

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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

Volume LXXXVII

St. Louis, MO • January 14, 2025

Issue No. 1

*May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you
and give you peace...*

Happy New Year!

World Missions Day: 75 Years of Global Missions

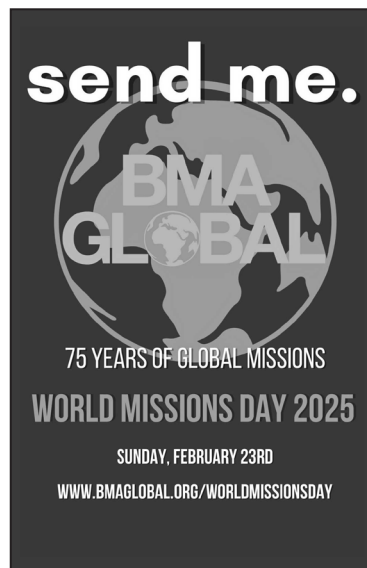
BMA Global is excited to announce that World Missions Day is Sunday, February 23, 2025! This year is especially significant as it is the 75th anniversary of both the BMA and when the BMA sent its first missionaries!

In 1950 the Baptist Missionary Association was formed, uniting around a common purpose: “We believe in Missions for all the World.” That year we sent our first missionaries, and we’ve never stopped. Who could have imagined we would send over 300 missionaries and partner with thousands of ChangeMakers who have planted churches in over 70 countries?

As an association, we have so much to celebrate. Over the past 75 years, God has blessed the BMA and its work across the globe as many have proclaimed, “Send me!” We are so thankful for those who have gone before us and laid the foundation that we are still building upon today.

We invite and urge our BMA churches to join us in this celebration by registering for World Missions Day. More information is available on our website, including ideas for how to celebrate, links for requesting materials such as posters and bulletin inserts, videos to share with your church, information about our missionaries, and t-shirts are available for purchase.

Also available this year is a special 75th-anniversary edition Gleaner magazine, which honors all our past BMA missionaries and looks to the future of BMA Global missions. Access these resources and information at bmaglobal.org/worldmissionsday.



The Danger of Pride

Larry Barker

The book of James reminds us of the God we serve and how He operates with those who seek to serve Him. God “resists the proud but gives grace (strength) to the humble.” In the world today of the celebrity pastor the caution to remain humble is not determined by the size of your congregation but the size of your ego. Pride is not necessarily the outflow of success, but rather, the condition of the heart. God makes the warning clear that you should not think more highly of yourself than you ought to think. According to Philippians, Jesus (God in the flesh) did not consider His position to be something used for His own advantage.

Proverbs 29:23 states clearly, “A man’s pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor.”

In *God-Initiated Leadership*, Bill Elliff states, “Pride lowers, humility exalts. A desire to be known will cause a man to be known for all the wrong reasons.” What are you known for? Are you known for control, being in charge, and always doing things your way? Or are you known for encouraging and equipping others by helping them to succeed? Are you ready to hear other ideas, knowing that quite often the ideas shared with you are much better than your own? God does not look favorably (in any way) upon anyone’s pride.

Pride has a way of showing up in every area of our lives including our attitudes and in our actions. It is always asking, what about me? How come I am not being noticed and recognized? Henry Blackaby speaks to this by stating, “When you complete the task God gave you and no one expresses thanks for what you have done, the Father’s grace surrounds you, and He reminds you that you have a heavenly reward where everything you have done in the Lord’s

• See *PRIDE* page 7 •

The women of Missouri BMA churches on a mission to help spread the gospel.

JOIN US-MARCH
1, 2025
MATTHEWS
MISSIONARY
BAPTIST
MATTHEWS,
MISSOURI-
10:00 A.M.

CURRENT
PROJECT

25% Missouri Missionary Baptist paper
25% Missionary-Bro. Juan Fernandez
work fund
25% Missionary-Bro. Mickeal Quillman
25% General fund

Send offerings to:
Missouri WMA
Sis. Connie Reifsteck
P.O. Box 190493
St. Louis, Missouri 63119

*We would love for each
of our churches to join
us. Come hear Sis.
Sharon Quillman speak
on the mission work
being done in Gambia,
Africa.*

Jesus came to
earth on a mission
and lived each day
with intentionality.

Youth Alive Conference

Sara Buckley

It is hard to describe the feeling you get when you see over 250 teens praise and worship the Lord. Youth Alive 2024 was incredible from start to finish.

We were blessed with awesome worship music provided by Central Collective. This incredibly talented group has shared their time and talents with us the last few years. It is always a blessing to worship with them!

• See *ALIVE* page 3 •

State Missions

Dear BMAMO Churches,

Here is a quote for pondering – from the book *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* (by John Mark Comer) – Dallas Willard's definition of a spiritual discipline: "The disciplines are activities of mind and body, purposefully undertaken, to bring our personality and total being into effective cooperation with the divine order. They enable us more and more to live in a power that is, strictly speaking, beyond us, deriving from the spiritual realm itself."

As I ponder that quote from Dallas Willard, it sounds familiar.

First this, "The disciplines are activities of mind and body." Isn't this what we strive to do each new year? Well don't stop, because it is a discipline, an activity our minds and bodies desperately need.

Around this time of year I hear all of the excuses and wise musings why New Year's resolutions, or 'disciplines,' do not work. Well, in my opinion that is not the fault of the discipline or the practice of said discipline – it is the fault of the disciple.

So remember, the most important thing in discipline is that you start at least one more time than you stop.

Secondly, "purposefully undertaken." Hopefully enough said, but in case it's not, suffice to say you have to be intentional in your discipline or you will never become a disciplined person.

