

# The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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

Volume LXXXVI

St. Louis, MO • September 10, 2024

Issue No. 9

## Lifeword

Lifeword Sunday will take place on October 20th, 2024. This is the one time of year that we ask the churches of the BMA to pray for Lifeword, celebrate what God

is doing through the ministry of Lifeword, and take a special offering to help Lifeword increase her gospel footprint around the world.

Jesus Christ understood the value of a great story. He was The Master Story-Teller. His parables and teachings not only impacted a generation, they changed the world.

Lifeword exists to help make disciples through the creative proclamation, production and promotion of biblically-sound media that communicates in the heart language of every tongue, tribe, and nation.

Lifeword’s job is to tell His story to the nations.

In 164 languages and to an audience of over 2 billion people, Lifeword is using media... radio, the Internet, and digital print... to share His story across the globe.

We need you and your church family to help us accomplish this.

Register your church today at [WeTellTheStory.com](http://WeTellTheStory.com). In the next couple of weeks, we will be mailing you a packet full of information regarding Lifeword Sunday and how you and your church can get involved.

Our Lifeword Sunday t-shirts will be available for purchase on September 1st! Available in short-sleeve, long-sleeve, and sweatshirts, this is a great way to help us continue to tell the story of Jesus to the nations. Go to [WeTellTheStory.com](http://WeTellTheStory.com) to order yours!

The gospel is a story that needs to be heard by the whole world, and we’re depending on you to help us share it.

At Lifeword, We Tell The Story.



### From the Host Pastor

Bro. Dan Wisely

Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church invites all sister churches on October 12th (9:00 a.m.) for our BMA of Missouri State Annual Associational Meeting. The church is located at 12391 US Hwy 61, New Madrid. Coffee and donuts will be provided for those arriving early. We will also prepare and serve a noon meal for all. Come and share in the blessing of the Word, business, worship, and fellowship.

For those needing hotel accommodations, here are some lodging options in the nearby city of Sikeston:

Drury Inn

2608 East Malone Ave, Sikeston, MO, 63801

573-472-2299

Hampton Inn

1240 Commerce Drive, Sikeston, MO 63801

573-621-4100

Holiday Inn Express

115 Hospitality Drive, Sikeston, MO 63801

573-475-9522

Pear Tree Inn

2602 East Malone Avenue, Sikeston, MO 63801

573-471-4100

### From the Association’s Clerk

Don Burke

#### Annual Church Letters

With the BMA of Missouri Annual Meeting just around the corner, churches are encouraged to complete and return the Annual Church Letter. The blank form is available as the center insert in the 2023 BMA of Missouri Minute Book, and is also accessible on the State Association’s website ([bmamissouri.org/about/annual-minutes-for-the-bma-of-mo/](http://bmamissouri.org/about/annual-minutes-for-the-bma-of-mo/)). Completed forms can be mailed to the clerk prior to the meeting (704 Valley Road, Potosi, MO 63664) or delivered in person to the enrollment table at the Annual Meeting.

#### 2023 BMA of Missouri Minute Books

The newly printed 2023 Minute Books were first made available at the Semi-Annual Meeting back in May, and requested copies not picked up then were mailed out over the summer. Additionally, a supply of them will be available at the Annual Meeting in October. Any church not able to get copies by any of these means can access an electronic copy on the State

BMA of Missouri website ([bmamissouri.org/about/annual-minutes-for-the-bma-of-mo/](http://bmamissouri.org/about/annual-minutes-for-the-bma-of-mo/)) or request hard copies by email ([PotosiPastor@gmail.com](mailto:PotosiPastor@gmail.com)). Be sure to include your church name, mailing address, and number of minute books requested.

### Should Christians Vote in America’s 2024 Election?

Dr. John Adams, Moral Action Committee  
(via Baptist Trumpet)

The Word offers several passages supporting the importance of government, including our role on Election Day.

• **The government and its leaders are established by God.** Romans 13:4 states, “For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good...” “We desire to help select the best leaders possible to serve in the roles that lead our communities, state and nation” (A. McFarland). There is a growing concern about evangelicals who refuse to exercise their responsibility to vote. When we face this issue, we look to Scripture and America’s history, where we find overwhelming evidence to support the view that Christian participation in voting is vital to the future of our nation.

• See VOTE page 7 •

### Meramec Landmark Baptist Association Annual Meeting

Bates Creek Baptist Church  
10350 Bates Creek Rd • Potosi, Missouri

September 20, 2024 • 10:00 A.M.

### Baptist Missionary Association of Missouri Annual Meeting

Kewanee Baptist Church  
12397 Hwy 61 • New Madrid, Missouri

October 12, 2024 • 9:00 A.M.

## State Missions

Dear BMAMO Churches,

Happy September! Yes, 2024 is well on its way to being in the books! I know, I know, no one wants to hear that noise, so we will just move on with the article.

Since the last article, we have been at a few more churches and will finish out the summer visits at Lindsay Lane on September 4 and Kewanee the following Wednesday. We were at Mount Olive in Salem last week. All of these opportunities have been well received and enjoyed by myself and my wife, who has been able to join me for most of them. I am talking about conducting the BMAMO Assessment in which a church does a simple evaluation of its awareness of the Association's missions work – on local, state, and national levels. And then how well it is doing as a local church in carrying out the Great Commission. If you as a pastor would like to schedule an assessment, please reach out to me. I would love to fill up the 2025 summer schedule soon.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our annual association meetings. Please be praying for our host churches and a wonderful spirit at these meetings.

