# The

# Missouri Missionary Baptist

"Holding Forth the Word of Life" - Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXXVI St. Louis, MO • July 9, 2024 Issue No. 7



# Missouri State Camp Week

July 29 – August 2

Speakers: Caleb Houston and Aaron Russell

Theme: Answer the Call

### A Note from Our Camp Director

Chris Polk

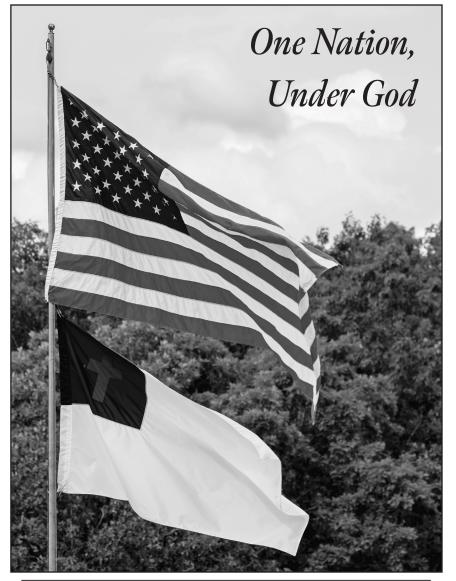
Just a reminder that camp is only a few weeks away. We have been working hard to get Dorm Seven up and running and completion is in sight. But in our focus to get the dorm completed, there has not been time for much else that needs some attention.

I know others will come and help do basic cleaning, and that can be done at the beginning of camp week. I am referring to things like fixing toilets, showers, faucets, lights, doors, etc.—just regular maintenance around camp. Everyone stay calm! It's ok if a light is out or a faucet drips. Those are simple reminders we live in a broken world

We're looking forward to seeing everyone in a couple weeks. It's like an extended family reunion.

Remember to pray for all the folks that make camp possible – for those that serve in some capacity. And pray that the Lord will move hearts and lives to . . .

~ Answer the Call. ~



Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

### **Christian Flag Presentations**

Bro. Claude Evans

In its May meeting the BMA of Missouri passed a motion to establish a means of honoring a pastor or pastor's wife when they are called home to be with the Lord. A committee was elected to develop a procedure to present a Christian flag to the family at the funeral. The flag is folded, and given to the family as a way of calmovaledging the years of ministry.

put in a display case and given to the family as a way of acknowledging the years of ministry to the local churches.

Since May, the committee has presented two such memorials – one to the family of Bro. John Earl Brown of Stony Point Baptist Church and another to the family of Bro. Leonard Compton of First Baptist Church of Potosi. These brethren passed suddenly, but thanks to those on this committee, the flags were presented.

The committee has not yet met to formally organize and plan for future needs. Please be in prayer for these families who have suffered loss and also for those pastors still here as they faithfully feed their flocks.

# **JESUS CAMP 2024**

KIDDIE CAMP JULY 21 - 24 (K - 5 GRADE) \$ 50 TEEN CAMP JULY 24 - 27 (6 - 12 GRADE) \$60

All meals provided - Outdoor theater-style tabernacle w/amazing view Basketball - Volleyball - Baseball - Obstacle course - Swimming Air conditioned dormitories - Located just 30 minutes from St. Clair

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### **State Missions**

Dear BMAMO churches,

I hope this article finds you doing well in the grace of the Lord.

In last month's article, I alluded to the final topic covered in Thom Rainer's "Seven Habits of a Healthy Church," which is evangelism.

It seems like we have two concurrent thoughts: One thought would be "well, of course a healthy church evangelizes because of the Great Commission and because of the Lord's sacrifice for the lost." But then the other concurrent thought (and maybe this is closer to the reality in 2024) is "very few churches practice prayerful, faithful evangelism."

I am literally in a funeral procession using voice note for this article, waiting for our opportunity to go into Jefferson Barracks to lay to rest a veteran. He's United States military, so the idea of evangelism is as important as it can be. For the person in the first vehicle, the decision of whether to receive Christ as Savior has to have already been made. For everyone else following that first vehicle, there's still time.

But does it matter if there's time, if very few are sharing their faith?

I'm not telling you that I believe that our churches are doing a poor job; I'm telling you that every one of us needs to assess or evaluate ourselves and make sure that we are doing exactly what God commanded us to do in Matthew 28:18 and following.

- Are we sharing our faith?
- Can you point to five evidences in your life that you are sharing your faith?
- Do you pray for the lost?
- Do you open your mouth and testify what Jesus has done in your life?
- Do you live your life in such a way that it matches your testimony?
- Do you support a local saving station (we call them churches)?
- Do you financially support the missions effort of the church and association that you're a part of?

These are just a few ways to be evangelistic.

I'm haunted by the words of Henry Blackaby when he said, "If a church does not have a plan to reach their community, that church is in planned disobedience."

Again, I'm begging you not to see me with my glasses pulled down over my nose and



### MISIÓN BELÉN (Bethlehem Mission)

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

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:12–14)

Enjoying this season of the year, our favorite, we have experienced many opportunities



we have experienced many opportunities to connect with people, enjoy some conversations, divine appointments etc.