Thirdly, "to bring our personality and total being into effective cooperation with the divine order." Now, isn't that what we as Christians hope for, long for, and so desperately need? To be conformed to the image of Christ! Discipline of our personality and body is the only way there.

Fourth, "they enable us more and more to live in a power that is, strictly speaking, beyond us." We are not capable of this level of spirituality but Christ is, and through the discipline of dying to self and allowing Christ to live through us we will achieve that heavenly image.

To quote an amazing missionary from Zambia (Mickeal Quillman), "When you are on a cross you are all in!"

Fifth, "deriving from the spiritual realm itself." "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

So go ahead, don't listen to the naysayers and make those New Year's resolutions. Make a list of the shortcomings and problems you have and match them with the discipline that will overcome them and get to work through the power of Christ.

May the Lord richly bless you is my prayer.

Bro. Ben



MISIÓN BAUTISTA BELÉN (Bethlehem Mission)

Serving Hispanic Families • St Louis Metro East

Juan Fernandez

pastorjuanfernandez@gmail.com • 618-581-8056

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)

Our Vision: Families for Christ around St. Louis Metro East gathering for listening, learning in constant discipleship for worshipping in spirit and truth for the God's glory.

Praises

- For the invitation to come and visit at youth conference ALIVE! Got to visit with Bro. Bryan Buckley, Galilean director, and the Quillmans (missionaries) – and what

a wonderful way to get to visit! We have our home Bible study five minutes from the venue where Alive was carried out. Praying the next Youth Alive conference the Lord blesses us to lead some of our students in the Hispanic families the Lord is having us reaching out, Can't wait!



- For the Christmas bonus from the BMA of Missouri that allowed us to have a nice Christmas celebration with our family! Thank you, very much.

- Our home Bible study continues to open doors to our neighbors and friends on Sunday evening.

- Daily prayer 6:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

- Social media devotionals every evening.

- Noe, a young man who was led to Christ and discipled for three months, had to move to Kentucky two years after contacting me to express his desire to become one of our men of peace for

his family in the area. He is now sharing his faith at work and every time he's allowed to share with family who lives in Honduras.

- We continue our Discipleship Class with brother Nahum and Ermilanda in Chesterfield.

- Ministry in a new home in the Florissant

• See MISIÓN BELÉN page 3 •

Financial Report BMA Of Missouri Missions December 2024

<u>Checking Account:</u>	
Balance November 30	\$ 37,809.29
<u>Income:</u>	
Missions	\$ 3,995.50
Garwood insurance	3,000.00
Total Income	\$ 6,995.50
Total Available	\$ 44,804.79
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Director, salary/bonus	\$ 900.00
Secretary, salary/bonus	400.00
Juan Fernandez, support	2,333.33
Juan Fernandez, bonus	1,000.00
Brad Miller, web fee	250.54
Brad Miller, annual gift	1,200.00
Total Expenses	\$ (6,083.87)
Balance December 31	\$ 38,720.92
<u>BMAMS Revolving Loan Investment:</u>	
Balance November 30	\$ 119,803.75
Interest	0.00
Balance December 31	\$ 119,803.75
Total in All Accounts December 31	\$ 158,524.67

Quarterly Financial Reports

Missouri Missionary Baptist Paper 4th Quarter 2024

Beginning Balance 10/1	\$ 23,924.13
Offerings	3,232.41
Funds Available	\$ 27,156.54
Salaries / Cmas Bonus	(3,200.00)
Printing & Mailing	(2,553.24)
Other Expenses	(107.94)
Ending Balance 12/31	\$ 21,295.36

Kenneth E. Gibson Grant Fund 4th Quarter 2024

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

BMA Of Missouri Minute Fund 4th Quarter 2024

Beginning Balance 9/1	\$ 2,990.15
Offerings	2,395.00
Funds Available	\$ 5,385.15
Travel	(86.04)
Misc Expenses	(18.00)
Ending Balance 11/30	\$ 5,281.11

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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• From MISIÓN BELÉN page 2 •

area for a Bible study.

- We've reached a young couple in St. Ann willing to continue ESL class outreach.
- A man in the Collinsville area asking to learn more about his faith in Jesus.

Prayer Requests

- For a smooth transition back into BMA Seminary work for the spring semester, to continue studies on Master of Arts (Pastoral Theology) degree.
- For a core team to join the vision and accomplish mission of Misión Belén.
- For our new group for men on Facebook to communicate about our devotional and activities for men.
- For salvation in each one of the contacts we have been blessed to have met since December 2020.
- 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 our monthly outreach throughout 2025, including God's provision and guidance to be able to solidify each man to be the man God wants them to be.
- For our participation in local activities with our kids, soccer, park visits, prayer walk, ESL class.



• For the safety and comfort of using our garage as a place of Bible study, fellowship and connection with new families in our community. We are still waiting on two new garage doors, which have been out of stock. Pray that soon our garage is sealed and sound for gathering in a safe manner on a weekly basis.

• For our summer outreach VBS! We can't wait to host this summer of activities with our friends from Texas who are coming to join us in this missionary effort.

We thank you and your church families who show us so much care and love by praying for us. The harvest is plentiful, and laborers are needed. Thank you for keeping us in your prayers, as we need wisdom to continue growing and expanding the vision to reach out to our new friends.

If you would like to come and visit us and help hand out flyers or invitations to our weekly Discovery Bible Study, feel free to contact us. We will feed you well and make sure you have a fresh updated prayer list with contacts!

