

# The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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

Volume LXXXVII

St. Louis, MO • February 11, 2025

Issue No. 2

## James Edwin Hoffmann – A Tribute

Jim Hoffmann and Jamie Eye

*(Editor’s Note: After hearing of the passing of Bro. James Hoffmann I felt it befitting to dedicate space in this next issue as a tribute to the man who served thirty-three years as editor of our paper. I reached out to his family with this idea and received contributions from his daughter (Jamie Eye) and his son (Jim Hoffmann). What follows is the combined work of those contributions.)*

When I say I am the child of a preacher, that is not a fully accurate description. Dad preached, but that’s not really what he spent his life doing. Dad was a minister, a pastor, a shepherd. While many thought the important part of his job was done standing in the pulpit, he knew that his job was prayer and study. Not just to prepare for those minutes in the pulpit but to prepare for his real workplace – in kitchens, living rooms, hospital rooms and funeral homes. He understood that God’s call for him was not only to teach but to comfort, console and just be there for people. And he never seemed to tire of being there.

People needed the minister, the man of God visible, touchable in their lives. They needed someone who cared. Dad recognized his calling was to be that man reflecting God’s love and care to those around him. He did this faithfully day and night for over 60 years.

When the coat and tie came off, Dad didn’t change. There weren’t two men – the pastor and the other. There was just Dad the follower of Jesus. For Dad, being a pastor, being a Christian, wasn’t an occupation, it was a way of life that permeated everything he did and touched everyone he encountered. He didn’t just teach God’s ways, he tried his best to live them.

Dad grew up attending Bethany Baptist Church of St. Louis, MO. At eighteen he surrendered to preach, and Bethany was the church that ordained him. After high school graduation Dad attended Central Baptist College in Conway. There, when he was supposed to be learning Greek and hermeneutics and sermon construction, he met a young lady from one of the cotton fields just down the road from here. I wonder if she anticipated that holding hands in the dishwasher while working in the cafeteria would lead through the hills of Arkansas to the mountains of Alaska to the lakes of Michigan before ending up back at Dad’s home church of Bethany. And all along the way they touched lives, made friends and followed God.

Dad’s ministry touched a lot of different people in a lot of different places. He pastored twelve churches in four states, including New Hope (DeSoto, MO), First (Potosi, MO) and Bethany. He served as editor of the Missouri Missionary Baptist newspaper for thirty-three years, and as State Missions Director for a period of time. He was also involved in Alive and Camp ministries within the State work.

Mom and Dad spent a lifetime together – if you count 61 years of marriage a lifetime – following God. Along the way God blessed them with a son and two daughters, eight grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. In his last years most of what he talked about were his great

• See HOFFMANN page 8 •



*Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*

BMA America National Meeting

**send me.**

75 Years of Global Missions

**APRIL 22-24, 2025**

**PATHWAY BAPTIST CHURCH  
WAXAHACHIE, TEXAS**

### Important Date Change

In order to accommodate the limited availability of scheduled speakers

Bro. Michel Poirier and Bro. Mickeal Quillman

the dates for the  
Missions Symposium and Mid-Year Meeting

of the BMA of Missouri

have been changed to

**May 9th-10th**

The meetings will be held at  
Bethel Baptist Church of Sikeston

### 2025 Missouri WMA-Sponsored Retreat

September 5 & 6

Yalanda Merrell, Speaker

~ • ~

Drury Plaza Hotel Cape Girardeau Conference Center  
3351 Percy Dr. • Cape Girardeau, MO

~ • ~

Retreat Fee: \$70.00 payable to MO WMA  
(Mail to: Janet Widger, 5014 Hwy N, Salem, MO 65560)

Deadline: August 22, 2025  
(after that, the fee will be \$80.00)

~ • ~

For Hotel Reservations: 1-800-325-0720

(Use group #10118265)

Room rate is \$155.00 (plus tax)

Deadline to get room in our block is August 3

## State Missions

Dear BMAMO Churches,

As you know, we said “farewell” to Bro. Jim Hoffmann last month. We as an association give a flag to the widows of our pastors now, and Sis. Mary sent a card of appreciation to the Association.

The card was offered from the Hoffmann family: Mary, Jim and Laura, Jamie and Darrell, and Jana and Matt. It was written to the Baptist Missionary Association of Missouri. “Thank you for the token of love you gave me for Jim's memory. The flag will always remind me of his love for his Lord. Thank you to those who put it together. Jim loved the Baptist Missionary Association of Missouri! He prayed many prayers for it to stand strong. Thank you for all the prayers, phone calls, cards, and words of encouragement during his illness and home-going. He would tell you to fight the good fight!”

Amen. And I wanted to share this card with the Association as your current Missions Director. I am eternally grateful for Bro. Jim's and Sis. Mary's service to the Association in this capacity, and also as our paper editor for many years, and he pastored many of our churches. He truly was a servant to the BMAMO.

May the Lord richly bless us as we strive to imitate Jim's and Mary's service to our precious Lord and the Association He has called us to.

On an Associational note, I would like to encourage all of our churches to start promoting the men's retreat. We will be getting more information out in March's paper, but the theme centers around men mentoring and encouraging men, so please start pushing this date of April 25 and 26. Put a sign-up sheet on your bulletin board and encourage your men to sign up. It is a free event. (That doesn't mean that it is cheap or unprepared!) Bro. Bryan Buckley does a great job in this area, and I am truly excited about what God is doing in our Association in the area of men mentoring men.