– all within the context of the nice, warm weather in the area.

Praising the Lord! Bro. Steve and Sis. Deiatre stayed near our home in Granite City from Monday through Friday. Their visit provided such blessings of grace, kindness, encouragement, and of course lots of laughter, for our family. Thank you for the time spent with us and in the mission field. We hope that you also enjoyed your time ministering and learning more about our challenging missionary pioneer field. We are looking forward to more learning and fellowship with this amazing couple. May the Lord continue to use you to encourage and show mercy to all your

family and friends as you did with us. Our VBS couldn't have been more fun and blessed.

Also thankful for Bro. Bryan Buckley and Sis. Sara and their church, Bates Creek Baptist Church. They provided all the decorations, teaching materials, music, etc. That helped our mission save a large amount of preparation time and made it so much fun. Thank you and all the wonderful volunteers in your church that helped and made a difference to our children.

Mrs. Tiny and Mrs. Darlene also visited us for a couple of days. We got to reconnect with

### Financial Report BMA Of Missouri Missions June 2024

Checking Account: Balance May 31			\$	25,527.33	
Income:					
Missions	\$_	4,914.73			
Total Income			\$_	4,914.73	
Total Available			\$	30,442.06	
Expenses:					
Director, salary	\$	450.00			
Secretary, salary		200.00			
Juan Fernandez, support		2,333.33			
Director, mileage, etc.		18.76			
Total Expenses			\$_	(3,002.09)	
Balance June 30			\$	27,439.97	
BMAMS Revolving Loan Investment:					
Balance May 31		17,316.22			
Interest	•	0.00			
Balance June 30			\$_	117,316.22	
Total in All Accounts June	30		\$	144,756.19	

having that condescending look. Instead, I want you to see me as the doctor in the room, if you will, and we're just trying to diagnose and see where we are.

I know Ben Kingston and Bethel Church have room for improvement. If you and your church do also, then let's pray together that we will make those improvements and be evangelistic for the sake of the Lord. His crucifixion, His sacrifice is worthy!

Bro. Ben

these awesome ladies in prayer and update and planning. We pray with Bethany Church as they continue seeking God's direction. We prayed for Sis. Rhonda and Bro. Larry as well.

The Lord has blessed us this past week with each one of you who gave, prayed and joined us in what the Lord is doing among us here in the Metro East and Granite City.

Our garage is looking better. We have dedicated our home to be a prayer, discipleship and



fellowship place. The Lord has been blessing and honoring this dedication as we have been awarded with love offerings from Stony Point Church. Thank you for the kids' efforts to

• See MISIÓN BELÉN page 3 •

### The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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### **WMA**

# Missouri WMA-Sponsored Retreat Information

Date: September 6 & 7, 2024

Location: Drury Plaza Hotel Cape Girardeau Conference Center

Room rate\*: \$145.00 (plus tax) – includes supper & breakfast

Phone: 1-800-325-0720, mention group number 10079578 (Women's Missionary Auxiliary of Missouri)

There are rooms available in our block for Thursday, September 5th as well.

\*Note: Deadline to get group rate is August 4, 2024. This is the Saturday after church camp. If you are at camp that week, you will not have access to cell service or internet. So make your reservation before going to camp.

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### • From MISIÓN BELÉN page 2 •

raise this love offering and the generous donation from your congregation as an act of love and support towards our ministry. Bro. Claude and Bro. Roy always provide such blessings,

support and encouragement. May the Lord continue blessing your service for the King.

New Testament Church has also visited and blessed our home, working very hard last Saturday, June 29th. Thanks to Pastor Dave, Pastor Josh, and many other dedicated gentlemen doing the framing, our garage is now a new place to visit and pray. Bro. Josh Wright suggested to decorate our walls with scripture and godly thoughts to honor God and dedicate this space in our home to the work of the Lord among our neighbors and friends.

Thank you, Bro. Chuck, for all the logistics and other efforts to make this project become a reality. These provide such an opportunity to experience support, love and caring from our Association of churches. Bro. Chuck has been taking care of most of the details for this place of gathering, teaching, praying and worship. Thank you to all the volunteers





We will continue our daily prayer and visitation among the Metro East area and Florissant. To Him be the glory.

Pray for our daily outreach, handing out Bibles and invitations to our home for Friday Bible Study and Sunday Bible Study. On Wednesdays and Sundays we reach out with our Lindsay Lane Church family at Florissant. If you would like to come and join this missionary effort, give us a call at 618-581-8056.

We are planning to sign up our kids for soccer league here in Granite City and

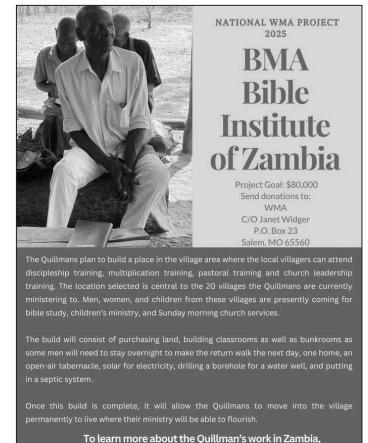
serve among our Hispanic friends with summer events in our home and surrounding parks.