In His Service,
Juan and Hannah Fernandez,
with Victoria, Eleanor and Juanito

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• From ALIVE page 1 •

We were also blessed by Bro. Miceal and Sis. Sharon Quillman. The Quillmans are home on furlough from Africa. Bro. Quillman brought us spirit-filled sermons challenging us to let the light of Christ shine. His sermons touched sponsors and teens alike. The breakout sessions were spirit filled as well, with Sis. Sharon Quillman pouring into the girls and ladies and Bro. Ben Kingston pouring into the boys and men.

It was an amazing conference. Souls were saved, hearts were touched, lives were changed. A special thanks to each of the committee men that work together through the year to bring this conference to life. May God bless each of you for your efforts!

It should also be noted that Bro. Dan Williams (the National Galilean promoter) and Sis. Lisa Cox (the Missouri GMA promoter) each had a booth set up so kids and sponsors could learn more about both programs in our work. WMA and Brotherhood also set up informational booths to help spread awareness in our work.

Make plans now to bring teens to the 2025 Youth Alive conference on December 29, 30, and 31.

(Photo credit to Sara Buckley and Lisa Cox.)



• Updates from Our Churches •

Bethel, Sikeston

Happy New Year, from Bethel, Sikeston.

We have had a very eventful December and a blessed year! On the 20th we had a good group to go Christmas caroling, and the Lord blessed us with good weather. It is always such a blessing to be able to sing to the shut-ins and lift their spirits!

Our youth put on a Christmas program on the morning of the 22nd. What an awesome job they all did with their parts. Thanks to Bro. Joe and Sis. Stephanie McElroy for working with our youth and putting this together! We had lots of visitors that morning. Prayerfully their hearts were touched by the message presented by the program. After the program we had a candle-light service. We had a Christmas party that evening which started with a short devotional from our pastor. Then we played a fun game, had refreshments, and everyone got a gift! Great fellowship and fun for all!

Bro. Billy had cataract surgery and is doing very well. We are so thankful for that!

Bro. Matt and Sis. Keeley Bolen took some of our youth to St. Louis for the Youth Alive conference!

We are looking forward to the coming year of 2025 to see what the Lord has in store for us. We are so grateful for the president that the Lord has allowed us to have. He needs our prayers daily.

May God bless you all!

*Billy Davis, Pastor
Joan Wood, Reporter*

Stony Point, Mineral Point

Happy January, everyone. We made it to the new year. We here at Stony Point wish

all of you a Happy New Year!

Here is what we have been up to: Sunday, November 24, the W.M.A. sponsored an auction to raise money for the Miceal Quillman project. We had set a goal of \$1000. Praise God, we raised over \$2000. Trenton and Kaylea Ruble made professions of salvation and will be baptized soon.

Two of our youth, Zana Evans and Kenzlea Ruble, met the semi truck delivering wreaths for Wreaths Across America, and afterwards went to lay wreaths at some veterans' graves in the area. Our Christmas program was presented on Sunday, December 22nd, and enjoyed by all in attendance.

We have had several members ill. So please say a prayer those who have been dealing with sickness get well.

Hoping everyone has a wonderful month!

*Claude Evans, Pastor
DeLaina Stegall, Reporter*

Landmark, DeSoto

Hello for the first time in 2025.

We've had both joy and sorrow over the past Christmas season. We rejoice in the great gift of God's Son (always), but we've had some pretty hard losses here.

On December 10th, we lost Bro. Rick Causey. On December 12th, Sis. Bonnie Stinson went home to be with the Lord. And on December 17th, Sis. Jean Haderlein joined them. We are still grieving the loss of these three beloved church family members, but we still rejoice in knowing they are home in heaven with Christ. Overall, they're doing W-A-A-Y better than we are. We ask that

you pray for us during this hard time.

We did have a Christmas fellowship worship time on December 22nd during our evening services, followed by some light refreshments afterward. Those who were able to attend were very blessed by the songs, fellowship, and of course, Christmas cookies!

Praying that God continues to bless and shield all of us during this coming year!

*Len Young, Pastor
Barbara Williams, Reporter*

First, Potosi

Greetings from First Baptist Church, Potosi. Our God is an awesome God and reveals how wonderful He has worked in our church these past few months.

We have baptism Sundays on the last Sunday of each month, which is when children are in the sanctuary with their families for family Sunday.

We have been very busy the past few months with activities. We participated in the Vespers program which was held in the high school gymnasium but sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance. More were in attendance than previous years. And it was an extremely well-done celebration for the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. God's presence was felt by many.

FBC Kids meet on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00. This program is for the children four-years old up to entering sixth grade. High school seniors – age 22 have meetings every other Tuesday, and it is called Thrive. MomCo meetings are on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the

month. This is for the mothers of the younger children.

Overflow is open Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00 to 2:00. Some days more than forty families go through. The lines were long but our wonderful volunteers handled it with grace.

Our youth and sponsors attended the Youth Alive conference. A lot of prayers were going up for this conference. Bro. and Sis. Quillman from Zambia were the teachers for the event.

We have lost some very special Christians in the last year, but they are rejoicing with Jesus. We had a beautiful candlelight service. We are continuing our Wednesday night Bible Study with Bro. Jim and then we have Tuesday evening Bible study. Our attendance has been great but more than that the spirit of God is felt deep in our hearts and souls.

Please pray for us as we pray for you.

*Jim Ainley, Pastor
Deborah Rauhut, Reporter*

Kewanee, New Madrid

Happy New Year! We hope that you all find the blessings as you begin this new year. Our teens traveled to the Youth Alive Conference in St. Charles, Dec. 29-31. They had a lot of fun meeting up with friends, staying up late, swimming in the pool, going to the movies, worshipping with Central Collective, and learning about being a light to spread Christ.

Our revival with Bro. Ed Stephenson has been postponed due to inclement weather. We will update when we have new dates for the revival.

