrete in and begin building walls by the end of February. It's a challenge making the time to do the work. The work itself and trying to accomplish this on an extremely tight budget is challenging.

My goal is to have the dorm side ready to use in time for the Men's Retreat, April 26-27. We are looking forward to that weekend and expect a large turnout. There will be door prizes, crawfish, catfish, skeet shoot, archery, cornhole, and I don't know what else. All that is besides great fellowship, Bible study, encouragement, and the opportunity to grow closer to Christ.

We will also have a Spring Retreat for everyone. I don't have a date at this time, but should be before the March paper deadline.

Remember the GMA Retreat is set for June 28-29. The GMA Retreat is a great weekend for ladies of all ages, whether you have an official GMA or not.

Camp week 2024 is July 29-Aug 2. Our theme this year is Answer the Call from Mark 10:49, "And Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart. Get up; he is calling you.'"

Camp week is only a few months away. It's hard to imagine how fast it will be here. How fast time passes. As we read in Psalm 39:4-5, "O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am! Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath! Selah!"

We have limited days and limited money. At the end of mine I pray the Lord says I've used them wisely.

Looking forward to seeing you guys soon!

Chris Polk

### • Contact Information •

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## National WMA Conference

Kelly Williams, 2nd VP

The National WMA will meet on Wednesday, April 17th, at the Chateau on the Lake in Branson, Missouri. We are working to plan an amazing day for the ladies of the BMA.

Judy Wallace will be the keynote speaker during the morning, and after lunch we will have several breakout sessions from which you can choose two to attend.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the program begins at 9:00 a.m. We will end the day by 2:45 so that the ladies can attend the BMA meeting that begins at 3:00 p.m.

Lunch at the Chateau during the meeting will be served at noon. The cost for lunch is \$25. If you plan to stay for lunch, please send \$25 to Janet Widger, P.O. Box 23, Salem, MO 65560. Make your checks payable to WMA of BMAA.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

### Ladies' Luncheon

April 17, 2024

Chateau on the Lake • Branson, MO

The National WMA invites all ladies to fellowship and enjoy a luncheon as part of the annual BMAA meeting and conference. The wives and widows of ministers and missionaries are invited as our special guests (free of charge).

The luncheon cost is \$25 per person. Registration may be sent by any of the means below. Please include name and phone number of each person attending, and indicate any participant who is the wife or widow of a minister. Registration deadline (including guests) is April 14.

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

Make check payable to: WMA of BMAA

## • Updates from Our Churches •

### **Abundant Life in Christ, Charleston**

Perhaps like too many of us, we are struggling with low attendance, but we continue to have good services, and God continues to grow our online presence. The number watching our Sunday morning livestreams grows nearly weekly. Many of these are in the Philippines, with several of them being members of our missions, but there are also numerous other Filipinos discovering and following us as well. Recently, we were contacted by a family in India who told us they had started following us on Facebook and have attended our Sunday night Zoom Bible study.

*Rodney Dunlap, Pastor*

### **Westview, Jefferson City**

Greetings from Westview! During the month of January, a precious little girl, Millie Sue Easley, was born to Matt and Kelly Easley. We do love these little ones and we are thankful for them. Our Westview Youth Group constructed a prayer board and have it displayed in the church foyer. We had to cancel services on one Sunday morning in January due to winter weather conditions.

*Benjamin Kingston, Pastor  
Rae Lynn Hearst, Reporter*

### **Lindsay Lane, Florissant**

Greetings once again from Lindsay Lane. January is gone; hello February! By the time you read this it will almost be March, time will change, and it will be spring! Time is so swiftly passing!

Bro. Juan filled in for Bro. Brian the first Sunday in the new year due to sickness. He encouraged everyone to take five minutes and pray for five people for five days! What a blessing that has been. Of course, my list had gotten longer and time spent with the Lord has gotten sweeter! Try it!

We are in the process of getting some much needed repairs done to our build-

ing and grounds. Our annual Valentine banquet will be the 7th. We are also looking forward to attending our National Association in Branson.