Thank you, Jesus, as we continue reaching out. We have a family to minister to which the Lord brought back to us – the Geronimo family – to resume the discipleship process. The men

of the house have expressed their commitment to continue to stay in contact and learn how to grow in Christ. Also, on the last day of Vacation Bible School we met a new family who lives two blocks away that were interested in learning more about our service to the Lord in Granite City. May the Lord continue gathering people for His purpose.

We continue looking forward in prayer for the completion of the garage and the connection with three families who will become our core team to reach more and model the discipleship process. Pray for baptism ceremony baby dedication. Pray that the Lord leads and makes a blessing and testimony of fruits among our Hispanic families in the area.

In Him, Juan Fernandez



thequillmans.com

# Updates from Our Churches

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

Happy July from Stony Point!

We had a blessed June, including a special visit from Doug and Diane Lee, missionaries from the Philippines, on the 30th. They shared all the news and activities that we have been supporting in their missionary work. It was wonderful to hear everything that they have worked so hard on and to see God's work there.

Our penny march with the youngsters is still in full swing, and they really enjoy collecting for the Lord's work.

On July 17th we have Bro. Ben Kingston joining us for fellowship. We are happy to have Anthony Dontrich preaching on July 21st. Please join us!

Claude Evans, Pastor DeLaina Stegall, Reporter

#### Bethel, Sikeston

Happy Independence Day to all from Bethel, Sikeston.

We have had a very busy and blessed month of June. Two souls were saved and three came forward to join the church. All five were baptized the following Sunday evening, praise God! They were all welcomed into our church family with hugs and hands of fellowship.

On June 9 after the evening service, we had a representative from NA (Narcotics Anonymous) come and speak to us about the real need for this program and the fact that they needed a place to have their meetings. We voted to let them use our fellowship hall on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. If you know someone in need

of help in this area, please feel free to come and sit in on one of these meetings.

On the 16th we honored our fathers with a special service. Sis. Joan Wood read a poem about what a father should be and what a tremendous responsibility fathers have. Bro. Les and Sis. Jennifer Cantrell sang a special. All the fathers came to the front and were presented with gifts. Sis. Helen Beardsley then read some inspiring words about what each gift represented. Bro. Billy had a sermon about fathers' responsibilities. What a great service we had!

The week of the 23rd we started our VBS. It was a great success, thanks to Sis. Darcee Sauceda, the director, plus all the other members that helped or participated in the skits. One night of VBS a young lady asked Jesus to save her. Wow, what a way to start VBS. Congratulations, Abby!

The last Sunday evening of this month Bro. John Beardsley brought the message. He had information about how the church was started and how it should be conducted and stand on the true Word of God! It was such an inspiring message to all.

Keep praying for Israel, and please keep us in your prayers as we keep you in ours.

> Billy Davis, Pastor Joan Wood, Reporter

### Oak Hill, Alton

Hello to all from Oak Hill! We praise the Lord and thank Him for His wonderful and amazing blessings. June 23rd He saved John and Chanda Carswell. June 25th through the rest of the week Chad Casey took Carstyn to St. Jude's for his scans to see if his cancer had come back. PRAISE THE LORD, Carstyn's scans came back the best that they had ever been -- NO CANCER! Three years cancer free!!!

On a sadder note, Sis. Margaret Grammer was in a car accident, but PRAISE THE LORD He blessed and she only has minor injuries! She still needs our prayers for her recovery.

June 30th we had our fifth Sunday dinner. Like always, we had a great time eating and fellowshipping with each other.

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

# Abundant Life in Christ, Charleston

God was good to us in June! We had an exceptional Juneteenth service that at one point produced a loud "hallelujah" from a recently saved ten-year-old. The best news of the night was when Rosie Bankhead and Shaquayla Carter made professions of faith after the service.

We had a blessed VBS with as many kids as our small staff could realistically handle. The biggest blessing was when on Wednesday night Jeramyuh Rosson made a profession of faith. June 30th, we baptized all three who had made professions

during June.

Our Facebook livestreams continue to experience exponential growth, with viewership having tripled over the last two months. Many of our followers are in the Philippines. Several are also from Africa. We have no idea why our livestreams are experiencing such rapid growth, but we praise God for it.

Rodney Dunlap, Pastor

#### Ohlman, Bunker

It's been a few months since we reported news from Ohlman. Basically everything has been the same.

Our Wednesday evening youth ministry averaged about 50 youth each week. Our Sunday morning worship services are well attended. Our praise team had several engagements at other churches. Fortunately, when they are gone, we have others who can fill in. In April, Juanita May and Janet Widger represented Ohlman at the BMAA meeting in Branson, Missouri.

May 29th was our last Wednesday youth ministry for the school year. We take the summer off and encourage the youth to attend the Vacation Bible Schools that other community churches host. We are blessed that we can assist those churches with the use of our van or busses.

There have been a couple of Sundays when Bro. Terry Sharpe needed to be gone. We have had a young minister, Carl Potts, from Van Buren fill in and more recently had Josh Ray from Ellington speak and give his testimony.