I would like to change my focus now to our Men's Fall Retreat. Gentlemen, this is a labor of love for many of us. As pastors and godly men we want to see our young men raised to carry the banner of the Lord and His local churches in their future when it is their turn to carry the leadership roles. So, when we set this Fall Retreat, Bro. Bryan and I wanted this to be the focus. The dates are November 8-9, starting at 6 p.m. Friday and ending after lunch on Saturday. The whole focus is RMDK which stands for 'Raising a Modern Day Knight.' This is a book written by Robert Lewis. It is recommended and encouraged for all of our men to get this book. It will fill in a lot of the blanks.

But for today's article, and to help get the word out and hopefully quell any confusion, here are the bullet points of why and what we are doing:

- We want to give our dads, grandpas, uncles, and mentors a definition, code of conduct, and a ceremony to introduce their young men into manhood.
- We would love to have some examples present that Friday night to spike the event.
- We would love to expand our community of men within the association so we can rally around this most important cause!



### MISIÓN BELÉN (Bethlehem Mission)

Serving Hispanic Families • St Louis Metro East

Juan Fernandez

pastorjuanfernandez@gmail.com • 618-581-8056

#### Praises!

There is joy in heaven! Last Sunday, at the end of our home Bible study, Bro. Nahum asked if I could take the extra time to connect with his father and mother in a city on the south side of the Mexican state of Chiapas. We had an amazing connection via WhatsApp. I had never met his parents before, and they expressed their gratitude for our service to the Lord and coming to seek Nahum and Ermilanda to encourage them to seek the Lord in discipleship and prayer. I asked his dad to pray for us and he did – we had a very special and refreshing prayer season with him, his wife, Nahum, Ermilanda and myself.

During this prayer time someone started to knock at our door. I got nervous since this is a very special neighborhood and is hard to find a good safe parking spot. I continued praying until I saw a young man – Ernesto, Nahum's brother – sitting next to me and joining in the prayer! We met him more than four years ago, and he is also well acquainted with Pastor Josh and



his congregation. The Lord had prepared this time for him to come and express his desire to recommit his life to Christ. His parents heard his confession and praised the Lord together with us as we continue ministering to him some of the passages in scripture. We had his brother Nahum pray for him and then we all lifted him up for protection in this new stage of his life. Ernesto will soon start his discipleship process as the Lord leads.

Greetings from our new remodeled multipurpose space here at home – prayer room, Bible study, fellowship, and more. We are so thankful for the blessing and team work with State Missions Director Bro. Ben Kingston. Funds were available to cover the expenses in this project. A special thanks to Bro. Chuck, Bro. Josh, Bro. Dave and the whole crowd of church family members at New Testament Church from Sullivan for their continuous support to come and do the remodeling.

I had mentioned in past issues of the paper how we are speechless on how the body of

• See MISIÓN BELÉN page 3 •

So, this is the ask: If you are a man in our association, will you please plan to attend? If you have a 10-13 year old son, grandson, nephew, young man that you have influence over, will you bring him to at least get exposed to this approach to manhood? If you are such a man with a young man in your influence, will you read the book, contact me, and have an actual ceremony where you call your young man to this approach to manhood?

Pastors, I know how this works. If you will ask your men to consider this, it will happen. Please seek the Lord and ask Him if He wants you and your men involved with this. I cannot find fault if you do and the Lord doesn't lead in this manner.

Here is the definition that will be taught at the Retreat:

- A real man rejects passivity.
- A real man accepts responsibility.
- A real man leads courageously.
- A real man expects the greater reward.

Would you agree with me that this type of manhood is most necessary in 2024? If so, please plan to attend.

More details will be given as we get closer. Please do not hesitate to call if you need more information. This is a free event, beginning Friday, November 8 at 6 p.m. and we will be done Saturday roughly after lunch. (This is not during gun deer season. The week before is youth season, and the week after is regular deer season so this is an open weekend.)

I look forward to seeing you all with your young men.

Bro. Ben Kingston

#### Financial Report BMA Of Missouri Missions August 2024

<u>Checking Account:</u>	
Balance July 31	\$ 38,482.67
<u>Income:</u>	
Missions	\$ 3,055.49
Total Income	\$ 3,055.49
Total Available	\$ 41,538.16
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Director, salary	\$ 450.00
Director, mileage	289.67
Secretary, salary	200.00
Juan Fernandez, support	2,333.33
Michael Strong project	8,200.00
MO Incorporation renewal	20.50
Juan Fernandez, AC	3,200.00
Total Expenses	\$ (14,693.50)
Balance August 31	\$ 26,844.66
<u>BMAMS Revolving Loan Investment:</u>	
Balance July 31	\$ 117,316.22
Interest	996.42
Balance August 31	\$ 118,312.64
Total in All Accounts August 31	\$ 145,157.30

### The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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• From *MISIÓN BELÉN* page 2 •

Christ works together to bring glory and testimony to our communities of the love and care made possible by faith in our Lord Jesus. Also, thanks to Bro. Claude and Stony Point Church for keeping us in their hearts and gathering a love offering to expand this remodeling project. Thank you, Jesus!  
*Revival 2024*

We are doing a Bible study online. We have set several days to gather and study passages and humbly pray for an understanding of who God is and how He is worthy of our praise and worship.