Pray for our shut-ins and visitors. Pray for one another. May God bless 'til we meet again!

*Brian Meade, Pastor  
Kathy Chapman, Reporter*

### **Stony Point, Mineral Point**

Hello again from us at Stony Point! January was here and it seemed like it was gone before we knew it!

January was a month of blessings. First, Otto McAtee was saved. Then we were blessed to witness Kayla Whelehon being baptized during our Sunday morning service, and we are happy to announce that Cory Whelehon joined our church by letter. We are happy to have our new members and to witness as they give their life over to the Lord.

February 11th we will have the Dalton Harper group singing at 1:30. If you can, join us! It will be a wonderful afternoon.

We have instituted a prayer plan. We have selected churches individually to pray for. There is power in prayer! Thank you, Sister Bea, for your work on this! We have had several out for sickness and health issues, so please remember them in your prayers.

After the below-freezing temperatures we got lucky with a few warmer days and are looking forward to more! We hope everyone has a wonderful February with many blessings!

*Claude Evans, Pastor  
D. Stegall, Reporter*

### **Lower Doe Run, Ellington**

Time! Have you considered God's time line? His time line is totally different from ours. He sees and knows all from the beginning since He made it! I pray that my time will not be wasted. I want to be useful to the end of time. Think—there won't be a need to keep

time in Heaven! Many of us count time from Sunday to Sunday. We plan and prepare for classes and worship, forgetting that our study and worship is to be daily.

We've had extreme cold this month, and we questioned if it was too cold for our seniors. But everyone agreed that they would make an effort to attend worship, and they did. We are so thankful to see new faces in our Sunday services and we pray these will commit to become a part of the local church. Sickness continues to take some away from being faithful to each Sunday service. We are praying for these, for those who have lost loved ones, those who are caring for those in nursing homes, and others going through other difficult times.

One of the difficult times is a result of the extreme cold. We found water/well problems at church on Sunday. Barbara's sons did a quick check to find pipes broken under the kitchen. We pray the solution will not be too severe.

We have voted to send \$500 along with our prayers in support of Israel. We are sending it through the Southwestern Arkansas GMA District Project to the Middle East Coordinator, Charles Costa. It is good to let others know about our projects.

Until we meet.

*Melvin Meade, Pastor  
Carolyn Meade, Reporter*

### **Landmark, DeSoto**

February is here, and I hope everyone is surviving and well after a turbulent January!

I have good news and bad news this time around. Good news: We finally have electricity in our church building and will be able to hold Sunday school and worship service there February 11th! The basement/fellowship hall is still undergoing renovations, so we'll have to keep everyone upstairs, but THAT'S JUST FINE! We're SO grate-

ful to God to be able to get back "home"!

In bad/good news: Sis. Sharon Page has been very ill and in the hospital for about a week. (That's the bad part.) The good part is she is much stronger and should be coming home February 5th and will finish recuperating there. Hallelujah! Sis. Lorrie Causey, while still battling cancer and undergoing radiation treatments, has such an upbeat attitude and such strong faith in God that you can't help but smile when you're around her. We ask that you keep both of these ladies and several others in our church in your prayers.

We also ask for your prayers for a new pastor, as Bro. Crites has submitted his resignation as pastor. We miss him and Sis. Crites and pray that God will continue to bless them in all they do. In the meantime, we've had some great messages from visiting preachers and keep on leaning on God for our strength.

Don't forget the upcoming WMA meetings: MO State WMA annual meeting on March 2 and Washington County District WMA & Brotherhood quarterly meeting on March 8, both at Stony Point. A HUGE thank you to Bro. Claude and Sis. Bea Evans for hosting this state meeting, since it was supposed to be at Landmark. P.S.: ALL are welcome, whether you belong to a WMA group or not!

That's all for now. May the Lord keep blessing you until He comes again.

*Barbara Williams, Reporter*

### **Oak Hill, Alton**

Hello to everyone from Oak Hill!