Juanita May took 11 girls to the recent MO GMA-sponsored retreat at Camp Garwood. The majority of these girls were from our Wednesday night ministry, so it was good to see them attend.

We will have about 40 (adults and youth) attending the BMA of MO camp at the end of July. Everyone is getting excited about camp. Then in August, Juanita May and Nancy Amaral (the older

girls' teacher on Wednesday nights) will be taking several girls to the SHINE conference in Farmington, MO. By then, summer will be over.

> Terry Sharpe, Pastor Janet Widger, Reporter

#### Mt. Olive, Salem

We had a wonderful revival in May! We heard great challenging messages from our evangelists each night!

June 9, our plan for a bonfire and hot dog roast fellowship outside on the church grounds quickly changed to an inside hot dog boil. We had a wonderful time of fellowship, despite the fact that Satan tried to dampen our "Fun and Fellowship"!!

Our WMA continues to meet every month, and we are excited about the monthly community outreaches we have planned!

Bro. Steve Gillam attended the Missouri State Brotherhood fishing tournament at Council Bluff State Park! It was a great time of fishing and fellowship with everyone who was in attendance! Sunday, June 16, we honored the fathers who were in attendance at our worship service.

June 24-28, Bro. Steve and Sis. Deiatre Gillam were in Granite City, Illinois, to help with VBS on the mission field with our Missouri state missionary, Bro. Juan, and his wife, Sis. Hannah. They enjoyed a wonderful week of VBS and enjoyed getting to spend some one-on-one time with Bro. Juan, Sis. Hannah, Victoria, Eleanor, and Juanito. Please join us as we continue to lift this family and the mission field up in our prayers.

We are excited about what God has planned for Mt. Olive in the month of July! We are also looking forward to attending services at Camp Garwood July 29-August 2. Hope to see you there!

Thank you again for your prayers for us as we keep on keeping on for Jesus!!

Larry Nash, Pastor Deiatre Gillam, Reporter

## ~ Upcoming Events ~

Revival – July 8-12; Kewanee, Kewanee; Clif Johnson, evangelist Jesus Camp – July 21-24 for grades K-5; July 24-27 for grades 6-12; Meramec Retreat Center BMA of Missouri Camp – July 29-Aug. 2; Camp Garwood WMA Sponsored Ladies' Retreat – Sept. 6-7; Drury Plaza Hotel Cape Girardeau Conference Center

Send event info to mmbpaper@gmail.com.

### Lindsay Lane, Florissant

Greetings from Lindsay Lane Baptist Church!

Vacation Bible School 2024 is in the history books. Keepers of the Kingdom was enjoyed by all. The children were pretty well behaved, with a few characters testing the waters, so to speak! The children raised \$348.57 to be sent to their missionary project, which is the Quillmans in Zambia.

Sister Laura McQueen fought her cancer with grace but lost her battle and was promoted to Heaven recently. We extend our sympathy to the Leonard Compton family in his passing. He was a fixture in and around the Potosi area and loved preaching about his Lord and Savior.

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

He was strong in the Word. Please keep his family in your prayers. Our loss is Heaven's gain!

We had a great fifth Sunday sing. We learned some new old songs and got reacquainted with some old hymns!

Please keep Sister Amy Parrish in your prayers as she's suffering from back issues and is in need of a good back doctor. We are rejoicing with Sister Sheila in her recent cancer surgery. Her doctors removed the cancer she had on her back, and from all reports they got it all!

By the time you read this, we will have celebrated another Independence holiday. Some are trying to do away with this holiday along with our freedom to worship. A praying church and a praying nation will turn the tide! Are you on the Lord's side?

Pray one for another.

Brian Meade, Pastor Kathy Chapman, Reporter

### Landmark, DeSoto

Hello to all from Landmark, DeSoto! Hope everyone has stayed cool during this heat wave. Sure was glad to get some rain today.

We were thrilled to host the June meeting for the Washington County District WMA. In the business meeting, we voted to change the start time of future meetings to 7:00 p.m. Our next meeting will be September 13th at Zion Baptist Church in St. Louis County, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

On June 30th, we held our first Lord's Supper since being back in our building with our new pastor, Bro. Len Young. The Lord's Spirit was very definitely present, and we all felt a surge of renewal.

We have been blessed with visitors at some of our services, and we're praying they will feel at home here and join our church family.

As always, we ask for your prayers for members facing illness and other hardships, and will certainly continue to keep all of you in ours.

May God keep blessing all of you as we watch for His return.

Len Young, Pastor Barbara Williams, Reporter

### **CBC Academic Achievements**

Central Baptist College announced the President's and Dean's Lists for Spring 2024, including the following students from Missouri.

President's List

Caroline Byers *Kennett* 

Heidi Maxwell Saint Clair Michael Kelley

Poplar Bluff

Dean's List

Aliya Grotjohn *Seneca* 

### **Quarterly Financial Reports**

### Missouri Missionary Baptist Paper 2nd Quarter 2024

Beginning Balance 4/1	\$ 25,999.45
Offerings	 4,116.26
Funds Available	\$ 30,115.71
Salaries	(2,400.00)
Printing & Mailing	(2,601.81)
Other Expenses	 (101.94)
Ending Balance 6/30	\$ 25,011.96

### Kenneth E. Gibson Grant Fund 2nd Quarter 2024

The Grant Fund balance remains unchanged at \$31,643.07.