We are on day 10 of 26 days of prayer focusing on our Hispanic families that live in the 20 miles surrounding Granite City. We are inviting them to advance beyond just joining us on social media to join us in person. (We are not counting these 26 days daily, but rather 26 Wednesdays of prayer for REVIVAL 2024 among our Hispanic families.) Continue praying that our contacts get connected with the message of the gospel to transform marriages, parenting, and neighborhoods with the mission work.

*This month:*

Hispanic Heritage Month and my 47th birthday celebration!

Continue praying as we start our fall

outreach ESL class in Florissant and Granite City. We have also been contacted by some of the families in the St. Ann area, close to the airport.

Our Hispanic Month includes celebrations on different dates and different countries in South America. We are having a fiesta on September 24 to celebrate my 47th birthday. Pray as we invite our friends that the garage is finished and gets filled with joy, laughter and celebration of God's grace for salvation of each one of our neighbors and friends who will be invited to share a piece of cake and a couple hours of eating tacos and more. God be with us!

We also continue our Home Bible Study on Sundays (12:30 p.m.), Discipleship (3:00 p.m.) Home Bible Study (5:00 p.m.); daily prayer walks and social media prayer and Bible study. Currently I am preparing a discipleship process to be recorded on YouTube to serve better our families who are not able to drive to our mission place, but have access to internet. Harvest is plentiful, we need more LABORERS!! I am looking to serve the Lord by training more and more men to be the men God wants them to be, one man at the time. Thank you, Lord.

Juan Fernandez, *Dios le bendiga*



## Recommendations from the SSG Committee

Don Burke, SSG Clerk

Following the May mid-year Association meeting, we made efforts to arrange an organizational meeting of the Seminary Student Grant (SSG) Committee, which oversees the Kenneth E. Gibson Seminary Student Grant Fund. However, in doing so we encountered an unexpected snag. The Association Bylaws specify that this Committee is composed of the Missions Director, the Editor of the state paper and the various chairmen of the Association's standing committees. The problem is, "standing committee" is a designation that the Association discontinued using around 2011. And since there are no longer any designated standing committees, there are no longer any chairmen of such committees to compose the SSG Committee.

After realizing this dilemma caused by the failure to keep our Bylaws current, the two remaining SSG committeemen (Ben Kingston as Missions Director, and Don Burke as Editor) have considered themselves a committee of two, serving in somewhat of an emergency capacity, taking care of pressing business with an eye towards recommending Bylaw updates to be considered at the October meeting.

In addition to the above, the SSG Committee has considered the recent workload on the Committee, plus requested feedback from the Seminary on specific details of the current guidelines. Based upon all of this the Committee recommends the following changes to the BMA of Missouri Bylaws, Article VII, Section 4 (changes designated by underscoring):

- Item B: The SSG Committee shall be composed of three members: The Director of Missions, the Editor of the Missouri Missionary Baptist paper and the current Moderator of the Association. (In the event that the Director or Editor is also serving as Moderator, the Assistant Moderator will serve as the third member of this Committee.) The expenses of each committeeman shall be paid out of the general fund of the department he represents.
- Item F: ... (b) complete at least nine hours of credit each semester for undergraduate work, or six hours for graduate work (not applicable to those in the "Masters in Motion" program)....
- Item G.i: Traditional On-Campus and Online Grant: (a) the student's tuition each semester (b) up to \$300.00 per semester for books and (c) for on-campus students, up to \$1,000.00 of actual moving expenses for the initial move to Jacksonville, TX.

## Brotherhood

### Brotherhood Fall Retreat

Friday, November 8, at 6 p.m. –  
Saturday, November 9, at 2 p.m.

Meramec Retreat Center

Raising a Modern Day Knight.  
An opportunity for dads to pass manhood  
on to their young men

Whole hog BBQ Friday &  
southern fried catfish Saturday



### Fall Retreat

October 25-26

Come join the fellowship  
and fun of paintball and  
other activities.

## Association & Department Contact Information

### BMA of Missouri

www.bmamiissouri.org  
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potosipastor@gmail.com

### Missouri Missionary Baptist

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### Camp Garwood

Chris Polk, Superintendent  
P.O. Box 271, Matthews, MO 63867  
573-380-1975

### Missouri Missionary Baptist Loan Association

Dennis Baker, President/Treasurer  
5146 Darkmoor Lane, Imperial, MO 63052  
314-846-1867 • bbsafety4332@gmail.com

### WMA/GMA

Norma Womble, WMA Secretary  
7421 Hillsboro House Spg. Rd., Cedar Hill, MO 63016  
nrwomble@juno.com

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

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

### Brotherhood

Bryan Buckley, President  
12499 St. Hwy P, Potosi, MO 63664  
medic6905@hotmail.com

## • Updates from Our Churches •

### Zion, St. Louis

Zion Baptist Church, St. Louis, MO, is looking forward to hosting the Washington County District Auxiliaries on Friday, September 20, 2024. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. The WMA will have a special speaker, Miss Melodi Miller. Melodi is a member of Bethel Baptist Church in Lonedell. We look forward to hearing of her recent mission trip to Africa. You are all invited. Hope to see you on the 20th.

*Dennis Baker, Pastor  
Norma Womble, Reporter*

### Landmark, DeSoto

Greetings from Landmark Baptist Church, DeSoto! Hope everyone is surviving the heat. I know we're supposed to be "on fire" for the Lord, but I'm pretty sure that means spiritually, not physically!

We're back to having all three weekly services - Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and Wednesday evening. What a blessing! We appreciate Bro. Len and Sis. Rebecca for both their leadership and worship music. We've had visitors several times and are praying that they will soon join our church family.