We are rejoicing that another soul was saved on January 28th – Kendra Infranca. Bro. Ed said we just made the devil MAD taking another soul from him! We also found out that Preston and Mya Nix's family is growing; the baby's due date is July 17th. Every-

one is excited about having another baby at Oak Hill.

Carstyn Casey had another check-up and scans to make sure his cancer/tumor has not come back. The doctors saw something on one side of his neck. They were not concerned with it being cancer/tumor, so they removed it and sent it off. We are hoping and praying that it was nothing to be concerned with.

February 2nd another soul was saved – Emily Smith. Emily is so happy about her decision, and we are rejoicing with her! We are extremely happy and excited about two souls added to the Lord's family and another baby on the way. We are praying that Carstyn's report from the doctors will be GREAT!

Until next month when I hope I will have some more good news to tell you. Until then we will be praising and honoring our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

God Bless!!

*Edward Casey, Pastor  
Jennifer Williams, Reporter*

### **Ozark Heights, Potosi**

Ozark Heights sends our greetings to all our brothers and sisters.

Many have had a difficult winter so far, with the extreme cold, ice and snow. We have some of our members who have endured the loss of family members, but I am thankful that God is able to provide comfort and even peace in our loss. Those who are lost and living in eternal hopelessness can't understand how we can deal with death as we do. With God there is perfect comfort, brought through the scripture. "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus," Philippians 4:7.

In December, Bro. Bill and Sis. Sara worked on the music and Sis. Erin and our ladies worked with the youth to bring the Christmas story about the birth of our Savior. We celebrated the birth of



Christ with a wonderful message by Bro. Brian.

Ozark Heights took 19 to Youth Alive in St. Louis. Many told of the wonderful time, along with music and messages. We were able to enjoy seeing God's leadership watching the baptism of Sis. Ashley in December.

In January we ran into the problem of weather. We canceled one service because of extreme cold and ice, with lingering effects the following Sunday.

We had another one of our young ladies, Sis. Hannah, come forward requesting to be baptized. I know her grandmother, Sis. Judy, was blessed to watch her follow after the Lord in baptism.

Several of the men have been busy working on restoring our basement after flood-

ing caused damage to all the cabinets in the basement last summer. We were devastated, but God continues to open doors for us here at Ozark Heights. The cabinets are back in place and soon will be ready for us to again use our fellowship hall. We are thankful for everyone who came out to help.

Our church voted to begin a project fund to build a new fellowship center and within a month raised close to 1/3 of our goal. God continues to wow us as we continue to serve Him.

WMA prepared the fruit baskets for our shut-ins, as well as treat bags to hand out at our Christmas program.

Twenty-three of our ladies enjoyed their annual ladies' Christmas dinner at Black Bird Cafe in December. They

enjoyed a wonderful time.

Bro. Brian is leading a Bible study of the book of Revelation on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. and the book of Daniel on Sunday evenings at 6 p.m.

Roots to Wings for our younger children has restarted on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. Sunday school is at 9:45 and worship at 10 a.m. Brotherhood meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7 p.m., and WMA meets 3rd Thursday at 7 p.m. You do not need to be a member to join in.

We continue to pray for our shut-ins who are unable to attend, for those who have suffered loss in their family, for our church and our sister churches.

May God bless you!

*Brian Kingston, Pastor  
Gary Gilliam, Reporter*

### First, Potosi

Greetings from First Baptist Church in Potosi.

We had a busy month with baptisms, preparing our three men who will be ordained as deacons, and getting Upward Basketball players ready for their season.

Also, our 68th Friends Day is March 3, which will be here before you know it. Our schedule that day has Sunday school at 9:00 and worship at 10:00. There will be no 8:00 service, but lunch will be at 11:00. We would love for any of you who can to worship and eat with us.

Wednesday evenings are full of classes for all ages. We have two adult classes, youth class, and Interactive Bible Story Nights with Laurie Franklin.