### BMA Of Missouri Minute Fund 2nd Quarter 2024

Beginning Balance 3/1	\$ 5,804.41
Offerings	 0.00
Funds Available	\$ 5,804.41
Clerk Hire	(1,300.00)
Minute Printing	(1,382.14)
Misc Expenses	 (18.00)
Ending Balance 5/31	\$ 3,104.27

### CBC M.U.D. Week 2024

Central Baptist College strives to create a campus environment that makes all our students feel at home, so we are excited as we look forward to M.U.D. Week for the fall of 2024.

M.U.D. Week (Mustangs Under Development) is CBC's welcome week. It is an integral part of integrating new students into the culture of CBC. This year, M.U.D. Week will take place starting on August 17th and will conclude on August 22nd. New students living in Dickson Hall and commuters alike are invited to participate in all the week's activities.

One of our key goals of this week is to introduce students to the "Christ-centered environment" that is advertised in the Central Baptist College Mission Statement. During M.U.D. Week, students will get the opportunity to meet with local ministers and will attend a meeting specifically designed to introduce the core values of CBC. On Sunday, August 18, there



will be a worship night on-campus as well. This will be one of the first opportunities for many of these new students to join our student body in a time of worship.

Each new student will be assigned to one of four teams (Green, Orange, Red, or Yellow), and they will go through various activities throughout the week alongside their team members. At the end of the week, points from various events will be tallied up, and one team will be named as the 2024 M.U.D. Week Champion.

The Student Orientation Staff (S.O.S.) will be responsible for planning and executing many of the events that are to take place during M.U.D. Week. Senior Team Leaders Abby Wilson and Grace Vandergriff will take on the responsibility of overseeing this week. Grace and Abby have experience as S.O.S. Team members, and they are both very excited for the week.

"I'm most looking forward to Capture the Flag!" Abby said, "It's always the most exciting and has one of the highest turnouts. It's a lot of fun!"

Grace is also looking forward to the events, with Karaoke Night being her most anticipated. "This has always been one of my favorite events because the competition drops and everyone just cheers on everyone," Grace said. "Also, it's super fun and sometimes really funny!"

In addition to these, M.U.D. Week will also have events such as the President's Cookout, Game Nights, the Mud Run, the Blue Party, and many more. There are opportunities for every new student to shine and be involved.

A full schedule of the M.U.D. Week events will be sent out to all incoming students in the upcoming summer mailout. We look forward to seeing all our new Mustangs at M.U.D. Week 2024, and we are excited to see what God does on campus throughout the upcoming year!

### From Served to Serving

From BMA Global

We are Abby and Audrey Faulk, sisters from a missionary family in Washington state. We moved from Jacksonville, Texas, up to the great Pacific Northwest in 2010 when we were five and ten years old as our dad, Brad, was called to the Tri-Cities (Richland, Kennewick, and Pasco) to plant a church.

With our dad as the pastor and mom as the worship leader, we definitely got to see a lot of the "behind the scenes" that takes place in not just leading a church but leading a church plant. Our church's story is not your typical church story. We met in parks, hotels, living rooms, banquet centers, other churches, schools, and pretty much any other place you can think of, before we felt led to disband the church after Covid kept us from getting back up on our feet. One thing we learned from this experience that our dad always reminded us of was that a church is not a building; it is the people. We are called to make disciples, followers of Christ, PEOPLE willing to set their pride aside and surrender to an Almighty God.

Looking back over the 13 years that God allowed us to serve this church plant, VSM teams coming to help us is definitely a highlight of our time in the church-planting

experience. And we would not have been able to reach as many people as we did without students' willingness to serve! We always looked forward to working with the teams, whether we were putting on an "Easter Extravaganza" or Vacation Bible School for the kids, landscaping and gardening wherever we were meeting at the time, handing out flyers for our church service, or even building a potential place for us to meet. The VSM teams were always so willing to serve and remain faithful to God's plan, which was so inspiring to us growing up! To watch these people selflessly give up a time in their

lives where their sole focus was to serve and tell people about Jesus was so incredible!

Seeing the way these missions impacted our church in Washington opened our eyes to a whole new opportunity – that is VSM! We had the opportunity to

serve in Honduras this year with a VSM team, and what a lifechanging experience that was. To be able to go serve people for the glory of God and share the Good News with them was just indescribable. And it's easy to think that this trip is just you serving the people of wherever you go, but how far from the truth! The amount of humility and gratitude that we gained from this trip still leaves us speechless. We served in some places with no air conditioning in the scorching heat, met so many kids with no shoes, yet the overflowing joy in these people! It was so beautiful to see people still coming together to worship Jesus because nothing else mattered! We are blessed with so much, yet take so much for granted here, and this experience definitely opened our eyes to see how joy is so much more than the "things" we desire on this earth. These people didn't have much, but they had joy in the Lord, and that was all they needed!