#### Upcoming events:

Sunday, September 15th, starting at 6:00 p.m. – Come join us if you can for an evening of worship music with the Southern Gospel group "Final Authority." Promises to be a great time of fellow-

ship and praise!

Friday, September 20th, starting at 7:00 p.m. – Zion Baptist Church in South St. Louis County will be hosting the Washington County District WMA and Brotherhood meeting. All are welcome. (The date was moved from September 13th to September 20th.)

Sunday, October 6th – Landmark will be celebrating our Homecoming. Bro. John Dover will bring the morning message, and we'll serve Sunday dinner immediately after the morning services. We'll have singing in the afternoon following the meal, so bring your "specials" and join in!

We still covet your prayers for our sick and homebound members, as well as other burdens. We will continue lifting you up in prayer too.

May the Lord continue to keep you and bless you until He comes again (which could be any minute now).

*Len Young, Pastor  
Barbara Williams, Reporter*

### Westview, Jefferson City

We have been blessed with several new families this past month. We had to say goodbye to Caleb Polk (Chris Polk's son) as he left Linn State Technical College to return home. Caleb has been a blessing to us and faithful to attend Westview when he has been at college.

Pastor Benjamin and Emma Kingston got away for a week of vacation and Bro.

Mike Hearst filled the pulpit for him.

We are looking forward to having the Prakash family (BMAA missionary) with us for a service in September. Christ is King!

*Benjamin Kingston, Pastor  
Rae Lynn Hearst, Reporter*

### Abundant Life in Christ, Charleston

We rejoiced to add Claudia Jones as our newest member via baptism in August. Claudia's baptism capped a good summer for us that saw six additions by baptism.

On the flipside, over the course of the summer we lost two members when they moved and lost five other attendees due to family situations. It's a pattern with which we're familiar here. Thankfully, we regularly attract new people...but then we also regularly see members move away or become hindered from coming, through no fault of their own.

*Rodney Dunlap, Pastor*

### Oak Hill, Alton

Hello to all from Oak Hill! A good thing about September is that there are five Sundays this month. That means we will have our fifth Sunday dinner on the 29th at Oak Hill in our fellowship hall. Sis. Marianne Hufstедler will turn 91 years old on September 10th. She is our oldest member at Oak Hill. September 15th is our pastor's wife's (Sis. Theresa Casey) birthday.

A sadder note about one of our newer members is that Sis. Chanda Carswell found out that she has breast cancer. We would like to ask that you would remember her in your prayers, blessing her with strength as she is going through chemo.

Next month I hope I will have some more good news to tell you, but until then we will be praising and honoring our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! God Bless!!

*Edward Casey, Pastor  
Jennifer Williams, Reporter*

### Mt. Olive, Salem

Wow! We still rejoice over the 24 souls saved at camp this year! Praising the Lord and praying that each is being disciplined as they begin their walk with the Lord!

Saturday, August 3, 2024, we had a wonderful concert from Bro. Dalton Harper and his band. Saturday, August 10 we hosted the Logan Creek Association meeting. Our guest speakers were Bro. Bryson May, Bro. Ben Kingston, and a representative from Just the Crumbs ministry. It was a wonderful day of fellowship with our sister churches in our local association.

On August 17, two of our members attended the Back to School Bash for our Dent County schools. We are keeping our students and teachers in our prayers that they have a good and safe 2024-2025 school year, and that the students that are God's kids will

shine for Jesus everyday at school and in the community.

Sunday August 11, Bro. Easton May was our guest speaker for the morning worship service. Wednesday August 28, Bro. Ben Kingston came and gave the BMAMO Missions Benchmark Assessment. We always enjoy the Missions update and fellowship with Bro. Ben and his wife, Dawn.

Sunday, September 1, after our morning service, we had our annual hot dog roast and corn hole tournament – always a great time of fun and fellowship! We want to say thank you to our visitors who came to worship and fellowship with us. Tuesday, September 3, our WMA ladies went to long term care at Salem Hospital and sang hymns for the residents. It was such a blessing to see them singing the hymns with us and the smiles on their faces. Please continue to pray for our WMA as we reach out to our community.

Please keep our pastor, Bro. Larry Nash, in your prayers. He is scheduled to have knee surgery on September 19. Please join us in prayer for a successful surgery and a quick recovery. Bro. Holden May will be the guest speaker for our morning service the Sunday after Bro. Larry's surgery. Thank you again for praying for Mt. Olive as we reach out to share Jesus in our community.

*Larry Nash, Pastor  
Deiatre Gillam, Reporter*

### ~ Upcoming Events ~

**"Final Authority" Gospel Singing** – Sept. 15; 6 p.m.; Landmark, DeSoto  
**Meramec Association Annual Meeting** – Sept. 20; 10 a.m.; Bates Creek, Potosi  
**Washington Cty District Auxiliaries** – Sept. 20; 7 p.m.; Zion, St. Louis  
**80th Anniversary** – Oct. 5; 10 a.m.; Lower Doe Run, Ellington

**Homecoming** – Oct. 6; Landmark, DeSoto  
**BMA of Missouri Annual Meeting** – Oct. 12; 9 a.m.; Kewanee, Kewanee  
**Lifeword Sunday** – Oct. 20  
**Fall Retreat** – Oct. 25-26; Garwood  
**Celebration 2024** (worship celebration for adults) – Nov. 12-14; Chateau on the Lake, Branson

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

### ~ 80th Anniversary ~

## Lower Doe Run Missionary Baptist Church Ellington, Missouri

October 5, 2024 • 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Message • 11:00 a.m.  
Bro. Johnny Beardsley

Noon Meal

**Everyone is welcome!**

## Control Freaks

Larry Barker

I will just go ahead and say it out loud — I like being in control! There, it is out in the open, and now we can address it transparently and biblically. If you know me, I am sure you were not shocked or surprised by my open confession. The interesting element in this declaration is that some will see people like me as the problem. Others think we need more people like us. Leadership is given as a spiritual gift according to Rom. 12:8 — “*he that ruleth, with diligence.*” Paul clearly stated that if God has given you the ability to lead, you should take that responsibility seriously.