Houston Bouse is continu-

ing with MOPS. This ministry is wonderful for women to learn more about God and share with other women. U-Turn is beginning a new series this month. These meetings are only one hour and are very beneficial for those who have hurts and habits and need a guide to God for assistance. The Upward closing is scheduled for March 4, 2024.

Overflow is such a great ministry. It is so easy to share Christ or invite to church as we prepare their food from the food bank and bag their clothes. It is a very rich blessing.

Please pray for us as we pray for you.

*Jim Ainley, Pastor  
Deborah Rauhut, Reporter*

• See UPDATES page 7 •

## Jerry Kidd Missions Offering 2024

Multiplication. It's always the goal of BMA Global: Planting churches that plant churches.

Missionaries to Thailand Brandon and Brittney Lingle have been discipling a young couple, Jay and Ty, who are planting a church seven hours from the capital city of Bangkok where they live. They have a baby daughter and family in the Kantharalak province where they have built relationships in this rural area of Thailand. Jay is currently interning and receiving training to prepare and help with the new church, and the Lingle family will relocate to the area this spring.

The Lingles have served in Thailand ten years, the average time it takes to plant a church there. After building relationships with both Christians and non-Christians, it can be a long road to evangelism and discipleship, even longer to start a church then reach the goal of multiplication.

But God is their guide on this journey, and our missionaries and ChangeMakers "count it all joy."

The Jerry Kidd Missions offering supports these sacrificial servants, and on Sunday, February 25th, you can be part of that multiplication goal.

With a large number of Muslims in the Middle East, those who serve this people group are careful not to attack Islam. Doing so only creates barriers to understanding and accepting the gospel. But there is one "language" that breaks those barriers: showing the genuine love and care that Christ had for people during his earthly ministry, love that touches people where they hurt.

So they speak that language to Muslims, even when it's obvious they're attending church and making professions of faith just to receive something in return. Middle East Coordinator Charlie Costa says, "In a volatile area such as the Middle East, our strategy is to stay in the thick and thin of circumstances. We accept war and conflict as one of the realities of the region, and as bad as war is, we also consider it a great opportunity to spread the gospel in times of trouble. Grace has risks and takes risks"

Pray that the Holy Spirit will touch the hearts of Muslims to genuinely commit their lives to Christ.

Pray that missionaries, ChangeMakers, and churches in the Middle East continue being called to plant the seed, water the seed, then see growth and fruit through the Holy Spirit's work.

God has been so faithful to meet our needs each year, and one way he does that is through your support of the Jerry Kidd Missions Offering.



Africa and South America have several things in common: Most of their countries have emerging economies and are struggling with where they stand politically: Are they socialists or capitalists? But what they have most in common is religion.

Africa and South America Regional Coordinator Johnmichael Poulin says, "While there are many

Catholics, particularly in South America, that's in name only, not in practice. The truth is that both continents are steeped in animistic beliefs. Both include witch doctors, believing they must appease their gods, and trying to find gods they can control. This creates all kinds of barriers to the gospel. But God is faithful and the gospel is breaking through their animistic culture."

BMA Global has a rich history in both continents, South America being one of the first fields the BMA went into. They have established churches and associations and are beginning to send missionaries. But the greatest need is pastors and pastor training, especially in sound theology.

The annual Jerry Kidd Missions Offering is so vital, providing almost 20% of our annual expenses. If you have not already, challenge your church to give a special offering to global missions.

*National Women's Missionary Auxiliary*

Women's Outreach

Robin Tyler, Editor  
robin@robintyler.life

Judy Wallace, Third Vice President  
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[www.nationalwma.org](http://www.nationalwma.org)

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

## RENEW

Judy Wallace

Part of our state got snow this week. We might have seen a flake or two but mostly it was just a slushy, cold rain for us. As I watched pictures on the local news station of the beautiful floating crystals drifting down onto the already covered ground, my mind went to the scripture in Isaiah. "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isaiah 1:18

NEW! White! Clean! That is what we are when we accept the fact that we are helpless sinners and can do nothing about it on our own. We must come to Jesus, repent of our sin, and believe that Jesus Christ came into the world to be the sacrifice needed for our sin and ask Him to save us! That relationship brings us NEW life, a NEW birth, a NEW outlook, purpose, passion. It gives a NEW direction for our life and a NEW love for God and others.