The ladies will have their WMA meeting on January 21st at 6:30. The meeting will be held at First Baptist Matthews. Our ladies on the "Pound-in-a-Purse" committee will be planning this event soon! This fundraiser is a lot of fun and benefits Camp Garwood.

We hope you all have a

great start to your new year! Please "like" our Facebook page, Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church, to keep up with future events.

*Dan Wisely, Pastor
Lisa Cox, Reporter*

Bates Creek, Potosi

It is hard to believe that we are finishing 2024 and starting 2025. God has blessed our church greatly over the last year. Our church attendance has been good. We have been blessed with visitors. Our youth group has grown.

We have also been blessed by visits from some of our missionaries. You are all invited to join us when the Quillman family comes to visit on February 16 at 5 p.m. They will be sharing about their mission work in Zambia, Africa. All are welcome!

Bro. Ben Kingston visited our church and we took the BMAMO assessment as a church. If your church hasn't invited him yet, get on his schedule. It was great for personal growth and for growth as a church!

May God continue to work in each of our churches to grow the kingdom.

*Bryan Buckley, Pastor
Sara Buckley, Reporter*

Oak Hill, Alton

HELLO to all from Oak Hill! The start of 2025 has been a cold one, but we hope and pray that it has been a pleasant start for a great and blessed year!

Our Christmas play/program was called "The Nativity." We have two teenagers that alternated reading, Ethan Williams and Emily Smith. They read the story and our kids acted out what was read. Sis. Abby Casey and Sis. Merinda Crigler did a wonderful and amazing job of directing the play/program.

We dismissed church on January 5th because we were afraid of the ice and snow that we were expected to receive on Sunday. Thank the Lord we did not receive a lot

~ Upcoming Events ~

World Missions Day – Feb. 23

MO WMA/Brotherhood Annual Meeting – March 1; 10 a.m.; First Baptist, Matthews

Spring Retreat – March 21-22; Speaker Miceal Quillman; Camp Garwood

BMAA National Meeting – April 22-24; Pathway Baptist Church, Waxahachie, TX

Renewal Weekend – April 25-26; Camp Garwood

Send event info to mmbpaper@gmail.com.

of either and no one got hurt. That was the main purpose for dismissing services because we have a lot of elderly people in our congregation.

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*

Ozark Heights, Potosi

Ozark Heights sends greetings and prayers to all our brothers and sisters for a blessed New Year. We pray God will bless each church with souls saved and called servants to work for the cause of Christ. Prayers are pouring out for many who are going through health issues. May God bless each of you with renewed health and happiness found only in our Lord and Saviour.

In our November 6th Wednesday night business meeting the church voted to remodel the foyer, bathrooms, and nursery. We also voted to begin our Wednes-

day evening services at 6 p.m. starting January 1st, 2025. All evening services will now be consistent. The church voted to buy a 9,000-watt generator to send to Tennessee/North Carolina. Someone anonymously purchased and donated a second 9,000-watt generator. God loves a cheerful giver! On November 16th the church sent another load of supplies including the two new generators to those devastated by the flood. Thanks to Bro. Casey and Sis. Lindsey Kelso who have made two trips to take loads to help those suffering from the flood in September. With winter coming on the need is ever growing. Praise God for providing during the suffering of so many. We also thank Bro. Butch and Sis. Loretta Wilkinson for providing their one-ton pickup capable of carrying two large generators and a large quantity of needed supplies.

Both November and December were busy preparing for activities around Christmas. Bro. Bill Gau, our music director, working with Bro. Jeff Moorman, our Youth Di-

rector, began practicing for the Christmas service. The WMA ladies also began collecting names for baskets for our shut-ins, and handouts of fruit and candy after the program.

Sunday evening, December 1st, the church observed the Lord's Supper. It was beautiful. Bro. Petete provided the most beautiful preparation; preparing the church, reminding us of the cost of His crucifixion, walking us through the week prior including all the suffering related to the salvation Christ chose to provide for us through His death, burial and resurrection. It stirred hearts as the members stood to receive the ordinance established by our Lord and Savior.

The WMA ladies enjoyed their annual Christmas dinner at Black Bird cafe and had 24.

On December 8th, Bro. Jeff Moorman (Youth Director/Associate Pastor) started a program on Sunday evening called Teen Christian Standards. This program leads youth from ages 13 - 19 to make decisions about who

they are as a person, incorporating their own goals as a Christian, encouraging them through God's Word to make and live by their own godly standards as they grow into adults – not because their parents tell them but because they chose to live a life for Christ.

On December 11th Bro. Jeff began a Wednesday night class for those who are 5th grade and under. There they will learn more about the Bible and show them how they can learn great stories about the lives of many men and women who trusted God while having fun at the same time.

We had 16 who attended and enjoyed Youth Alive this year. They had a wonderful experience in serving the Lord. Our youth are the future of our churches and the Youth Alive program exposes them to others who serve the Lord and can inspire them to set goals to lead out in our churches far into the future.

Bro. Dwight and Sis. Cheryl Petete are doing a wonderful job leading Ozark Heights, and his messages are

truly blessing the hearts of old and new members. Bro. Dwight told me last week that they have never experienced a church with so much love. I have to say they fit right in, both having a loving attitude to everyone they meet. Praise God for leading them to Ozark Heights!

I (Bro. Gary) was so glad to have the ability to preach on Sunday evening, December 29th. The chemo takes so much away, but praise God, He filled my cup and it overflowed! Praising God for that opportunity and strength to fulfill my calling.