As Christians, it is our job to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). Volunteer Student Missions provides the perfect opportunity to do so. But it didn't stop for us in Honduras, and it won't stop for you wherever you serve. We are called to make disciples of ALL nations (that includes your own hometowns, your school campuses, your youth groups). Spread the Good News wherever you go, whether it's down the street, or across the country. Go!

Are you interested in serving on a mission trip? Go to letsgovsm.com and request information about VSM 2025!



### It's Team Time!!!

Mickeal and Sharon Quillman

Good morning from Zambia! The last couple of months have been very busy but exciting. A quick update on some of the things that have been going on. First, our chiefdom has finally received our new Chief, Senior Chief Emmanuel Sekute. It has been over three years since the



chiefdom has had a chief after the passing of the late Senior Chief Sekute. I have met many times with Chief Emmanuel Sekute and am hopeful for this relationship to continue as we spread the gospel through

his chiefdom. Along with the installation of Chief Sekute, our ministry has been officially recognized by the council and the chiefdom and been given full permission to operate anywhere within its boundaries. This is a huge blessing and opens even more doors for us here.

This past month we were honored to host a sweet couple from Heritage Baptist Church in Waxahachie, Texas, Phil and Anita Swayne. Phil and Anita came over to "live life" with a missionary, and they were such an encouragement and blessing for us. While they were here, Phil taught a class on "How we can know the Bible is true," even bringing a coin of Pontius Pilate to show the historical side of the Word of God. The people were very attentive and had many questions as Bro. Phil finished his lesson. Anita brought her skill of crocheting to Zambia, and it is taking off like wildfire. She taught Sharon how to make hats and jackets for the babies, which is important now that we are in our winter. All the ladies within the village are excited to learn this new skill and begin making their own items. We are hoping to gather some yarn and crocheting equipment from the US sometime in the future.

Phil and Anita also helped with the community school that is housed within our church building, Chabantu Baptist Academy. The school is now up to 130 students, with 5 teachers and 2 teachers' aids. There is nothing quite like receiving a hug from 130 kids at one time! It was a blessing to see how Phil and Anita loved on our kids here and truly cared for each one. This school has allowed us to begin a children's ministry on Sunday morning and we are averaging around 60 children each week. We are using the Disciple Kidz curriculum from the Baptist Publishing House free of charge and the kids are loving it! Each week they are learning stories from the Bible, memorizing scripture, and singing praise songs. We are also utilizing the lessons during Bible study times at school. The children are currently receiving 2 meals

**Everlasting Smiles 2024** 

By Angela Rice, Coordinator of Short-term Missions

In 2023, over 14,000 Everlasting Smiles Christmas shoeboxes were sent to three different countries – this is the largest year for shoeboxes since I began working for BMA



Global! The shoebox ministry strives to bring joy to a child, but more than that, we want to share eternal joy through knowing Jesus Christ. The small shoebox gift is a way to invite and encourage children to come to church and, many times, families will also join in the activities centered around the giving of a gift from the States. At each shoebox event, the gospel

is shared, some hearing this message for the first time. Each child will also receive a Bible in their heart language. This small gift that we pack with such ease here in the States will be a treasured memory for many years to come, and with that memory, the hope of Jesus. This year, our shoeboxes will go to Nigeria and Guatemala, the primary language of these countries being English and Spanish, respectively. Our goal this year is 14,000 shoeboxes, and this will completely fill our two containers.

It's not too late to get involved. For more information on what to pack, where to drop off, and how to print posters, visit bmamissions.org/christmas-shoeboxes.

If you would like to make a donation to Everlasting Smiles, send your donation to P.O. Box 878, Conway, AR 72033, and our team of volunteers will pack your boxes for you. For \$20 we can pack a box that includes the box, wrapping, supplies, toys, Bible, and shipping.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me at angela@bmaglobal.org or call 214-498-3041.

• See TEAM page 7 •



### Somewhere Beyond The Sea

Victoria White

Once we purpose to leave a legacy for God, we will certainly encounter challenges and adversities that can shake our faith and determination. Recently at our church, we have been studying Exodus. Moses serves as a profound example of perseverance amidst trials. He faced challenges from within himself, from the world around him, and from the very community and family he was seeking to serve. Yet, through it all, Moses leaned on God and trusted Him, seeking His face for guidance and strength.

### Challenges from Within: Overcoming Insecurities and Self-Doubt

Moses' journey in leaving a legacy for God began with a deep-rooted challenge from within himself: insecurity and self-doubt. When God called him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, Moses felt inadequate and ill equipped for the task. In Exodus 4:10, Moses expresses his insecurity, "And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue." Basically, Moses was saying "Anybody but me, God!"

Moses' reluctance stemmed from his perception of his own limitations. He doubted his abilities and questioned God's choosing him to go before Pharaoh. Yet, God reassured Moses, promising to be with him every step of the way (Ex. 3:12). How often when walking this path of legacy will we doubt our abilities? How do we overcome this challenge? By remembering God created us to be exactly as we are and has given us everything we need (Ex. 4:11-13). Not only has He equipped us, but He is faithful to be with us throughout our journey.