But as with many things in life, there seems to sneak in a fog of apathy...one of passivity that slowly descends on us, causing us to drift away from a close dependency on our Savior. It is time to RE-NEW.

There are many definitions of this word. One means to take up again as with an acquaintance. It means to replenish, revive, reestablish, recover what was lost, to restore to a former state. Do any of those definitions describe what needs to happen in your relationship with the Lord? We know He is always there so we also know the one who must have moved. It's us!

Life gets in the way. Problems arise but we think we can take care of them ourselves. We pridefully try to handle anything and foolishly think we must sign up for everything. All the while we are neglecting the most important thing we need...a close, intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.

Go back and re-read the second paragraph. Remind yourself of what it took to become a child of God: total helplessness in self, total trust in Christ. If you look carefully, you will realize that what it took to make you NEW is exactly what it takes to help us RENEW! We must accept that we are helpless sinners with a nature that is always trying to pull us away from God. So we must do a 180, repent and turn back to Jesus realizing that we are hopeless on our own and must depend on Him totally.

So...what is it you need not do so that Christ can do it through you? Which definition best describes what you need to do in your life right now for renewal?

SCRIPTURES TO READ/RESPOND:

- Do you need to 'take up again' in your relationship with Jesus? Proverbs 3:3
- Do you need to establish a daily time in the Word? 2 Corinthians 4:16
- Do you need to replenish your spiritual energy and strength? 1 Peter 5:7
- Do you need your own personal revival to re-establish your closeness with God? Psalm 85:6
- Do you need to recover what was lost and restore it to the former state? Psalm 51:12

# BMA SEMINARY

*Christ-centered since 1955*

## Dr. Tony Cleaver Retires from BMA Seminary

Dr. Tony Cleaver, Professor of Biblical Studies and Director of Distance Education, retired from the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary at the end of 2023 following more than 13 years of faithful service to the seminary.

Cleaver's contribution to the seminary is difficult to overstate. According to Dr. Charley Holmes, BMA Seminary President, "Dr. and Mrs. Cleaver have been incredibly supportive of the seminary's ministry both professionally and financially during my time as seminary president."

Vice President and Dean Philip Attebery emphasized that "Dr. Cleaver was essential to the formation and initiation of BMATS online distance education and critical to the ongoing quality and maintenance of BMATS distance education. Students have repeatedly expressed their appreciation and admiration for Dr. Cleaver's skill and encouragement as a professor. The Lord used Dr. Cleaver to put BMA Seminary on the cutting edge of theological distance education." Holmes added, "We are all grateful that Dr. Cleaver remains available for consultation when needed."

In response to news of Cleaver's retirement, the Board of Trustees' Academic Committee "expressed its appreciation for Dr. Cleaver's unique and extraordinary contribution to BMA Seminary during his time, especially as it pertains to distance education."



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HOMESCHOOL

# Stampede Preview Day

March 6

GO TO  
CBC.EDU VISIT  
TO REGISTER

## CBC Homeschool Preview Day

Central Baptist College Stampede Preview Days give prospective students an opportunity to personally experience campus life. Join us on March 6, 2024, for our Homeschool Stampede Preview Day. Registration will start at 9:30 a.m. and the event will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. and end at 2:00 p.m.

Visit [cbc.edu/stampede](http://cbc.edu/stampede) for more details and to register. Contact our Admissions office at [admissions@cbc.edu](mailto:admissions@cbc.edu) or 501.329.6873 with any questions.

