

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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

Volume LXXXVI

St. Louis, MO • December 10, 2024

Issue No. 12

BMA of Missouri Meets at Kewanee

Pam Burke

The Baptist Missionary Association of Missouri met October 12 at Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church in Kewanee.

After an opening congregational song, Pastor Dan Wisely welcomed the Association and gave the morning devotional from Deuteronomy 6:5 and Matthew 22:36-40.

Moderator Brad Banderman called the business meeting to order, recognizing and seating the messengers. The final report from the Enrollment Committee showed 16 letters received and \$2,120 in offerings to the Minute Fund.

Here are a few highlights from the reports from our various state departments and committees. Camp Garwood hosted 265 campers this summer, with 24 professions of faith. Throughout the year, there were many miles, many hours, and many dollars spent on the Dorm 7 project. The next big project is the removal of the old canteen building, replacing it with a new building for evangelist quarters, nurse station, and check-in station.

The Seminary Student Grant Committee presented recommendations updating the bylaws.

Bro. John Merriweather represented BMA Global. He reported that April 2025 will be the 75th anniversary of the formation of what is now the Baptist Missionary Association of America. The Department of Missions was established at that time with two foreign and six interstate missionaries.

Bro. Mike Angus shared the work of Just The Crumbs disaster relief ministry, specifically in connection with the devastation from recent storms in North Carolina and other areas. He mentioned that prayer, financial support, and volunteer workers are all needed as this important work is being done on a long-term basis.

Bro. Charley Holmes shared the work of the BMA Seminary, highlighting ministries involved in his transitioning role after retiring as President. He specifically detailed some of the training of workers in Africa, both online and through trips to various locations.

The following associational officers were elected for the coming year:

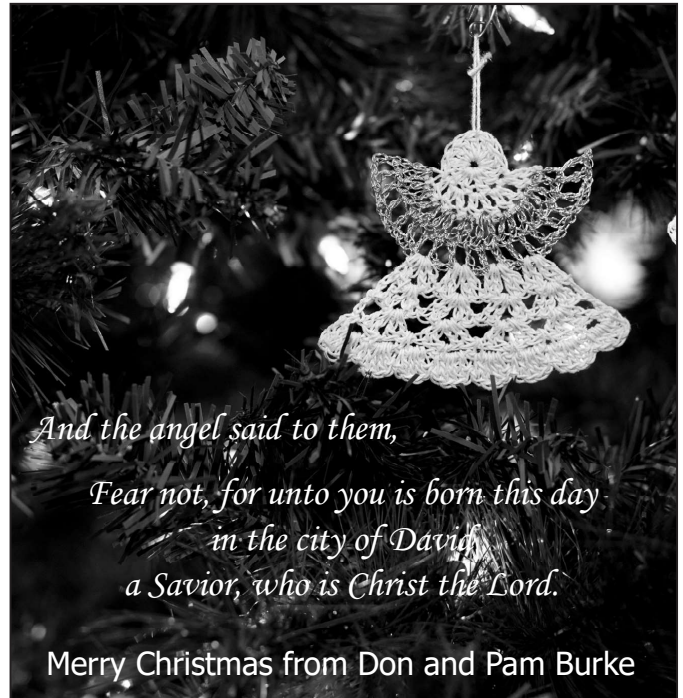
- Moderator – Dan Wisely
- Assistant Moderator – Claude Evans
- Recording Clerk – Don Burke
- Assistant Recording Clerk – Matt Bolen

Those elected (or re-elected) to other positions include:

- Editor of *Missouri Missionary Baptist* – Don Burke
- Publications Committee – Bryan Buckley (term ending 2027)

- Alive Committee – Kevin Smith (2028)
- Camp Director – Chris Polk
- Assistant Camp Director – Matt Bolen
- Camp Committee – Joe McElroy (2029)

• See KEWANEE page 3 •



*And the angel said to them,
Fear not, for unto you is born this day
in the city of David
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

Merry Christmas from Don and Pam Burke

BMA Seminary Free Class to Recognize 75 Years of BMA Missions

In conjunction with the BMA's 75th anniversary, BMA Seminary will offer a free course entitled *Missionary Biographies: 75 Years of (BMA) Missions*.

Beginning on February 24 and ending on April 18, just before the national meeting of the BMA in Waxahachie, Texas, this FREE course will cover four missionary stories. Students enrolled in the class will read about the families and ministries of Jack Bateman, M.S. Arrington, Buddy Johnson, and John Ladd. Content of this biographical journey will span five decades of BMA missions into Taiwan, Bolivia, Nicaragua, and Mexico. These missionary biographies focus upon evangelism, church planting, and medical missions.

Dr. Ricky Williams, former 35-year veteran BMA missionary to Mexico, will lead the course.

To register for the course, visit www.bmats.edu/free. Students are expected to register at least one week in advance.



Alive Student Conference

December 29-31, 2024
DoubleTree, Chesterfield, MO

General Session Speaker: Mickael Quillman
Worship Leaders: The Central Collective
Break Out Session Speakers: Ben Kingston and Sharon Quillman

State Missions

Dear BMAMO Churches,

I reread my article from November, and in my humble opinion the Lord answered our prayers and gave us the president that we need, not the president that we deserved. I realize that in some circles that may be a very controversial statement, but it is not meant to be. It is just strictly my humble opinion, and I am very grateful that God has answered our prayers and we have potentially four years to see some much needed changes and absolutely 180 degrees different direction for our country.