Our prayers are: God will heal the sick, protect and provide for our shut-ins, move us to be used to win souls and lead them to be baptized members, grow great missionaries to spread the Word, call us out and provide the means to support all of God's works, call out godly men to serve His churches, and overwhelm us with His Holy Spirit.

May God bless all His children!

*Dwight Petete, Pastor
Gary Gilliam, Reporter*

Send Me!

Dr. John David Smith

For seventy-five years, BMA Global Missions has been a testament to God's faithfulness, weaving a story of sacrifice, transformation, and hope across generations. Reflecting on its rich history, one cannot help but feel a deep sense of nostalgia – images of missionaries embracing foreign cultures, building bridges of trust, and planting seeds of faith come to mind. This legacy is not merely a recollection of past triumphs but a vivid reminder of the incarnational call to missions: to live among, serve, and love people as Christ did. BMA's past blessings are more than milestones; they are guiding lights for future ministry, inspiring us to step into communities with humility and intentionality, carrying forward the gospel in both word and deed.

The incarnational approach to global missions is a vital model from Christ to us. THE INCARNATION is that divine event when the second person of the Trinity, Jesus Christ, became flesh and dwelt among us. The incarnational model of missions is when we follow the model of Christ to empty ourselves of home, family, and ambitions to live among people to whom God has called us, serve with no inhibitions, and love in an unlimited fashion. Incarnational missions is the expression of the declaration, "Send Me!"

John G. Paton was a Scottish missionary to the New Hebrides Islands (modern-day Vanuatu) in the

South Pacific during the 19th century.

Paton and his wife Mary arrived on the island of Tanna in 1858, fully aware of the dangers they faced. The island's indigenous people were largely unreached with the gospel and practiced cannibalism. Shortly after their arrival, Mary gave birth to a son, but tragedy soon struck. Both Mary and their infant son succumbed to fever, leaving Paton alone in a hostile environment.

Despite his profound grief and the constant threat of attack from the islanders, Paton remained resolute in his mission. He lived in a tree for weeks to escape hostile villagers and endured intense loneliness and danger. Eventually, his efforts bore fruit as he was able to gain the trust of some locals, sharing with them the transformative message of the gospel.

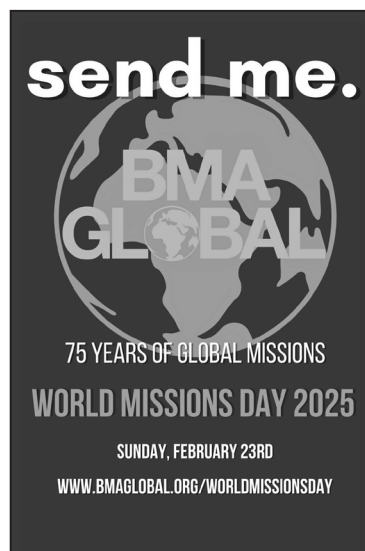
Years later, Paton returned to the islands after remarrying, this time serving on the island of Aniwa. Through his unyielding commitment and love, the entire population of Aniwa converted to Christianity. They even built a church, symbolizing their transformation and new faith.

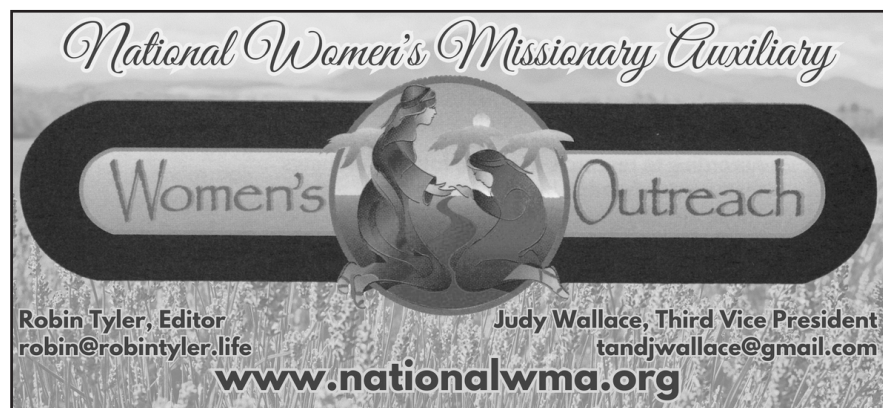
John G. Paton's story is a testament to the incredible cost of missionary service and the

power of God's work through those willing to risk everything for the sake of the gospel. His life continues to inspire generations of believers to take up the call to missions with unwavering passion and dedication.

Whether your congregation was recently established in a remote village in Papua New Guinea, began in a European city decades ago, or was planted in a small sawmill town in the southern United States in the 1800s, one truth remains: God used a simple sinner, saved by grace, as His incarnational instrument to share the gospel, disciple believers, and bring them together to form that congregation. Churches do not simply appear from nothing. There has to be a heart transformed by the gospel, a heart filled with the Spirit of God, a heart dominated by the Word of God, and a heart totally

given to the call of God's mission in a specific place. It is that missionary passion and dedication that God has used over and over in just about every corner of the globe to make His name known and fulfill His mission. There will never be a better, more innovative, less sacrificial, or more effective approach to missions than the complete surrender and service embodied in a pure-hearted "Send Me!"





His Princess

Susie Edgar

I recalled a memory of my oldest granddaughter, Madison, today. She was only five when it happened and the only grandchild on both sides. She loved everything princess, so as you would expect, we gave her something that a princess would love for Christmas that year. You can only imagine the picture of her trying to walk in those plastic pink slippers. Dresses, gowns, shoes, coats, ribbons, glasses. If it could be bought, she had it.