James 3 reminds us that those who step into a leadership role as teachers will be held to a higher standard and receive a stricter judgment. Leadership is not to be taken lightly nor accepted casually. The challenge of pastoring is that there is an unrealistic expectation that he will be gifted and equipped in all five roles (not positions) mentioned in Eph. 4:11 — apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher. The church needs a pastor (a caring shepherd) with a heart for the flock and a preacher (a capable teacher) who rightly divides and delivers the Word of God.

You must know yourself to lead yourself, and that requires knowing your gifts along with your strengths and weaknesses, knowing who you are in Christ and then being committed to who you are in Him. You cannot be someone else. If you are not being who Christ created you to be, who are you? The answer is most likely “confused.” Someone said, “A mist in the pulpit creates a fog in the pew.” A healthy leader knows Christ intimately, knows himself and his inclinations (personality and giftings), then seeks out the instruction needed to lead well. Find someone who can pour into your life (Col. 1:7).

Every church needs strong leadership to direct the congregation to be true to its mission, vision and values. The leadership style will look different, but the need for devoted biblical leadership cannot be overlooked or overstated. As clarified in I Tim. 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9, the foundation must be built upon character. The temptation is to look first for charisma and competency, but that is a dangerous

approach. Leaders must be observed, watched and proven faithful. When speaking of elders, Paul reminded us in I Tim. 5:22, “*lay hands suddenly on no man.*”

Leaders are desperately needed. While raising up leaders should not be rushed, it must be intentional with an eye always focused on developing and equipping more leaders. Tony Morgan stated, “People inside the church can get very loud. Those voices are much louder than the people outside the church.” Leaders continually challenge the congregation not to become inwardly focused. As soon as you prioritize the inside voices, you diminish God’s voice in stating, “Go... and make disciples of all nations...” The mission statement at your church must remain the loudest voice in driving you toward the Great Commission.

Leaders know their mission as directed by Scripture, then remain true to the vision of carrying out that mission. Decide if you are truly committed to the mission God has called your church to and in carrying it out. Leaders stick to that vision, even if that means someone is not willing to stick with the church. There will be many difficult decisions, not because you do not know what you should do, but because of the pressure to do something else. Leaders must be willing to make the hard decisions and refuse to compromise or take the easy path.

Most leaders are driven, passionate and determined. While that is usually a strength, it can also become a weakness if you fall into the “I can do it better” trap of perfectionism. Whatever we do, we should strive to do it well — not doing it perfectly, but doing it as well as we can. The old saying, “If you want it done right, do it yourself,” can haunt you and undermine your leadership quickly. Tony Morgan stated, “If you are a perfectionist, people don’t like to be around you.” Just because it is your idea does not guarantee it is the best or

the only way. Does any of that describe you?

Tony continued, “Needing to be in control will kill you. It leads to anxiety and fear. It’s an indication that God is not in control. It will paralyze you. If you always do it, no one else will learn, and you will always be stuck thinking you must do it. It’s a vicious cycle.” Now that one hurt. Godly leaders are resolved to fulfill God’s agenda for their church and ministry, but they are also committed to recruiting and training others to help in that mission. A control freak seeks to always do it themselves, and that robs others of the opportunity to see God at work in and through their lives.

When you choose to do everything yourself, you are taking the path of least resistance because it is much easier than training someone else how to do it. Building a team requires finding them, training them, coaching them, resourcing them, checking in on them and giving them the authority to fulfill what you have equipped them to do. Are we going to settle for the easier path, even though the harder path ultimately leads to greater accomplishments and fulfillment? It may be time to once again look at passages like John 20:21; Eph. 4:12-13; II Tim. 1:13, 2:2, 3:14; and many more.

Tony Morgan, in *Unstuck Church*, gave this soul-penetrating thought, “It’s possible to do the work of God without doing the work God has called you to do.” No one is designed to do all the work of the ministry. Instead, God designed His body, His church, to perform and fulfill the ministry He called her to accomplish.



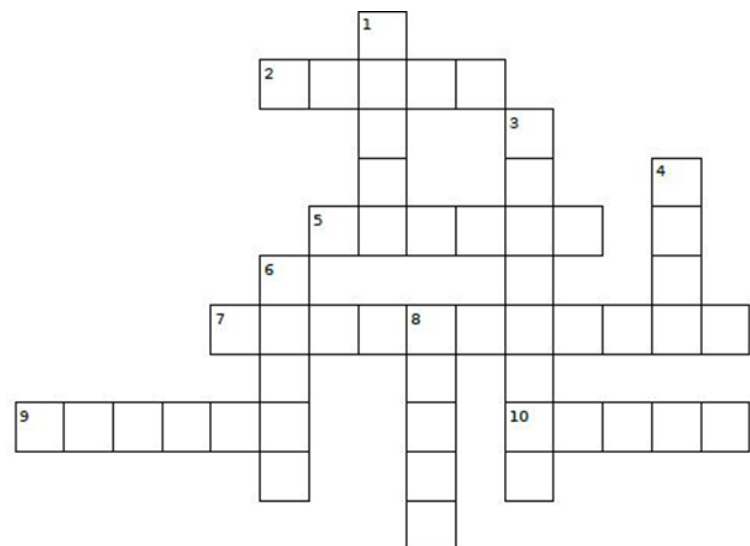
We want to make sure we have the most accurate and up-to-date information for all our churches. You can help us by visiting [bmaamerica.org/annualchurchsurvey](http://bmaamerica.org/annualchurchsurvey) to review and update your church information.