However, it is extremely important to stress that I do not believe the salvation of this nation will come from any politician or even a political approach. I believe that those are all reflections of who we are as a nation, so if we truly want change, we will need to change our morality, and the only way to truly change our morality is for a submission to the God of morality.

Once again 2 Chronicles echoes in our ears: *“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”* (2 Chronicles 7:14)

If November 5 election results were a smidgen of proof that that has started, then we need to absolutely continue that biblical approach to seek God's face for salvation and revival of our nation.

Now to the attention of what you and I have control over, and that is being a part of a soul-winning and discipling church-planting movement in the state of Missouri. One of the greatest opportunities that we have to influence the possible expansion of BMA churches throughout our state is something that we're doing at the end of this month through our Association. That is the Alive Conference.

Bro. Mike Quillman will be the main speaker for the conference, with Sis. Sharon Quillman also speaking to the ladies and myself speaking to the young men. I have personally challenged Bethel men to make a personal appointment to be there and stand against the walls in the break-out room. And now I am extending that invitation to you guys. I know you're getting this late in the month – so you will hopefully have heard this before – but I'm asking every man that can to join us.

Ultimately at this meeting I'm going to be calling our young men to be just that – to be young men, to reject passivity, to accept responsibility to lead courageously and expect the

greater reward. So, if you have a few hours on that day to travel to the Doubletree Hotel at Chesterfield and stand along the wall as a supporter of what your Missions Director will be saying, then I will treat that as an absolute honor.

I am including the details of the event in this article. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Pastors, unfortunately this is going to fall upon you to communicate this to your men. I don't believe that we can continue to give lip service to the fact that we do not have young men rising up to preach and yet at the same time refuse to get personally, physically, emotionally, mentally, intellectually, and spiritually involved. So let's show these young men what it means to be a man, and support them as they are being challenged to be the same! May the Lord bless you is my prayer.

The Alive Conference will be held at the Doubletree Hotel, 16625 Swingley Road, in Chesterfield, MO. The dates are December 29-31, and the break out session is December 30 at 1:00 p.m. in Conference Room B. This was the committee's words to me: *“The premise of the break out room is young men answering the call, so you can call it whatever you want. It's your break out session.”* I will be speaking on, *“When Kings Go to War,”* covering the topics of (1) The Call to Salvation, (2) The Call to Manhood, and (3) The Call to Action.

“Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.” (1 Peter 2:17)

Bro. Ben



MISIÓN BAPTISTA BELÉN (Bethlehem Mission) Serving Hispanic Families • St Louis Metro East

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

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. (Luke 2:8-10)

We want to say, “Feliz Navidad,” wishing you a very special celebration of Christmas for you and your family and church family as well. Emmanuel, God with us!

Praises

- For Eleanor's 6th birthday celebration, we served pizza and had lots of fun with her soccer team new friends, plus church-family members from Bethany and Lindsay Lane in Florissant. Thank you for joining us and celebrating Eleanor's special day. Bro. Harold, Debbie and Ben, Sis. Tiny and Darlene, thank you for always being in our children's special days! We can't say thank you enough for each person, present, and the presence of our Lord Jesus blessing our meal and fellowship time, in the new place at home, the prayer center – Mision Bautista “Belen.”

- For the Body of Christ! New Testament Church of Sullivan, Pastor Josh, Dave and Chuck for leading men to invest their talents in our ministry as reflection of the kingdom expansion.

- Thank you, Bro. Ben Kingston, our Missions Director in the State of Missouri, for making the need known. Funds were gathered and shared to accomplish this new place of worship.

- As a result of this missionary effort, we are continuing the remodeling of the back space in the garage to be utilized as a welcoming lobby and office space for myself. The \$300 left

• See MISIÓN BELÉN page 3 •



Financial Report BMA Of Missouri Missions November 2024	
<u>Checking Account:</u>	
Balance October 31	\$ 32,788.80
<u>Income:</u>	
Missions	\$ 2,966.37
Bro Mutual refund	1,363.25
Loan Dept insurance	<u>3,674.20</u>
Total Income	\$ <u>8,003.82</u>
Total Available	\$ 40,792.62
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Director, salary	\$ 450.00
Secretary, salary	200.00
Juan Fernandez, support	<u>2,333.33</u>
Total Expenses	\$ <u>(2,983.33)</u>
Balance November 30	\$ 37,809.29
<u>BMAMS Revolving Loan Investment:</u>	
Balance October 31	\$ 119,803.75
Interest	<u>0.00</u>
Balance November 30	\$ <u>119,803.75</u>
Total in All Accounts November 30	\$ 157,613.04

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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• From MISIÓN BELÉN page 2 •

in the love offering given to this project is invested in this space. Insulation, walls, ceiling and many nails have been purchased in order to complete this project. The most special blessing is that now my father-in-law, Alan, has gotten involved and is wanting to help this missionary (me, Juan Fernandez) who is unskilled and no handyman at all to finish the entrance to this recently remodeled prayer center. Would you include Alan in your prayers? Thank you!