# **Challenges from the World: Confronting Pharaoh's Resistance**

As Moses embarked on his mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, he encountered fierce opposition from Pharaoh. Despite God's command to let His people go, Pharaoh hardened his heart and refused to release the Israelites from slavery. Exodus 5:2 tells us of Pharaoh's opinion of God, stating, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go." Pharaoh's relentless opposition posed a significant challenge to Moses' mission. However, every encounter Moses had with Pharaoh was an opportunity to display the love and power of God to Pharaoh and the Egyptians.

In our journey we must remember the world does not serve the Lord. They will stand in opposition to our endeavors. We must remember each and every encounter with those who do not know the Lord is an opportunity to show them His love and His power. How will you choose to face this challenge? In Exodus 14:13a, Moses encourages the Israelites, saying, "Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you to day..." Leave a legacy of showing the world Jesus!

### Challenges from Within the Community: Navigating Dissension and Discontent

Moses faced opposition inside his own community he was called to lead. The Israelites grumbled and complained against Moses at every turn, questioning his decisions. Even his own family was a source of adversity!! From their murmuring in the wilderness to their outright rebellion, the Israelites tested Moses' resolve.

This one hurts. This challenge cuts deep. When one of our own stings us with a harsh word, a critical spirit or actively works against us, it feels like a betrayal. It could be a loved one, a fellow church member or a close friend. This may injure us so deeply that we may wish to abandon our journey. But the Lord sees our hurt and He will meet us in the pain and despair. He will go with us when others may fail us.

### • From TEAM page 7 •

per day, breakfast and lunch, as well as having a school that is not a 2-3 hour or more walk. Typically, the only food these children will receive is what they are given at the school. We have moms and grandmothers who come from neighboring villages every day to prepare these meals for the children. This is very important for us here as we are in the third year of a major drought. The crops from this past year failed due to lack of rain and intense summer heat. According to locals, this is the worst drought that Zambia has ever experienced. On a bad year, reserve food stores are opened sometime in October. This year, the food stores were opened in March. Since we are reliant on hydroelectric power, this also means that we have no electricity. Right now, we are receiving 4-6 hours of power each day and have been told that very soon we could be receiving 0 hours. No electric means no water, as our pumps are electric as well. Sharon and I are hoping to raise the funds to purchase a diesel generator for our home very soon.

The past 2 weeks we have been hosting a mission team from Romania, led by Candra Barnett and Brian and Pam Risner. They brought Bro. Marius and Adina Porumb who are ministering at the church in Tetchea, a church I visited over 20 years ago with Bro. Larry Barker and where foreign missions was first placed on my heart. Marius and Adina helped Candra, Melody, Lindsey, Skylar, Hayden, Brian, and Pam to lead a week-long VBS for our kids. Each day of VBS was a new experience for the kids. The Word of God was brought to life through songs, stories, and skits, with Melody and Skylar dressing

up as Bible characters to bring them to life! Marius and Adina also helped to raise funds to purchase milk goats and build a pen to house them. It was such a wonderful thing to watch two people from Romania catch fire for missions in a foreign country



as well. Please continue to pray for us here in Zambia as we continue to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Prayer Praise:

- The Simondo headman has attended church the last two Sundays! *Prayer Requests:*
- The salvation of the headman of Simondo.
- Lackson who was struck by a taxi while riding his bicycle.
- The upcoming team visit from Temple Baptist Church, Jonesboro, AR.
- Drought/famine in Zambia.

Needs:

Diesel generator.

Despite the constant challenges from within his own community, Moses remained steadfast in his reliance on God. Moses even prayed for the ones that betrayed him (Gen. 32:31,32). He sought God's wisdom and guidance in navigating the complexities of leading the Israelites, trusting in His faithfulness to see them through the wilderness. In Exodus 33:14, God assures Moses, saying, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

As we endeavor to leave a legacy for God, we too will face many challenges and adversities along the way. It may not be a literal Red Sea but there will be times of doubt, fear, and uncertainty. Yet, it is during these times that our legacy is forged. Hebrews tells the legacy Moses left behind, stating in 11: 27, "By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible." Ultimately, the legacy we leave for God is not determined by our accomplishments or successes, but by our obedience and faithfulness in the midst of adversity.

Scripture: Exodus chapters 3-32, Hebrews 11.

Respond: Take time to reflect on the different challenges you encounter. How will you meet these challenges? In what ways can you lean into obedience and faith in God to help you navigate these challenges?

*Prayer:* Heavenly Father, you are the Almighty God, the Great I Am. I know there is nothing in my life that has not passed before You. While challenges may seem unexpected to me, they do not catch You unaware. Help me to pause, trust You, and continue one step at a time in faith. Knowing that You will be with me, I will continue to follow after You in obedience to Your Word. May You receive the honor and glory. Amen.

### **Christian Pilgrim Called Home**

via DeClue Funeral Home

Bro. Leonard Earl Compton, a devoted servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, went to his Heavenly Home on Thursday, June 20, 2024, with his family near him. Leonard was born on August 25, 1932, in Shirley, Missouri, a son to the late Hugh Francis Compton and Gertrude (Gibson) Compton. On December 6, 1951, Leonard married his love, Ruth Alice Franklin in Caldwell, Arkansas. They were blessed with seventy-two years of love and memories together.