When you select the name of your church, the information for it will be made available for you to review and update. Even if all church information is accurate, please confirm. (You may also request a copy of your church information by email.)

For assistance, contact Sidney Vines at [sidney@bmaglobal.org](mailto:sidney@bmaglobal.org) or (870) 826-7757.

### Foods in the Old Testament

What food is being described in each of the following statements? If you get stuck, there are hints on page 6 of this paper. (If you are interested in sharing this with anyone else, feel free to make copies.)



#### Down:

1. A bird God provided for the wandering Israelites to eat
3. A spice which was one of the ingredients in anointing oil
4. An animal cooked and given to Isaac as part of a scheme to get his blessing
6. A sweet food that was found in the carcass of a lion
8. A fruit that God told His people to leave behind at harvest for the poor and strangers

#### Across:

2. An ingredient cooked in a pot of stew which made it poisonous
5. A nut Jacob instructed his sons to include in a gift for a ruler of Egypt
7. One of the fruits the 12 spies brought back after exploring Canaan
9. A dairy food Job mentioned as he questioned God concerning his suffering
10. One of the vegetables the Israelites complained about missing after they left Egypt

## Hope in the Wilderness

Mickeal and Sharon Quillman

*Mwabuka buti* from the Quillman family, serving in the Southern Province of Zambia. We hope this finds you blessed and encouraged. We are writing to you today with a mix of challenges and blessings from our mission field.

### Drought and Famine

Zambia is facing an unprecedented drought and famine, affecting countless communities. The land is parched, and water sources are scarce. Yet, in the midst of this dryness, we find hope in Jesus' promise: "Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" (John 7:38).



We are reminded of God's faithfulness in Isaiah 43:19, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Even in the desert, God can create a river. We trust that He will bring life-giving water to our communities, both physically and spiritually.

*Drought-Related Challenges*

The drought has brought an unexpected challenge to our area. Elephants, searching for food, have wandered into town, causing significant damage to local gardens, fences, and buildings. Sadly, three lives were lost in August due to elephant encounters. The elephants are only returning to areas with available food sources, highlighting the severity of the drought.

### Food Shortage

The situation is further exacerbated by a severe food shortage. Most of our families are receiving less than one meal per day, making it difficult to survive. We do our best to provide support, but the need is great. Even walking to church has become a hardship with the lack of daily calories for energy.

### Chabantu Missionary Baptist Church

Despite these challenges, our church is thriving! This Sunday, we welcomed 16 new members to our family, and we will be baptizing five more next

Sunday. God is moving mightily in the hearts of our Zambian brothers and sisters.

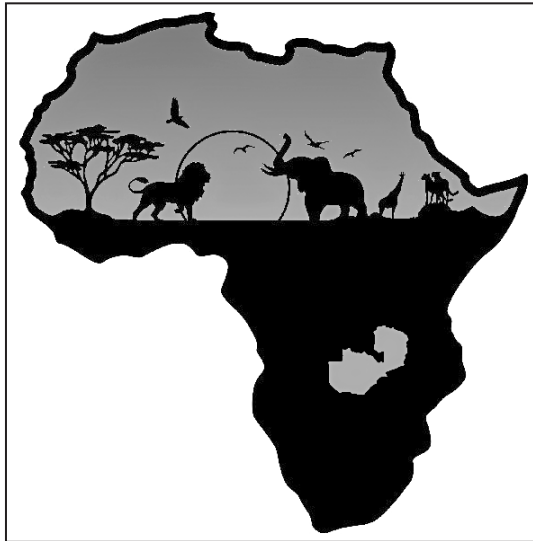
### Community School Update

Our community school, Chabantu Baptist Academy, is growing! We currently have children ages 3 to grade 6, and we're providing breakfast and lunch for them along with our five dedicated teachers and two teachers assistants. The school is not only a place for education but also a hub for spiritual growth. About 50 of the children and some of their families are now attending our church on Sundays, and we're seeing the impact of God's love in their lives.



### Prayer Requests

We covet your continued prayer support as we serve in this beautiful but struggling nation.