• Stony Point Church also gave \$400 towards this project. Plus cabinets and some more pieces of furniture have been purchased. Your love offering is helping us to show hospitality to our families and visitors as we added an internet mesh allowing us to connect our devices for a better experience while recording our Bible studies and prayer meeting online. Thank you again, Bros. Roy and Claude and all the families from Stony Point – may the Lord continue blessing each one of your family members in these congregations and the vision to reaching out beyond the church walls!

We plan to continue using our recently remodeled garage to celebrate gatherings for our Sunday evening families devotional, for our daily Bible study and prayer recording online. And in the month of January we will kick off our first official ESL program to teach English as second language.

At this moment the garage is not finished – it needs to be painted, rain gutters replaced and a new garage door. We are also painting the walls and making some repairs on the floor, adding some cabinets for storage of hospitality items.

• For the first Thanksgiving breakfast with Javier and Xochitl, we had an opportunity to present the gospel with this young couple, and they expressed some questions. Continue praying for them as we meet on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

• During four lessons on discipleship with Nahum and Ermilanda, this young couple are learning the truths of the gospel through one-on-one discipleship. We meet at their home and spend almost two hours of fellowship with scripture and questions and answers regarding sound doctrines in the Bible and always enjoy a good coffee.

Prayer

- A core team to join the vision and mission of Misión Belen.
- For salvation in each one of the contacts we have been blessed to have.
- For commitment from each one of our contacts to start and complete our discipleship process.
- For new contacts who are excited and ready to fulfill the Great Commission.
- For a special blessing for our oldest daughter Victoria as we celebrate her 8th



Alive

Alive Student Conference

December 29-31 • DoubleTree, Chesterfield

Sunday, December 29, 2024

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

Monday, December 30, 2024

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

Tuesday, December 31, 2024

- 9:00-9:45.....Pack Up..... Your Room
- 9:45-10:00.....Prayer Time..... Ballroom/Lobby
- 10:00-11:30.....General Session #4..... Ballroom

birthday Dec. 14, Lord willing. Many of you can come and join us to make her celebration even better.

• Christmas dinner/lunch for our new friends. We are inviting a family we met through soccer league for a special lunch on Dec. 24, hoping to share the good news of the gospel. They are Kevin and Maria, and they have three children. Kevin's mom, Maria, is from Panama.

Thank you for keeping us in your prayers. We need wisdom to continue growing and expanding the vision to reach out to our new friends.

In his service, Juan and Hannah Fernandez, with Victoria, Eleanor and Juanito.

Feliz Navidad, y prospero Año nuevo 2025!

• From KEWANEE page 1 •

In the Missionary Committee Bro. Ben Kingston shared the Mission Director's report. Bro. Kingston was re-elected as Director. The Committee elected the following officers: Michael Kelly, chairman; Billy Davis, assistant chairman; Dan Wisely, clerk; Russell Chitwood, assistant clerk. Russell Chitwood was re-elected to Special Missions Committee. Michael Kelly was elected to replace Michael Hearst on that committee.

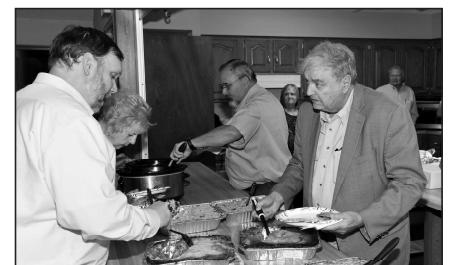
The moderator appointed the following committees for 2025:

- Resolutions – Matt Bolen, Terry Sharp, Michael Kelly
- Enrollment – Melvin Meade, Lee Miller, Joe McElory

Bro. Caleb Houston gave the annual sermon from James 2:1-7, on the theme: If we are a people that believe the gospel is for all people, then we cannot be people of favoritism. Bro. Dan Wisely voiced a prayer of appreciation over Bro. Caleb following the sermon.

After the Moderator closed the business meeting, a final prayer was offered, with special emphasis for Janet Widger and Juanita May as they were leaving after lunch for North Carolina to carry donations and volunteer with the work of Just The Crumbs in that region. Then we enjoyed a wonderful lunch provided by the host church.

The 2025 Missions Symposium and Mid-Year Meeting will be held at Bethel, Sikeston, on May 16 and 17. The 2025 Annual Meeting will be at Stony Point, Mineral Point, on October 11.



• Updates from Our Churches •

Landmark, DeSoto

Merry Christmas to all our brothers and sisters in Christ! Hope you had a great Thanksgiving.

On the Sunday before Thanksgiving, Bro. Len gave a wonderful sermon on – what else? – giving thanks to God for all things! He used the story of the ten lepers who were healed by Jesus, when only one of them turned back to thank Him and praise Him. A great reminder that we ALL need to give thanks to God daily for ALL things and trust in our Savior's master plan.

After the morning service we enjoyed fellowship and a scrumptious turkey dinner with all the fixings prepared mostly by Sis. Terry Smith, and the desserts provided by the rest of us. Thank you, Sis. Terry, for all your hard work and good cooking, and to all who helped contribute to the meal.

And now the countdown commences for CHRISTMAS! In this ever-changing world, I need to report a change for Landmark too

(don't get too excited, it's just a calendar change). We have changed our Christmas program date to Sunday evening, Dec. 22, starting at 6 p.m., with some light refreshments afterward. Sure hope you can join us!