- Do you need to fall in love with our awesome, omnipotent God all over again? Jeremiah 31:3
- PRAYER: "Father, I definitely get it all wrong. I'm the one who breaks our fellowship. Help me put you first in all that I do, from the first part of my day to the last thought that comes to my mind each evening. Help me open my eyes to the opportunities you give me and help me take advantage of each one. When my neat, written plans for the day don't mesh with Yours, then turn mine topsy-turvy so I have to look to You. Give me a craving for Your Word and a deeply devoted heart that is for You alone. Renew a right spirit within me. Renew my fellowship with You."

## Camp Garwood Financial Report Oct 1, 2023 - Jan 31, 2024

General Fund	
Beginning Balance	\$ 48,332.85
Received	8,112.12
Disbursements	(41,253.24)
Ending Balance	\$ 15,191.73
Food Fund	
Beginning Balance	\$ 0.00
Received	0.00
Disbursements	(166.27)
Ending Balance	\$ (166.27)
Insurance Fund	
Beginning Balance	\$ 0.00
Received	0.00
Disbursements	(2,000.00)
Ending Balance	\$ (2,000.00)
<b>Total Account Balance</b>	<b>\$ 13,025.46</b>



• **From UPDATES page 5 •**  
**Mt. Olive, Salem**

We had a wonderful time of fellowship and fun at our Christmas Party 2023 celebrating Jesus' birth! On December 31st we had a watch night service to bring in the new year! We had special singing and a wonderful challenging message from our pastor taken from I John 3:11-24. We were blessed to have visitors who chose to come and worship with us and join in the fellowship!

We had our yearly planning meeting and we are excited about the plans we have made for outreach and fellowship events throughout the year. We are excited to see what God has in store for Mt. Olive in 2024!

We would like to let everyone know that some of our

oldest members, Bro. Orville and Sis. Pauline Swearingin, due to declining health, have moved to Salem Residential Care, an assisted living facility in Salem, Missouri. Please keep them in your prayers. This has been a big adjustment for them. Prayers appreciated for their family too.

We are praising the Lord that Sis. Elaine Stricklin is now CANCER FREE! Thank you so much for the prayers that went up on her behalf as she fought the battle against breast cancer! HALLELUJAH!!

We are looking forward to this new year, 2024, and excited to see what God is going to do within our church and throughout our community! To God be the glory!!

*Larry Nash, Pastor*  
*Deiatre Gillam, Reporter*

**Ohlman, Bunker**

Since our last report we had a Christmas program for our Wednesday night student ministry on December 20th. We were blessed that several of the parents attended, which made a full house. This has been a matter of prayer.

Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve we only held morning services. A few regular attendees were out, but we still had several visitors.

We were going to start the Wednesday night ministry back up on January 10th. Due to extreme cold temperatures and bad road conditions, the Bunker school dis-

trict cancelled school on three Wednesdays in a row. Finally, on January 31st we were able to have the kids back. To say that they were ready to be back is an understatement.

The other good news is that by January 31st we were able to use the "new to us" bus. (See picture below.) As voted on earlier, we were going to give the older bus to a church congregation. Two different church groups, after prayer and consideration, turned

down our offer. With that, the bus was offered to the Potter House Ministry in Wiggins, Mississippi. They will happily come and get it in the near future.

We continue to have several visitors from the community which makes our Sunday morning attendance really good.

The SALT block program is continuing to have several teens attend. We are thankful for this blessing and thankful for God's protection as they drive the curvy roads to attend.

We are hoping to have some attend the MO WMA and Brotherhood meeting at Stony Point on March 2nd, as well as the BMA of America meeting in April.

*Terry Sharpe, Pastor*  
*Janet Widger, Reporter*



**The Master's Builders**

The Master's Builders gathered at Daniel Springs Baptist Camp on January 23-26th for our annual retreat. It was a wonderful time for fellowship, food, fun, and relaxation for all of us. We had 29 Builders that were able to attend this year. Because of extreme cold and dangerous driving conditions the week before, the date was moved from the 16th to the 23rd which caused several couples to miss out on our time together. They were missed very much by all.



We did have two first time "retreaters," Billy and Dawanna Keys, from DeValls Bluff, AR. This sweet couple joined our group this past year and were formerly working in the Nail Benders Ministry.