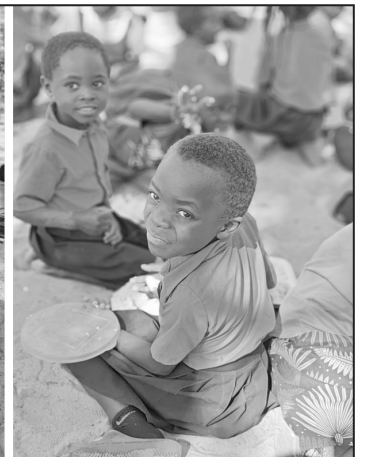
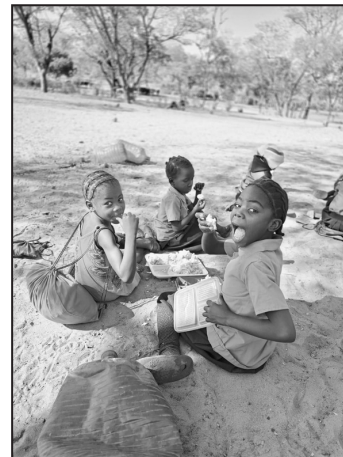
- Rain and relief from the drought
- Strength and wisdom for our ministry
- The Chabantu church family as they grow in faith
- Our community school and its impact on the children and families
- Protection from the elephant encounters
- Food and nourishment for our families
- Our health and safety

### Praises

- 16 new members at Chabantu Missionary Baptist Church
- The Headman we have been praying for has been coming to church faithfully and is now bringing three of his children
- Donations we have received to provide meals
- Sharon and I are both healthy after two weeks of illness

Thank you for standing with us in this mission. Your prayers and support make a tangible difference in the lives of the Zambian people.

Thank you for standing with us in this mission. Your prayers and support make a tangible difference in the lives of the Zambian people.



*And let us not grow weary of doing good,  
for in due season we will reap,  
if we do not give up.*

### Hints for "Foods in the Old Testament" Puzzle

Here are scripture references to help with each clue in the crossword puzzle on page 5.

#### Down:

1. Psalm 105:40
3. Ex 30:23
4. Gen 27:9
6. Judges 14:8
8. Lev 19:10

#### Across:

2. 2Kings 4:39
5. Gen 43:11
7. Num 13:23
9. Job 10:10
10. Num 11:5



## Where to Begin

Cindy Allen

At my house we get a newspaper from the Texas Farm Bureau. A couple months ago the cover story was about a young lady who was carrying on her family's ranching legacy. Her father started a farm, carrying out a dream he and his late wife had. Now his daughter has taken over the dream and is expanding it. The title caught my attention, "A Ranching Legacy".

I bet you know what part of it spoke to me. But it made me think, what about people who are not handed a legacy worth building on?

God blessed me by planting me in a family of believers. I attended church sporadically with my great grandfather, and lots with my grandparents. My parents were very involved in church and lived out what the Bible taught them. But not everyone is so fortunate.

So, what do you do if your Christian legacy begins with YOU? I have good news for you. Paul spent much of his ministry writing to people who were in that same position. People who trusted Jesus. People who wanted to live right; but people who had no legacy to lean on. In II Corinthians 5:17-18 Paul wrote, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the

*new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God...."* God did that for the Corinthians and he can/will do it for you.

One of Satan's biggest weapons is throwing our past up in our face. Don't listen to him. God took it all away when you believed in Jesus. You are whiter than snow.

If you want to begin a godly legacy, you need to know how to build a good foundation. Read Paul's epistles and James. They lay out a great foundation for living a godly life. As you read, pray. Ask God to open your heart to His desires for you. And when you fall short, don't beat yourself up. Everybody misses the mark sometimes (or lots of times). The standards are high because our measure is Jesus Christ, but remember God doesn't expect perfection – He expects effort.

Another great help in getting started on a godly legacy is plugging into a Christian group. That may be a Sunday School class, Bible study, or other group of Christians who are living life together. If you already attend Sunday worship, I would encourage you to get into a small group also. This is where accountability takes place and to live a godly life, we need accountability.

Now let's talk about a harder thing.

There are some things that you might have to let go of; habits, people, characteristics that might not be a good foundation for the legacy you want to lay. Psalm 139:23-24 says, "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Pray, my friend. Pray for God to reveal things that need to be done away with and pray that He will help you toss them. He will! Isaiah 43:18-19 says, "Forget the former things: do not dwell in the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." God's promises in the Old Testament, to His chosen people, are still true today, to His chosen family.

One last thing I want to encourage you to do is find a mentor or accountability partner. This is good for all of us, not just those beginning their legacy. I know several of my friends who would be great in this role and I bet there are several in your world too. It may be stepping out of your comfort zone to ask for help but we all need help every once in a while. None of us has it all together, so get that out of your head.

Lamentations 3:22-23 says, "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Good morning friend, may God's mercies fall fresh on you as you build a legacy that will be an honor to him.

**Scripture:** Matthew 5, 6, 7; Ephesians 4:17-32; Romans 12; James 1:19-27

**Response:** Take a deep breath. Just as Rome wasn't built in a day, neither is a firm foundation. Pick one pillar for your foundation and begin to build it. It may be one listed above, or something different. Just start. There is no right or wrong as long as you are building. And lean on God, he is the Master Builder.

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, you always give us choices. Help me to choose to be the wise man and not the foolish man. I want to lay a foundation that my family can build on for years to come. Storms will come, but help me to build a house that withstands. In Jesus' name, Amen

### • From VOTE page 1 •

• **Voting can be viewed as a form of stewardship (Matthew 25).** "We are responsible for voting for candidates who will best honor God and moral values" (Dr. Stephen Olford). Otherwise, we waste the opportunity given to us as believers and Americans, leaving the decision to others who may not share our convictions. From the history books, Samuel Adams was the organizer of the Boston Tea Party and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Adams said your vote is a stewardship issue, arguing that we should vote "unto God" and, to the best of our knowledge, elect people who will be moral leaders. That was a conviction strongly held during the early days of our nation that remains important today.