The reason for the change is kind of bad news/good news. Originally, we had scheduled it earlier in the month because Bro. Len (our pastor) had knee surgery scheduled for December 19th. But Sis. Rebecca (his wife) started having some unexpected and unwelcome heart problems. They (and we) went through a scary three to four weeks before the doctors finally figured out the problem/situation (which was NOT blockage), and figured out a way to manage it with medication. Thank God for answered prayers! So with all that going on, Bro. Len has postponed his knee surgery until sometime next year, which he's fine with and which means we have a little more time to put together our program!

God has still been blessing

us with visitors almost every Sunday. We're hoping and praying they'll make the decision to join our Landmark church family.

Our deepest condolences go out to Bro. Bill and Sis. Terry Smith on the death of his brother this past week. We are praying for comfort and peace for their entire family.

Bro. Glenn Stinson's wife, Bonnie, is in the hospital at this writing. We ask that you remember the whole family in your prayers. We have many others who need your prayers also, and we will continue to lift up all of you also.

Praying that God blesses each and every one of you with a super happy and sweet Christmas season. And just for funnies – What does the gingerbread man put on his bed? Cookie sheets!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Len Young, Pastor
Barbara Williams, Reporter*

Bethel, Sikeston

Blessings to all from Bethel, Sikeston. We have been so blessed, and there is not

enough space here to list all our blessings! We need to give God thanks every day, not just on special days like Thanksgiving!

One of our members went home to be with Jesus mid-month. We offer our condolences to Sis. Carolyn Altom's family. She will be sadly missed, but we know that we will see her again someday!

November 10 during the morning service Jeramy Brown came forward and accepted Christ as his Savior, requested baptism and to join the church. He will be baptized at a later date. He was welcomed with hugs and handshakes. Praise God for this blessing of another soul added to His kingdom!

Bro. Matt Bolen attended the men's retreat this year and reported a great weekend! Bro. Joe and Sis. Stephanie McElroy are working with the youth on a Christmas program that will be on the 22nd during morning services. Some of our youth are planning on attending "Youth Alive" this year.

Our plans are to have a church Christmas party again. It's always a great time of fun and fellowship. We also plan to go Christmas caroling. That is always such a blessing and fun time together.

We want to wish everyone a very blessed and merry Christmas! Always remember that "Jesus is the reason for the season." We are expecting great things for the coming year, 2025!

*Billy Davis, Pastor
Joan Wood, Reporter*

Charity, Bismarck

Our dear friend and last charter member of Charity, Sister Bonnie Jones, went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, November 26, 2024, at the age of 87. Her funeral service was held on Saturday, November 30, at Charity and was attended by family, church family, and friends. Bonnie was a faithful member of Charity. She continued attending services for as long as she could, with her last attendance on Sunday morning, November 3. We will miss Sister Bonnie, but rejoice in God's promise that we will see her again.

*Lee Miller, Pastor
Janet Price, Reporter*

Oak Hill, Alton

HELLO to all from Oak Hill. We are happy and feel blessed. We enjoyed our Thanksgiving dinner very much.

Thank the Lord two more souls have been added to the Lord's family. On November 25th Jordan Pankey was saved by our Lord and Savior and on December 1st Austin King was also saved.

We will have our Christmas program/play on December 15th. We hope and pray that everyone will have an amazing and blessed Christmas this year.

Until 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*

~ Upcoming Events ~

Christmas Cantata – Dec. 14 (evening) and 15 (morning service); Kewanee, New Madrid

Christmas Program – Dec. 15; Westview, Jefferson City

Christmas Program – Dec. 22; Landmark, DeSoto

Christmas Program – Dec. 22; Bethel, Sikeston

Alive Student Conference – Dec. 29-31; DoubleTree, Chesterfield

Revival – Jan. 6-10; Ed Stephenson, evangelist; Kewanee, New Madrid

Preaching Lab Conference – Jan. 10-11; Oak Park, Little Rock, AR

Spring Retreat – March 21-22; Camp Garwood

Renewal Weekend – April 25-26; Camp Garwood

Send event info to mmbpaper@gmail.com.

Update from Joshua Phiri, Zambia

Dear Friends,

After five years of prayer, persistence, and God's provision, the vision for building a home in Zambia is finally becoming a reality. Why is this so important?

Living 45 minutes to an hour away from the villages we serve has made ministry challenging in many ways:

- Time: Being far away restricts our ability to respond quickly to needs and limits discipleship opportunities.



- Cost: Constant driving adds significant transportation expenses to our personal budget.
- Effectiveness: Proximity will allow for deeper, more consistent discipleship.
- Necessity: Villages don't have houses to rent, making land and building a home essential.
- Family: Living closer means spending more time with family while balancing ministry demands.

• See PHIRI page 5 •

A Return Visit to JTC

Janet Widger

Many of you saw the Facebook posts about our second trip to North Carolina to volunteer with Just the Crumbs (JTC) ministry. This trip included Elaine Stricklin from Mt. Olive, Salem, and Doris Skaggs from Ohlman, Bunker.

This was my third time to volunteer with JTC, and to say it was different is an understatement. A few

days before leaving Missouri, Bro. Lavon Haden contacted me to see how many other volunteers would be coming. Then he dropped a “bombshell” on me. We would be returning to West Asheville Baptist Church, which is where all their equipment was on our last trip. He related how he needed to be at the Celebration Conference in Branson, MO, for several reasons but he also needed some time to rest. So, the bombshell was he asked if I could oversee the preparation and serving operations for the four days we would be there. Needless to say, I was speechless, but I also felt humbled and honored at the same time by his request.