While at retreat, we had our annual business meeting and learned of the possible opportunities to serve that we have coming up this year. These will be updated on our Facebook page as we prepare to work. The Lord has blessed us with a full calendar for 2024 with several new buildings to build, as well as additions and repairs to others.

A special thank you to each of you that pray for this ministry. Please come and join us if we are in your area. Our first job will be March 4-15 at Stoneridge Baptist Camp in Smithville, AR. We would love to have you come to help, or just pop in to visit and see what this ministry is about!

A big thank you to Jason Prewitt, Camp Director at Daniel Springs for hosting our group. We ask you to pray for his camp, and for our group, as we strive to serve the Lord and further His Kingdom. Please pray for workers to come help with this ministry! Come join our family! The blessings are abundant!

If you have any questions about the Master's Builders ministry, or if your church has building needs, please contact Mike Green at (972)935-3877, David Axe at (903)918-0720 or Eddie Sikes at (479)462-1675.

Follow us on Facebook and see where we are and what we're doing. Like us at "The Master's Builders" (arbor logo).

Nelda Malone – Reporter

**Just The Crumbs Update for January - February, 2024**

Just the Crumbs Disaster Relief Ministry immediately began preparations for a response to Clarksville, Tennessee after that city and other areas were devastated by a tornado on December 9, 2023. We set up and began feeding and ministering on December 11. We fed approximately 200 victims and volunteers per day until December 24, when we went home for Christmas with our families. We returned on January 6 to Clarksville and began serving a separate area of that city, handing out about 200 meals daily plus 3 meals per day for about 25 volunteers. On Saturday, January 13, we served 800 meals to the community. By January 20, we felt we had done what we could.



Please keep in mind that when the disaster responders leave, those affected by the storm will not be back to their normal for quite some time. They still need our prayers.

The generous physical, financial, and spiritual support so many of you have given humbles us just as it enables us to do this work God has called us to do. Please continually remember the work of Just the Crumbs in prayer each time you pray. Also remember us as we work to keep our equipment serviced and ready, so that we can respond quickly to our next place of service.

Financial donations may be made through PayPal at justthecrumbs21@gmail.com; mailed to 10 Wagon Trail, Sumrall, Mississippi 39482; or mailed to BMAA Missions, P.O. Box 878, Conway, Arkansas 72033 and designated to Just the Crumbs Disaster Relief Ministry.



As you respond generously and give from your hearts to enable us to meet the needs of the hurting in these disasters, you are a tremendous blessing to those to whom we minister. We say thank you to God and you for the compassion so many have shown.

In Christ,  
 Lavon Haden, President



## EIM VBS Literature

Michael Goodwin, EIM President/Program Director

Are you looking for gospel-centered Vacation Bible School literature for 2024? We believe we have something that you may be interested in. Evangelistic International Ministries has been conducting children's Bible schools around the world for the past 15 years. With a desire for something that was completely gospel centered, our volunteers began writing and developing our own curriculum. EIM has now formatted all of our material so that it can be used here in the U.S. by local churches.

This summer, take your students on a Gospel Cruise. Your students will enjoy sailing aboard the S.S. Gospel Voyage. Each day, the S.S. Gospel Voyage will make a port of call at a very important place. On the first day, your port of call is at the Garden