Shortly after marriage, Leonard joined the United States Navy. He was a proud American. Leonard served his country from June 23, 1952, until June 15, 1956. During his time of service, Leonard was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, China Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal.



On September 14, 1976, Leonard started working for the Britton Brothers Funeral Home as a Funeral Director and later for DeClue Funeral Home until his retirement in 2023.

Leonard surrendered to the ministry at a young age and served as pastor to many churches. Leonard was a longtime member of First Baptist Church of Potosi. Leonard truly loved the Lord with all of his heart.

Those who remain to treasure his memory include his wife, Ruth Compton; six children: Terry Bruce Compton (Tina), Sandra Denise Thornton (Wayne), Greyling Earl Compton (Marcia), Marcia Elaine Boyer, Kyle Anthony Compton, and Samuel Joseph Compton (Brittney); his grandchildren: Stephania Chiytla (Pete), Nicholas Compton, Jessica Lee, Kristen Wilkinson (Anthony), James Thornton (Stephanie), Ranese Freal (Steve), Casey Thornton (Ashley), Amanda Kamper (Keith), Melissa Gaghan (Josh), Courtney Lawson (Jarrod), Tracy Farris, Kristina Cooper, Kaytlin Huskey (Cameron), Aidan Boyer (Tiffany), Tristan Boyer, Brandilyn Compton, Bryton Compton, Rykki Compton, Valyree Compton, and Garrick Compton; and numerous great-grandchildren; one brother: Marvin David Compton (Shelba Jean); sisters-in-

### **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.

Pine Ridge Baptist Church, Laurel, MS, is in search of a pastor. The chairman of the pastoral search committee can be reached at: David McComb, 601-310-4121 or De mccomb@ hotmail.com. (0524)

Ozark Heights Missionary Baptist Church, Potosi, MO, is in search of a pastor. You may contact Bro. Gary Gilliam at 314-550-7260 or 573-438-7207. (0624)

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.

law: Patricia Graves and Janet Franklin; special family: Butch and Sharron Coleman. Leonard also leaves behind numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family members and

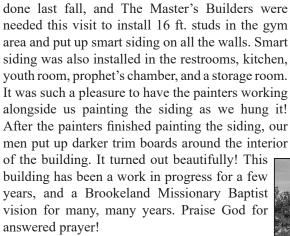
In addition to his parents, Leonard was preceded in death by his son-in-law: Jim Boyer; siblings: George (Ethel) Compton, Charles (Mildred "Midge") Johnson, Lattie (Paul) Hawkins, Bertha Manion McDowell, William "Bill" (Fannie) Compton, Leone (Paul) Eye; many other dear family members.

this work for a week. What a blessing he is to us.

### Master's Builders Return to Brookeland Missionary Baptist

Last October, The Master's Builders went down to Brookeland, Texas, to help with building inside a 5,000 sq. ft. multipurpose building. The Builders returned again this month to continue helping this

mission church with finishing this building. The building is a beautiful metal building with rooms on one end and an open gym area on the other. The open end can be used for basketball, volleyball, and all kinds of community events. The framing of the rooms on one end was



There were seven RVs and one tent (even in the hot weather) at this job site, with eight men and five women in attendance. This is job #190 for our Master's Builders group. Thank you, Lord for these opportunities to serve YOU! Each job is special, and we are always thankful

to make new friends along the way.

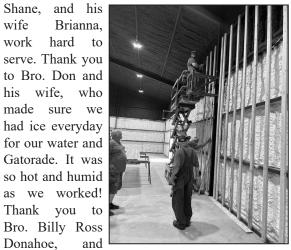
When we arrived in Brookeland, it was like a family reunion as we fellowshipped together and recalled our time together last fall. Friendships in



are always up and on the go. The whole body of believers at Brookeland MBC are so loving and giving. Thank you to each one who made our time there special. This is, once again, one of my favorite jobs! Thank you to all (many whom I can't name), but you know who you are. Thank you to all the men from the church who came to work alongside our men, but a special thanks to Shane Donahoe, who took his precious vacation time to help with

work hard to serve. Thank you to Bro. Don and his wife, who made sure we had ice everyday for our water and Gatorade. It was so hot and humid as we worked! Thank you to Bro. Billy Ross Donahoe, and

wife



wife Bulah, for their love of this church family and community. Thank you to ALL the ladies who provided our delicious meals for the past two weeks and the extra surprises they blessed us with along the way. It's hard to fully describe to others the blessings The Master's Builders receive at these jobs as we try to serve the Lord. All we can say is... God is SO GOOD!

Pray for this mission church and pray for workers to come and work with The Master's Builders so that this ministry will continue. The harvest is plentiful.

"Follow" us and "Like" us on Facebook at "The Master's Builders" (arbor logo). Thank you for your prayers for us. If you have questions, or if your church has building needs, please contact Mike Green at 972-935-3877, David Axe at 903-918-0729, or Eddie Sikes at 479-462-1675.

Nelda Malone, Reporter