Due to this, we left MO a day earlier than originally planned. I am thankful that Elaine and Doris were willing to be flexible.



Like the previous trip, we did arrange to take donated can goods plus some financial contributions. We are always thankful for our generous BMA family, but for this trip donors also included staff and employees of the Reynolds County Shelter Workshop as well as the Maxine Lough Estate (both from Bunker). This touched my heart and still brings tears to my eyes.

We arrived in Asheville on Sunday afternoon, November 10th. No one was at the church to help unload this time so we Missouri women stepped up and did it.

I contacted the church’s associate pastor to confirm we could stay in a Sunday school classroom as



we had done before. Then we went looking for something to eat. By this time, water service was back in operation for the City of Asheville, but they were still under a boil order. Applebee’s was our dinner selection, served on paper plates with plastic utensils along with bottled drinks.

When we arrived back at the cook trailer, volunteers from Mississippi were there, but they were leaving on Monday morning. We had just a few minutes to be brought up to speed with current events.

Even with the water boil order, many of the residents of Asheville were getting back to some normalcy. The immediate need for meals now was higher in the mountains so Just the Crumbs had partnered with the owners of Big Mike’s Creekside Resort and RV Park in Newland, NC, to distribute hot meals on their property. This was 90 miles away from Asheville. (I will add here that JTC still has equipment and limited volunteers in Lake Lure and at Bakersville, NC.)

The MS ladies told us that we would still prepare food for about 100 men living at a nearby homeless shelter – that we just leave the food on a table and they pick it up. The bigger chore would be to fix food for about 150 people and transport it to Newland. Okay, 250 meals, no problem since we were doing about four times that amount in October.

My first challenge was early on Monday, when the generator ran out of gas. We needed that for lights and a convection oven. This became an everyday chore. It’s amazing how God will give you the strength and determination to work when it’s being done to show His love.



Thankfully, Doris was our meal planner, and we planned out our meals taking into consideration the traveling with them.

Elaine was a great help by keeping the pans, etc., cleaned up. She also kept the laundry done and took care of the extra details (e.g., covering desserts, cutting cornbread and brownies and wrapping them individually for easier distribution).

Mike and Jackie, the owners of the campground, are wonderful Christians. The meals that we took there and served were appreciated by the displaced people staying at the campground as well as people from the area. We also served food to other volunteers and workers.

As I write this, all of the equipment that was in Asheville is now in Newland. Plus, the accommodations are much better. The campground has a brand new “cabin,” and they are letting the JTC volunteers use it. I’m definitely going back now!

By Thursday evening, I sure was glad to see Bro. Dwyann from JTC; I could turn the generator chore over to him. On Friday morning before we left, we ladies helped him to prepare the cook trailer for moving.

We were very thankful for your prayers and most of all thankful for God’s protection. The need for volunteers in NC is still great, and not just in preparing food. I encourage you to contact Just the Crumbs to see where you can physically help. You will be blessed for it.



• From PHIRI page 4 •

The Vision for the Land

From the very beginning, our plans for this land have been clear. The various elements we need include:

- Training Center: A place to train leaders and pastors for our village churches.
- Ministry House: Accommodations for visiting teams and interns.
- Kids’ Camps: A dedicated area we will use to host camps and events for children.
- Our Home: A permanent residence to support our family and ministry efforts.

How Did We Get Here?

Zambia’s approach to traditional land acquisition emphasizes respect and community involvement. We sought permission from the village authorities, sharing our vision and building relationships of trust. This process was stalled about three years ago but God miraculously intervened and we now own land!

Through your generosity, God has already provided for:

- Paying off the land.
- Drilling two wells and purchasing water tanks and pumps.
- Installing solar to power one of the wells.
- Completing the home’s foundation and raising the walls up to the rim beam.

• See PHIRI page 8 •

Finding the Knowledge of God

Dr. Philip Attebery, President – BMA Seminary

I preached my first sermon soon after my junior year of high school. Several years later, near the end of my junior year in college, I came to realize that I needed to learn more about God's word and work. The idea of attending BMA Seminary came to mind.

Because my local church supported many BMA ministries, I was already aware of BMA Seminary. More than one president had visited our church and local association meetings. However, I went through a period of searching as to whether I should attend seminary. One day as I struggled over what to do, the thought came to my mind, "I need some wisdom. What does the book of Proverbs say?"

Reading Proverbs 2:1-5 confirmed my need to attend seminary. Solomon urged his son to receive his words, incline his ear toward gaining wisdom, apply his heart toward understanding, cry after knowledge, lift his voice for understanding, and seek that understanding like he would for a hidden

treasure. When such things are done, "Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God."

I wanted that knowledge, and Solomon's words testified as to how one is able to gain it! The actions in Proverbs 2:1-4 sound a lot like being in school. If I knew for certain that a treasure was buried in my backyard, unquestionably, I would search for it. Finding the knowledge of God is clearly available to those willing to listen and apply themselves by asking questions and seeking for understanding.

I have never doubted that the Holy Spirit does not need an educated person to lead God's people. But, the Spirit inspired the Proverbs and the instruction of 2 Timothy 2:15 that admonishes diligent study and right dividing of the Word.