As she played with her pile of princess gifts, she looked up at her grandfather and said, "Look Papa, look at all the princess things I got for Christmas," and began to model for everyone. Papa watched attentively and bragged on each one. She really believed she was a princess.

Then her grandfather said, "Madison, come sit in Papa's lap, I want to tell you something." She jumped into her Papa's lap and he began. "Madison, you know you are a real princess, don't you?" "I am?" she replied. "Oh yes, you are a daughter of a King. God is your father and He is the King of all kings." She looked up into her grandfather's eyes and said, "Papa, that's cool!" and off she went. From that point on she became "Princess Madison."

End of story? Not just yet.

Madison loved being a princess so much that she only wore dresses to kindergarten. She was very careful about getting anything on her dresses or messing up her hair.

One day some of her friends at school started making fun of her because she always wore dresses to school. One girl said, "Why do you wear dresses every day?" Madison said, "Because I am a princess." The little girl, named Kristen, laughed and said, "You are not a princess!" Madison replied by saying, "I am, too, and my father is a King." The little girl looked at her and said, "Your father is not a king." "Yes, He is King of all kings, God of the universe." "No, he is not!" snapped the little girl. Yes He is. I know that for sure and you can be a princess too if you want to." "I can?" Kristen replied.

Kristen just stared at Madison. She didn't quite understand what was being said but Madison sounded so sure of herself. Madison spent the next few minutes explaining about God, how she was God's child and if you are a daughter of a King, you have the title "Princess."

I wish I had a recording to hear the entire conversation, but whatever it was the little girl wore a dress to school the next day and had her hair all fixed just like a princess. It's amazing to me how God has made the plan so simple even a five-year-old can understand it.

One mother called my daughter-in-law Deana and said "Deana, Madison wears dresses to school every day, right?" "Yes, she really likes dresses. She will only wear something else if I make her and there is always a fight and she goes to school crying. I figure it's not worth the turmoil in our home, so she wears dresses most of the time."

The lady said to Deana, "Well, yesterday we had to go to the store and get some dresses because Kristen insists she is a princess."

You know ladies, if you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you are a princess too. If we are daughters of the King of kings, then you have the title "Princess" as a birthright.

What does it entail to be a princess? With privilege comes responsibility.

First, you have the responsibility to ask Jesus into your heart. Then comes the privilege of being a princess.

What does it take to behave like a princess? In Matthew 22:37 Jesus tells us to love your God with all your heart.

As women, we compare ourselves to everything that is on television, in

magazines, everybody in our church, and everybody in our neighborhoods. The first thing a princess does? She avoids the comparison trap. We need to avoid the comparison trap. You may have a neighbor who has three beautiful children who are clean all the time. Her home looks like something out of House Beautiful. She has a part-time job. She takes a class at local college, goes to all the Bible studies, and volunteers for the school and church and she is a size 4!

On the other hand, you have two kids, you can't quite get a grip on the house, and you hope the health department doesn't come by.

We always think that the grass is greener on the other side. But you know what? They both have to be mowed!

I saw an interview with Marlo Thomas, Danny Thomas's daughter. She had written a book about different celebrities and athletes and the things that had been said at the right time in a person's life and what it had meant to them. She was on the Katie Curic show. They were talking about her book and the book was to help raise money for St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Katie Curic asked, "Marlo, you have written about so many people. What about you? What is your chapter? What was the most important thing someone said to you in your life?"

Marlo said, "When I was 18 years old, I was in my first summer play and I was so thrilled. The reviews were great. But the vein that ran through the reviews were, will she ever be as good as her dad and will she last as long as her dad." She asked her dad, "How can I ever live up to your legacy? I am going to change my name and be someone else." This is the advice Danny Thomas gave his daughter.

"Marlo, I raised you to be a thoroughbred. And you know what they do? They have blinders on. They get in there and they run their race and they don't pay any attention to what is going on around them. I raised you to be a thoroughbred."

She calmed down and thanked her dad. The next day as she was getting ready for her show, in her dressing room arrived a box with a big red bow on it and the note inside said "Run Your Race Baby." Inside was a set of old horse blinders.

So, you need to run your own race and stop worrying about what is going on around you.

Everyone wants to be accepted by others, but you were not made to fit in. You, as a princess, were created to stand out. To live the kind of life that leads others to Him. Remember, it's your choices that will pave your path to life – God will not force you to do anything. He has given you a free will to walk away from Him or to walk to Him.

You can put on your crown at any time and let people know that you belong to Him. You have a royal call on your life. You have a purpose designed by God. He wants to work in your life to accomplish more than you would ever dare to dream.

We are examples. People watch us and they are waiting to see the choices we make.

Once a professional athlete said, "We have a choice: we can be a good role model or a bad role model." That is the same with us as princesses. We have to always model what is good..

Scripture

Titus 2:7-8 – *In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing incorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil things to say of you.*

I know how hard it is for us to look at our lives and think of ourselves as royalty. But the truth is, God is our King and we are chosen by Him

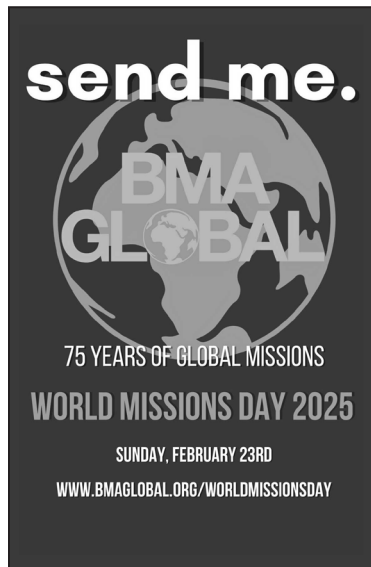
1 Peter 2:9 – *But ye are a chosen generation (race) a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar (special) people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*

If we are princesses then we need to know how to act like a princess.