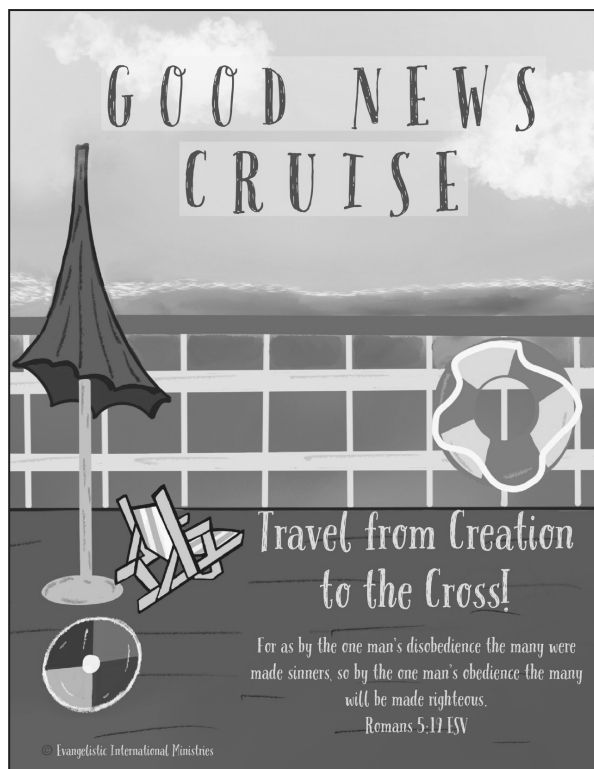
of Eden. In the Garden, you will discover God's creation and man's fall. The second day, your port of call will be at Bethlehem. At Bethlehem, you will discover God's plan to bring sinful man back into fellowship with Himself. The port of call on the third day will be at Galilee. It's at Galilee that you will hear Jesus teaching about who He is by looking at the seven "I AM" statements that He made. The last day's port of call will be at Gethsemane. It's here at the cross your student will see God's incredible love and grace. It's here that they will see the wrath of God poured out on His own Son.

In our VBS package, you will have everything necessary to conduct a 4-day VBS. The package will include a Teacher Guide and a Student Guide for each age group. Also included are crafts, games, skits, and posters to go along with each day's lesson. All of this was done by EIM's volunteer staff of mothers who are passionate about God's

Word, the gospel, and children. Each lesson is intentional in pointing students to the fact that they are sinners in need of a Savior.

I have seen these lessons taught by seasoned teachers as well as those who are teaching for the first time. In each case, I have seen hundreds, if not thousands, of boys, girls, and yes, even adults come to faith in Jesus Christ. As a Missionary/Pastor, I have found no better curriculum as gospel focused and gospel centered.

All of this material will be available to download and print. We will have this available to view on our website at [www.eimworldwide.org](http://www.eimworldwide.org). If you would like more information about our VBS literature, please contact me, Mike Goodwin, at [mgoodwin@eimworldwide.org](mailto:mgoodwin@eimworldwide.org) or text me at 870-904-2091. All of the materials that we are offering are completely free for any church. We will be available to have all-weather banners made for purchase, if so desired. We would ask that you consider making a donation of any size to EIM after you have printed and used our material.



## 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.

**Landmark Missionary Baptist Church, DeSoto**, is seeking a pastor. If you feel God calling you to serve, or can come as a visiting preacher, please contact Bro. Dale Hawkins at 636-208-6125 or Sis. Terry Smith at 636-535-0409. (1224)

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

## ~ Upcoming Events ~

**World Missions Day** – Feb. 25

**CBC Scholarship Gala** – March 1 (6:00 p.m.); "Enduring Faith;" Antioch, Conway

**MO WMA/Brotherhood Annual Meeting** – March 2 (10:00 a.m.); Stony Point, Mineral Point

**MO GMA Sleepover and Annual Meeting** – March 15-16; Kewanee, New Madrid

**BMA of America National Meeting** – Apr. 16-18; Chateau on the Lake, Branson

**Men's Renewal Retreat** – Apr. 26-27; Sponsored by BMA of MO and MO Brotherhood; Camp Garwood

**Washington Co. District Aux.** – March 8 (7:30 p.m.); Stony Point, Mineral Point

**SEMO District WMA 5th Annual Pound in a Purse** – March 9 (10:30 a.m.); Kewanee, New Madrid; Benefit for Camp Garwood; Speaker, Helen Beardsley

**Easter Walk** – March 22-24 (6:00-8:30 p.m.); Bethel, Lonedell

**BMA of MO Missions Symposium & Mid-Year Meeting** – May 17-18 (7:00 p.m. / 9:00 a.m.); Bethel, Lonedell

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