BMA Seminary's conservative and biblically based education is a great place to begin or continue your journey of finding the knowledge of God.

CBC Homecoming 2025

Mark your calendars for the weekend of January 31-February 1 for Homecoming 2025!

The weekend will kick off on Friday with our annual Chili Cook-Off. There will be several departments on campus that will compete, and many students will join in on the fun as well. If you are interested in signing up to have an alumni team, please register online to bring and enjoy some amazing chili!

On Friday evening at 6 p.m., we are having an alumni/student hangout in A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse. This year, we are bringing back the carnival and will have hot chocolate, roasted hot dogs, and several games. This will be a great event for all ages, and we are hoping to see many of our former students and their families there!

Saturday will be Homecoming Day, and it will kick off with a homecoming court reunion tea for all past and current court members. It will start at 9:30 a.m., and we encourage any of our alumnae who have been on court to register and come enjoy this new event.

The annual Alumni Luncheon will be on Saturday at 11 a.m., in the Dining Hall. Here we will recognize our Half-Century Club inductees and alumni award recipients and will be giving away some fun door prizes.

Homecoming games will begin at 1:00 p.m. in Reddin Fieldhouse. The Mustangs and Lady Mustangs will be going head-to-head against Missouri Baptist, and during half-time of the second game, we will have the 2025 Homecoming Court presentation.

To register for the Chili Cook-Off, Homecoming Tea, or Alumni Luncheon, please visit cbc.edu/homecoming. If you have any questions about these events, contact Alumni and Digital Communications Coordinator Mallory Guyton at 501-205-8875 or by email at mguyton@cbc.edu. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Preaching in a Hostile Age

The Preaching Lab 2025 Conference

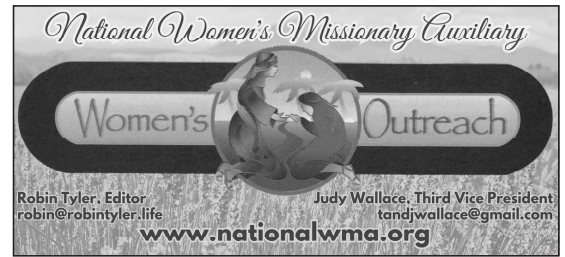
Don't be fooled by election results. Hostility against biblical and bold preaching is still in the air. But Paul encourages Timothy, and us, to share in the suffering, to be strengthened in Christ, to cut the Word straight, flee youthful passions, and to preach the Word, no matter what is going on outside the church doors.

In order to help us endure in this call, the Preaching Lab is asking three of the BMA's most long-tenured pastors to minister to us. Doug Brewer, Gary O'Neal, and David McMurray will be working their way through 2 Timothy over the two-

day conference, along with sharing some insights concerning burnout among pastors.

Start your year off strong by gathering with other preachers, whether you are a pastor, youth pastor, evangelist, missionary or church planter. You will be challenged, equipped, and encouraged. You will forge brotherhood-type relationships that you can lean on in the hard days of ministry.

The conference will be held January 10-11 in Little Rock at Oak Park Baptist Church. You can register at tiny.cc/preachinglab2025. College students can register for \$25.



Making Memories

Judy Wallace

Wedowee Lake, Lineville, Alabama. I had never heard of it, but it became a treasured place as most of our family met there – halfway between Arkansas and South Carolina – to enjoy our Thanksgiving time together.

The home itself was beautiful. The back wall of the great room was made totally of glass, and we were able to watch for the sun each morning even though it was hidden behind the clouds.

The view exposed a very low lake bed, but watching the calming water and scenery around the lake made up for any deficiency in its level. In fact, the dried shore is what enabled us to walk to an island that otherwise could only be accessed by water when the lake was full.

There was the tussled giggling of the two oldest trying to keep control of the hammock. The grand, ten-minute effort by granddaughter number two in trying to get onto the 'over the lake swing' ended in needing the help of the other four sisters.

Granddaughter number five loved playing in the sand as the others gathered around a warm, welcoming fire pit while listening to the older generations share stories and reminisce about common experiences.

No grand feast. No constant entertainment. No football. A few board games. A ten o'clock p.m. guacamole party. Then a discussion of legacy and things we are thankful for. Calm. Restful. No pretense. Simple time with the family. Making memories. Building a legacy.

The backdrop of God's glorious creation. A hot cup of coffee. Soaking in the Proverbs. Pricked and taught by the Holy Spirit. Calm. Restful. No pretense. Simple time with my Father. Making memories. A recipient of His legacy.

Prayer: Father, thank you for reminding me that my relationship with you is more about being than doing. Help me rest in Your victory and all that you have done for me.

Response: Take time to simply be with Him. Purposefully make the choice to concentrate on being rather than doing.

Scripture: Psalm 116:7; Matthew 11:28

PRESS ON
PREACHING IN A HOSTILE WORLD

Doug Brewer
Pastor
Southgate Baptist Church
Moore, OK

David McMurray
Pastor
First Baptist of Blackwood
Blackwood, NJ

Dr. Gary O'Neal
Pastor
Oak Park Baptist
Little Rock, AR

JAN. 10-11
START: FRI @ 3PM
FINISH: SAT @ 1PM

LOCATION: OAK PARK BAPTIST LITTLE ROCK, AR
COST: \$75 PER PERSON

PREACHING LAB
Healthy Pastors. Healthy Pulpits.