2 Timothy 4:1-8 – *I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick (living) and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom. Preach the word; be instant (urgent) in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears. And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all*

• See **PRINCESS** page 7 •

BMA World Missions Day Send Me: Asia



With World Missions Day right around the corner, we have been reflecting on all that God has done through BMA Global since its inception.

In Asia, BMA Global has been actively engaged in church planting since the early 1950s. Over the decades, the work has expanded from initial efforts in Taiwan and Japan to a broader presence throughout Asia, including more than ten countries.

In China the Johnsons are reaching a massive international community.

In Papua New Guinea, the Hambrice and Sanders families continue to teach and translate the Bible for the people in their village, and now these people have a heart to share the story of Jesus with those outside their village.

In the Himalayas, Jacob and Miriam are hosting Bible studies and are committed to sharing the gospel where it is not welcome.

In Thailand the Yaebeans are training up pastors and the Lingles are planting a new church.

In India, the Prakashes continue to invest in both young people and leaders alike.

In the Philippines, the Lees train future leaders and the Ballards are planting churches.

These are just our American missionaries. In these countries plus Cambodia, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Taiwan, and Myanmar, ChangeMakers are also planting churches, discipling believers, and growing the Kingdom. We could not do what we do without our ChangeMakers.

And our missionaries and ChangeMakers could not do what they do without your support. World Missions Day is an opportunity for our BMA church family to rally around the purpose for which we exist – to fulfill the Great Commission.

Request resources and learn more about how you and your church can get involved in World Missions Day by visiting bmaglobal.org/worldmissionsday or emailing sidney@bmaglobal.org.

We would love to see more churches than ever join us this year in our celebration of 75 years of global missions!

Note From BMAA Nominating Committee

Thom South, Chairman

The Nominating Committee of the BMAA has been assigned the duty “to encourage the submission of names of prospective members of committees and boards of trustees by the executive officers of the departments and agencies as well as from the general consistency, including state and local associations” and “churches.” (Quotations are from the Statement of Principles of Cooperation.)

The committees and trustees for which the nominating committee submits nominees include BMA Seminary, Lifeword, BMA Financial Services, Baptist Publishing House, Daniel Springs Camp, the North American and International Revolving Loan Funds and Moral Action.

If you know someone in your area who could add quality and experience to the committee or board of trustees for one of the BMAA’s departments or agencies, please submit their name and contact information to thom@conwaycorp.net. Or you could also reach me at 501-607-1234. We will be receiving suggestions for nominees until the end of January.

• From PRINCESS page 6 •

things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Response: Ladies, I encourage you to get a crown. Maybe you have one already but they are easily found at your local store. Keep it

close when times come that you doubt your true inheritance. Just place it on your head and say, “I AM A PRINCESS because I am a daughter of THE KING!” Not because of what you have done but what He has done for you.

One day you can exchange this crown for a real crown God has waiting for you. What will your crown look like? Will it be just plain gold? Will it be filled with jewels? It’s up to you.

Have you been acting like a princess? Have you been an example so that others will look at you and say, “I want what she has because it is the real thing!”

• From PRIDE page 1 •
service will be remembered.” By the way, it is not about you and it is not about me and it is good to remind ourselves of that truth daily.

Pride shows up not only in our attitudes and emotions, having an occasional pity party, but it also surfaces by believing you can handle the situation yourself. You begin believing (and it is a lie) that you do not need to seek God’s assistance or guidance. You begin to think that you know what you are doing and how to do it. After you begin to “figure out” a few things in the ministry, if you are not very careful, you can give in to the temptation of pride that you now know what you are doing. Blackaby continues, “Self-regard will seek to convince you that you can handle your dilemma through your wisdom, resources, and hard work. Pride will also rob glory from God and seek to give it to you.”

Pride amplifies how mistreated you believe you have been, causes you to think you can rely on your own skill set, and it causes you to overfocus on comparing your ministry and church to others. Comparison can be very unhealthy, because no church or situation is the same. God desires to work through you in the unique situation where He has placed you. Blackaby speaks to this also: “At times, it is easier to diminish others’ spiritual victories than to honestly confront your own failures.” Are you prone to run others down to hopefully make it appear that you are a notch above or more spiritual than them? Are you able to rejoice when others see spiritual revival and awakening and you don’t?

In *God-Initiated Leadership*, Bill Elliff challenges us take the “Diotrephes test.” Why that test? Because the Bible says this in 3 John 9, “Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them.” His problem was a pride problem. He loved to have first place, yet he refused biblical truth. He criticized the leaders while not having a good testimony himself. Bill

challenges us to ask ourselves these questions: “Do I seek to be first? Do I submit to biblical truth? Do I criticize other good leaders? Do I humbly submit to spiritual authority? Do my actions match my words? And, do I have a good testimony?” Great questions to keep us humble.

You must remind yourself that if your goal is to be recognized then your focus is on you more than the glory of God, and God will not share His glory with anyone. But when you see Him for who He really is it should quickly remind you of who you are and who you are not. There are two things you can be 100% sure of: There is a God, and you are not Him. If you truly understand His holiness, then you will never enter His presence without a sense of holy awe. It humbles you as you begin to grasp the incredible price paid at Calvary for you. The ministry is not about making you successful, accomplished, or happy. Our lives and ministry are meant to glorify God and Him alone.

The picture is clear in Isaiah 6:5, “*Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.*” Seeing and seeking God’s glory causes you to properly bow in His presence. Bill gives us great advice here, “Stay before God in the Word and in prayer long enough to rid yourself of the desire to be known.” The way to safeguard against pride is to stay in His presence and allow trusted friends to have the liberty to address any pride they see rising up in you. Listen to notice if you are talking more about you or more about Him.