• **Jesus calls His followers to be "salt and light," a teaching that includes our voting.** How can we claim to live fully for God yet neglect to represent His values? (Tony Perkins). Shouldn't we care who leads our school board, our state and who represents us in Congress? From your county to Washington, who we help elect will determine the future laws that impact us, our children and future generations (The Judicial Watch).

• **We no longer live in a culture that will easily accept biblical worldview issues.** If we choose to speak out or vote for our values, we will face persecution. That response should not be shunned, but embraced. After all, our Savior warned us that in this world we would have trouble (John 16:33). Let us not shy away from voting for our values. May we, as Christians, vote on Nov. 5, 2024!



*His compassions are new every morning!*

## Keeping Your Buckets Filled

Larry Barker

*Leading on Empty* is a book by Wayne Cordeiro that can also be a reality in your life. How do you keep your tank full and your passion renewed? There are four buckets that Hal Seed says need to be kept full: spiritual practices, character strengths, relational skills, and ministry experience. As a leader you must not only lead yourself well but lead others well also. Your intimacy with Christ will enable you to leverage influence for Christ. You are called to live like Jesus and to lead like Jesus.

Relational skills are paramount in leadership because of the importance of team building, problem solving, time management, resolving conflict, communicating well then executing your God-initiated plan. In building your relational skill set, you must know yourself to lead yourself. You must be willing to evaluate how God hard-wired you. Are you more of an extrovert or introvert? Are you more people oriented or task oriented? What are you passionate about? Are you more bent towards working on a team or working alone? Knowing yourself means you are aware of your strengths and weaknesses.

Emotional intelligence cannot be overlooked in leadership. Effective leaders know Christ intimately, know what they need to know through instruction, and know themselves and their inclinations. If you are walking with Christ and receiving the instruction needed for the task ahead but have no self-awareness, you will be frustrated. Three markers in developing your relational skills are self-discipline (knowing Christ), self-development (knowing the right stuff), and self-discovery (knowing yourself). Everyone has blind spots, and you need to spend time with the Lord asking Him to show you yours.

How do you develop relational skills? First, love people the way Christ loves them by valuing them. Philippians 2:3 says it like this: *“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves.”* Think about what number you place on someone’s value in your life and ministry. Is it a six or a seven or some other number? The reality is

that they will never surpass the value number you assign them. Go ahead and give them a ten because if you find yourself always busy doing things you are not gifted to do, maybe it is because you are not equipping, empowering, and deploying others.

God has sent people to you to help you on the journey and to help your church to address its deficiencies. Relational skills are required in leading the church to where God is guiding it to go by creating a climate for change. By loving and valuing the people around you, you can then begin building a team that challenges, encourages, and esteems one another. Focus on the coalition of the willing and remember that you will always have the Sanballats and Tobiahs around (See Nehemiah). Make sure that you are not being overly swayed by the vocal minority or the squeaky wheel but also be willing to minister to them as best you can.

Your relational skills will become crucial when facing trials or leading change. Sometimes they can be the same thing. In a lot of churches, the word change is almost a cuss word. In a recent Healthy Church Solutions training Dr. John David Smith reminded us about empathy. When leading change that is God-initiated, learn to empathize with those who are struggling with that change. Every time there is change, someone will see it as a loss. Make sure you explain the reason for the change. If people believe in the “why” then they will accept the “what.” Have you slowed down long enough to carefully explain the why?

Ministry experience is the fourth bucket. Here is what Hal Seed has to say on this: “We put most of our personal development attention on collecting ministry competencies like preaching and leading, but somehow, it’s never enough. We still have problems and our churches don’t grow. Ministry expertise is more than the competencies of being a pastor. It’s the wisdom that comes with learning, experience, and reflection so that with broad knowledge you can do the right things to see your church grow.”

Maybe you have no ministry experience but there is someone out there who does. Go find him and learn from him.

Leadership requires passion and discipline to accomplish our God-initiated vision for the ministry He has placed us in. Here is a great description from Dr. John David Smith of what passion and discipline need to look like: Passion sees the vision; Discipline translates it into action. Passion attracts a team; Discipline builds the team. Passion makes good decisions; Discipline implements the decisions. Passion establishes values; Discipline lives the values out. Passion envisions a healthy culture; Discipline makes it happen. Passion describes the goal; Discipline forms the strategy to reach the goal!

Passion creates priorities; Discipline executes the priorities. Passion generates ideas; Discipline turns them into reality. Passion challenges people to grow; Discipline helps them do it. Passion drives innovation; Discipline drives implementation!

Paul was passionate, but he also had a plan he followed given to him by the Lord. When thinking about these buckets that need to be filled (spiritual practices, character strengths, relational skills, and ministry experience), make sure you are not having a pep rally without a game plan. What steps do you need to take in each of these areas to become a better leader? Make a list and begin working on them today.

### Ministers & Ministry Opportunities

*Entries are published at the request of the individual or entity listed and should not be considered as an endorsement by the Missouri Missionary Baptist or the BMA of Missouri.*

**Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Caledonia,** is seeking a pastor. If you are available and seeking God's will for a place to serve, please contact Dean Johnson at 573-210-3700 or Charlotte Cooper at 361-563-0756. (0824)

*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).*



The Baptist Missionary Association Celebration conference is a worship celebration created for adults! Held at the beautiful Chateau on the Lake in Branson, Missouri, it's a time to come together and enjoy fellowship, Bible teaching, music and entertainment.

Coming November 12-14, 2024!

For more information visit [bmaamerica.org/celebration](http://bmaamerica.org/celebration).