REGISTER NOW

Seeds of Hope in Zambia: Updates from the Field

Mickeal and Sharon Quillman

Mwapon Buti! Good evening from Sikute Chiefdom in Zambia and Chabantu Missionary Baptist Church. We hope this finds you well. We wanted to take a moment to update you on the exciting things happening here in Zambia.

Drought Program

Thank you to everyone who has been helping us during this unprecedented drought and famine. Our feeding program is still ongoing, and we have been able to provide food for 78 families, totaling around 400 people, for the past two months. Our prayer is to be able to continue this assistance through January. January will get us to our first harvest, God permitting, and life should be a little easier. We were just able to purchase and install a hammer mill for grinding the corn to save the expense for our families. The closest hammer mill to our church is about an hour walk. This will make a huge impact on the lives and health of our families here. We are thankful for your continued support in this effort to provide food. We suffered 11 deaths due to famine and lack of access to water before we were able to get the program going. Thankfully, we have not lost anyone since.

Seeds of Hope

In addition to the feeding program, we have also provided maize seed to help families plant new crops, as last year's crops failed due to drought. Typically, they can sell the previous year's crop to purchase seed, but with the widespread crop failure, there was not even enough to feed the family. Concerning the drought, we have seen a small amount of rain, with four days of rain totaling about 20 minutes each. Last night we received the most significant rain yet! It rained most of the evening, hard at times, but steady. We are praying that God will continue to open the heavens and bless our country with more rain.

Community School

We are thrilled to report that our community primary school, Chabantu Baptist Academy, has grown from 38 students to 150 students in just one year. This next term they will be adding grade 7! God is allowing us to reach these children with the gospel of Christ every single day! We are continuing to see doors open to the entire family through the school and have seen many salvations as a direct impact from the school.

Church

Our church, Chabantu Missionary Baptist Church, is also continuing to grow, with an average

attendance of over 100 people each week and around 45-50 children in our children's ministry. This past Sunday in service we had 108, with 54 children. We are praying for God to send us someone here to partner in ministry with us to work with our children and aid us in starting a youth ministry. We



would even love to have some interns come and stay to assist during their summer college break, or even a longer internship with us. If you know of someone within your church who has a heart for missions, please get in touch with me or talk with me while we are on furlough.

Bible Studies

We have finished our doctrinal studies class with our men and the church leadership and are continuing to meet for classes using the Bible Training Centre for Pastors curriculum. Our men, and some women, have completed the "How to Study the Bible" that the Baptist Publishing House has made available, and we can see marked improvement during our Bible study times. We are excited to be partnering with the Women's Missionary Auxiliary (WMA) for our Bible college project. Once this project is complete, we will be able to have a permanent place to continue to meet for daily classes for our future pastors and leaders within the church.

Lackson Munkombwe

Brother Lackson Munkombwe, who I have been training and discipling since we arrived, is advancing well in his studies. Lackson is almost one year ahead of our church leaders in his studies. He is now rotating with me in preaching at the church and will be helping me coordinate things and be the acting pastor while I am away on furlough. God placed this young man in our lives, and he has become invaluable to our ministry. He is like a sponge when studying the Word of God and has a great ability to reach his people with the Gospel. Lackson and his wife, Charity, welcomed a new baby girl last month, Anita Chileleko, which means "blessing." They have two children, including a son named Emmanuel, age 6, and Charity's little brother, Honest, who is 10 years old has lived with them just over a year. They took him in when Charity's parents were unable to provide for him due to the drought and famine.

Praise the Lord!

On a personal note, we are praising God for the recent improvements in our daily living conditions. The load shedding, or intentional shut down of power, has started to ease a bit. Previously, we were only getting electricity from 10:30 p.m. until 3:30 a.m. Now, we are getting power for

about six to eight hours per day. Additionally, we were going several days per week with no water, but as of the last couple weeks, we have only been without water a couple days. We are grateful for these small blessings and pray that they will continue.

Furlough

We will be coming to the US on furlough for Christmas this year and getting to spend time with our family and friends. This is our first furlough since going on the mission field, and while we are excited, we would appreciate your prayers for our Zambian family here at home while we are away. Please continue to pray for my brother Lackson as he takes on a much greater responsibility while I am away. I have no doubt that he will do very well.

Sharon and I are excited to welcome three (yes 3!) new grandchildren into our family in 2025. When we first moved to Zambia, we had three grandchildren, Addi was 6, Aurora was 6 weeks old, and Isla was 2 weeks old. This was probably the hardest thing we ever had to do. Addi even refused a birthday party for her 7th because we were not going to be there. Please pray for Papa and Nana as we are gifted with three new grandchildren, two in January and one in May. While this move was difficult, we find peace and solace knowing we are following God. We pray that our children and grandchildren, while we are physically not there, are also encouraged knowing that though this is difficult, we are following God's call on our life.

We are also looking forward to seeing many of you who have been praying for us, financially supporting us, and praying for our Bible college, church, and community primary school. While we will not be able to attend every single church, we hope to visit several. If your church would be interested in hosting a multi-church event during the week, a Saturday, or even a Sunday evening, please let me know. The associational meeting with churches allows us to share God's work here in Zambia on a larger scale. (Plus, there is normally a potluck.... Just remember meatloaf is my favorite food.)