Man was not made to be worshiped, and when he is, he is not capable of handling it and it can be very destructive. Remain open to evaluating your motives and any pride that is trying to slip up and deceive you. Bill’s wisdom points out the danger of pride: “A lifetime of humility can be undermined in a moment of unguarded pride.”

CENTRAL BAPTIST COLLEGE
HOMECOMING 2025
 JANUARY 31ST - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST



**Central Baptist College
 Homecoming Schedule**

January 31 - February 1
 For more information visit cbc.edu/homecoming
 or contact Mallory Guyton at mguyton@cbc.edu
 (501-205-8875).

Friday
 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Chili Cook-off.....Dining Hall
 6:00 - 8:00 p.m..... Alumni/Student Hangout.....A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse

Saturday
 9:30 a.m. Homecoming Court Reunion Tea.....Mabee Student Building
 11:00 a.m. Alumni Luncheon.....Dining Hall
 1:00 p.m. Women's/Men's Basketball.....A.R. Reddin Fieldhouse

**"We believe in Missions for all the World."
 Foreign Missionaries through the Years**

In 2025, the BMA of America is celebrating its 75th anniversary. This celebration also includes 75 years of mission work. Many missionaries have been sent out through these years to do their part in spreading the gospel to places in the United States and in many other parts of the world.

There is not enough space here to recognize all the individuals who have served as missionaries for our Association, but this puzzle is designed to remind us of some of those who have served in foreign countries over those years.

A few names of missionaries are listed below, along with the countries where they served or are currently serving. Just for fun, while you think about the work done through the BMA over these 75 years, see if you can find and circle the last names of those given in the list.

B A T E M A N L H E F L I N H
 A S P O Q R I S N E R I J B P
 R W Q W X F J O H N S O N V V
 P M U K G O E F B Z G N P W W
 O E I A R A C C N O S H L M I
 U A L V D Z R A W I B R R E L
 L D L C M O R R I S V O D D L
 I E M V R I J E I P Q B K I S
 N A A Y D O J Y K N A U I C O
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 R L L O Y D D K R V B T D S J
 L J K Y Z Q O U E A K D O O L
 A A O L Q Q U B E R N S U N A
 D W B C O S T A J D A K F S B
 D T J P H I R I L A Y P S L S

- M. S. Arrington, Bolivia
- Jack Bateman, Taiwan
- Charles Bobo, Japan
- Darlene Carey, Philippines
- Charles Costa, Lebanon
- Tony Crocker, Mongolia
- David Dickson, Central America
- Jeff Franks, Ukraine
- Duane Heflin, Costa Rica
- Buddy Johnson, Mexico
- Jerry Kidd, Bolivia
- John Ladd, Nicaragua
- Marvin Lloyd, Nicaragua
- Melvin Meade, Philippines
- Harold Morris, Brazil
- Joshua Phiri, Zambia
- Johnmichael Poulin, Peru
- Mickeal Quillman, Zambia
- Bryan Risner, Romania
- Johnny Willson, Australia


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)

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.




CENTRAL BAPTIST COLLEGE

A Legacy of
FAITH

6TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GALA

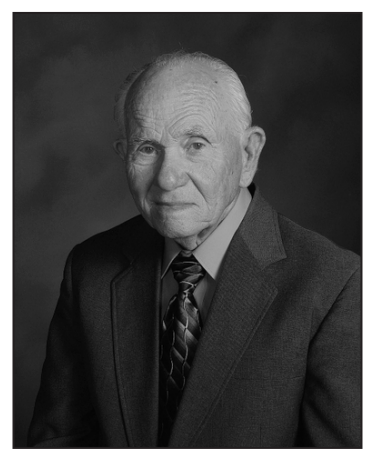
FEBRUARY 28, 2025
 6:00 p.m.

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH
 150 AMITY ROAD • CONWAY, AR



Retired BMA Pastor Dies
(via Baptist Trumpet)

Wayne Lester Betts, 96, of Cassville, MO., passed away December 27. His pastorates included Bethany Baptist Church in Cassville. A Navy veteran, he taught high school art in Cassville, MO, for 39 years.



Survivors include his wife of 68 years, Carolyn Harper Betts; six children: Jon (Debbie) Betts of Vidalia, LA.; Don (Linda) Betts of Greenbrier, AR; Mark (Gaye) Betts of Decatur, AR; Randal (Jeannine) Betts of Conway, AR; Leslie (David) Shofner of Damascus, AR; and Loi "Michele" Betts of Clinton, AR; a sister, 15 grandchildren; and 22 great-grandchildren.

Deaths

Rick Causey passed away on December 10. He was a member of Landmark Baptist Church in DeSoto.

Bonnie Stinson, 80, passed away on December 12 at Camelot Nursing Center in Farmington. She was a member of Landmark Baptist Church in DeSoto. Burial was at Woodlawn Cemetery in DeSoto.

Shirley "Jean" Haderlein, 87, passed away on December 17 at Scenic Nursing & Rehabilitation in Herculaneum. She was a member of Landmark Baptist Church in DeSoto. Burial was at DeSoto City Cemetery.

BMA Seminary Free Class

In conjunction with the BMA's 75th anniversary, BMA Seminary will offer a free course entitled *Missionary Biographies: 75 Years of (BMA) Missions*. Running from February 24 to April 18 this course will cover the missionary work of Jack Bateman, M.S. Arrington, Buddy Johnson, and John Ladd. 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. Registration must be completed at least one week in advance of the class.