Prayer Requests:

Chabantu Missionary Baptist Church while we are away

Drought/Famine

Safe travel to the US

Needs:

New suspension for Landcruiser

Ministry Van

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

In Christ,

Mickeal and Sharon Quillman



CBC Spring Semester Registration

Central Baptist College is now registering for spring 2025 classes. Now is the time for new and current students to decide what degree to pursue or courses to take. Here are the deadlines and some financial tips to help students and/or parents navigate the process.



Traditional Student Information: Current students can now register for spring and winter intersession classes through December 6. Spring registration for new students will take place on January 8-10 with the first day of classes being held on January 9.

Transfer Student Information: The spring semester is a great time for traditional transfer students. If you've started your degree but need to finish, apply today. We are taking applications and making scholarship awards now. The deadline to apply will be January 6.

PACE Program Information: Working adults looking for a convenient and flexible college option will be able to register soon for the first 5-week course of the spring semester. Classes are offered in-class, online or in a hybrid option. The deadline for new student applications for this enrollment period is Monday, January 7.

Financial Aid Information: If you have not completed or renewed your FAFSA, now is the time. Whether you are working on spring or fall 2025 enrollment, schools need this for you to be considered for federal or state scholarship aid. We are currently accepting applications and awarding scholarship packages for high school and transfer students. The fall 2025 priority deadline for CBC scholarships is December 15. Visit cbc.edu/cost for help with this process.

To apply or start the conversation with a personal admissions counselor, visit cbc.edu/apply or contact us at either admissions@cbc.edu or 501-329-6873.

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

• From PHIRI page 5 •

The Urgent Need

With the rainy season just weeks away, we urgently need to finish the roof, rim beam, walls, and install windows and doors. Estimated costs:

- Rim Beam and Walls: \$600
- Roof: \$5,325
- Windows: \$3,874
- Doors: \$1,500

Additional Move-In Costs

To make the house livable, we need to complete plumbing, electrical, tiling, one bathroom, solar installation, a security fence, and a septic tank. Estimated costs:

- Plumbing: \$1,950
- Electrical: \$2,000
- Ceiling Lights: \$786
- Bathroom Fixtures: Bathtub: \$840; Vanity Sinks: \$870; Faucets: \$593
- Septic Tank and Leach Field: \$2,100
- Security Fence: \$5,273
- Solar Power: \$7,000

Future Items

We're happy to move in without everything complete, but with a family of six, these additional items will make life easier:

- Second bathroom fixtures (bathtub, sinks, faucets): \$2,303
- Kitchen cabinets and countertops: \$5,000
- Interior painting: \$2,000

Join Us in This Journey

More than just buildings, this home and ministry center provide a foundation for deeper discipleship, stronger community, and a brighter future for the villages we serve. Together, with your prayers and support, we can make this dream a reality.

Could we team up to tackle these urgent needs and realize this vision? Your presence in this journey of hope and change is truly appreciated.

How You Can Help

Your support is crucial as we embark on these new projects. Every donation, no matter the size, will have a profound impact and help us achieve these goals. If you feel led to contribute, please visit our donation page or contact us directly for more information.

Would you consider supporting us monthly? We would also be so grateful if you know of anyone who would like to hear about the work we do and would be interested in joining our team. Please reach out by messaging us on Facebook! We would certainly love to hear from you.

If you would like to make a contribution via check, please make checks payable to BMA Global - ChangeMaker and write on the memo line *For Joshua Phiri* and mail the check to P.O. Box 878, Conway, AR 72033. If you would like to give online, please go to BMA online giving page and make your donations to Joshua Phiri. All gifts are tax deductible.

SAVE THE DATE

for a Retirement Celebration Honoring

Terry Kimbrow

for his 31 years of service to Central Baptist College

May 9, 2025

Central Baptist College



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.

Grandview Baptist Church, Springfield, is seeking a youth pastor to fill a part-time position. Contact Pastor Gary Longstaff at 417-830-4803. (1124)

Oakland Baptist Church, Vicksburg, Mississippi, is seeking a full-time pastor. Inquiries should be made to Joshua Webb of the church's pulpit committee. He can be reached by phone at 479-747-9132 or by email at Josh.webb15@gmail.com. (1024)

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. (1124)

Ministers and ministries must be associated with the BMA. Entries for available preachers and for churches seeking pastors or staff will be published for three consecutive months; others will be limited to a single issue. Listings may be resubmitted quarterly, subject to editor approval. Send entries, including the name of the church of membership, to mmbpaper@gmail.com.

Deaths

Judith Edwina Heeter, affectionately known as Judy, went to her heavenly home on October 30, 2024, at the age of 86. Judy was a dedicated member of the First Baptist Church of Potosi, where her service in youth and bus ministry exemplified her unwavering commitment to spreading love of Jesus. Burial was at New Masonic Cemetery in Potosi.

Bonnie Laverne Jones, a cherished mother, sister, and friend passed away on November 26, 2024, at Southbrook in Farmington at the age of 87. Bonnie was a devoted member of the Charity Landmark Missionary Baptist Church in Bismarck for more than 40 years, where she spent much of her time cultivating relationships that would last a lifetime. Burial was at Masonic Cemetery in Bismarck.