Our Missions Symposium will be at Bethel at Sikeston, MO, this year on May 9 and 10. Bro. Michel Poirier and Bro. Mickeal Quillman will be our guest missionary speakers for this meeting. Also, Bro. Juan and I will be presenting our specific work here in the state of Missouri and Illinois. Please make plans to come. Again, put up a sign-up sheet and have as many of your folks as possible to come. I believe they would be encouraged. There will be more details to come. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Billy Davis or myself. We are truly looking forward to these meetings.

Now, on a spiritual note, one of the things that I have struggled with throughout my spiritual journey is this whole idea of trials and tribulations. As someone with the spiritual gift of prophecy (and of course that's not the ability to foretell but the ability to “forthtell” in other words) my spiritual gift is the ability to apply scripture to a particular situation. This is a pretty handy gift to have for a pastor, just like the gift of teaching or exhortation is good for a pastor. But one of the fleshly uses of the prophet is to see everything in black-and-white. When things aren't going well I'm tempted to believe that God is punishing me, but when I can't put my finger on a specific sin, I am left to figure out is God just doing this for giggles? You and I know that that's not how God operates so there has to be another reason. Certainly if there is sin in our lives we need to put the puzzle together and repent, but when you can't really put your finger on a specific sin, what's going on?

These last two weeks for me have been an especially trying time. I'm not complaining, just letting you know of a reality, if you will. What the Holy Spirit has offered to me is that this is an excellent opportunity for me to practice the discipline of the joy of the Lord. You know

when things are going well, when you feel well, when the bank account is good, when everyone likes you and everyone is singing your praises, it's pretty easy to be happy in the Lord. But when life turns with any of those aforementioned things and they change to the negative, all of a sudden, if we're not careful, we start to whine and complain. Well, that is not the life that God has called us to. He wants us to practice the joy of the Lord in the good and the bad, on the mountain and in the valley. So, if perhaps you're going through some difficult times, I want to lovingly encourage you to see this as an opportunity to practice the discipline of the joy of the Lord. Let's rehearse a few realities: You're still going to heaven. You still have the Word of God as your guide. You have the Spirit of God as your personal tour guide. You have the church of God as your support group. And you have the Great Commission as your job description. So, let's suit up and show up!

I love you and I appreciate your prayers.

May the Lord richly bless you and your efforts to win your community and beyond for Christ.

Bro. Ben Kingston

### Financial Report BMA Of Missouri Missions January 2025

<u>Checking Account:</u>	
Balance December 31	\$ 38,720.92
<u>Income:</u>	
Missions	\$ 1,603.72
Garwood insurance	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total Income	\$ <u>2,603.72</u>
Total Available	\$ 41,324.64
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Director, salary	\$ 450.00
Secretary, salary	200.00
Juan Fernandez, support	2,333.33
Missions Director, mileage	89.77
Hoffmann, love offering	<u>500.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$ <u>(3,573.10)</u>
Balance January 31	\$ 37,751.54
<u>BMAMS Revolving Loan Investment:</u>	
Balance December 31	\$ 119,803.75
Interest	<u>0.00</u>
Balance January 31	\$ <u>119,803.75</u>
Total in All Accounts January 31	\$ 157,555.29

*Missions Offerings: Please make checks payable to  
"BMA OF MO MISSIONS" and send to:  
BMA of MO Missions, c/o Stacie Hatfield  
1220 Park Drive, St. Clair, MO 63077*



**MISIÓN BAUTISTA BELÉN**  
**(Bethlehem Mission)**  
Serving Hispanic Families • St Louis Metro East  
Juan Fernandez  
pastorjuanfernandez@gmail.com • 618-581-8056

*But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. (Ephesians 2:4-5)*

#### Praises

• For a divine call to preach and teach the gospel to our families in this part of the country. The gospel will always bring challenges to a status quo of our society. We have heavy conversations in regards to doing the right thing during these difficult and challenging times for some of our families. We are just getting ready to have a special

time saying goodbye to one of our dearest friends and his family from Nicaragua. They had hopes for a better outcome for them, that new laws for immigration would help them to accomplish their American dream. But it didn't happen. Because of this situation, they are flying home in the next few days. Since December 2023 when I met them,

• See **MISIÓN BELÉN** page 3 •

### The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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## Camp Garwood

Greetings from Camp Garwood! It's been a few months, so I have some things to update.

First, as you know, our big project this year is the new nurse hut/check-in area/evangelist building. The old canteen building is now down. We have started the dirt work and are making plans to pour concrete. The Master's Builders will be here March 31 - April 11. We will need to prepare a meal for the workers each day. Sis. Bea Evans is lining up help. If you are interested, please coordinate with her.

We lost a tree during the ice storm. One of the pine trees fell across the road and hit Dorm 6, doing some roof and ceiling damage.

We have the following events scheduled for camp this spring:

- March 21-22 – Spring Retreat with Mickeal Quillman
- March 31-April 11 – Master's Builders
- April 4 – NMCC FCA work day
- April 25-26 – Renewal Retreat
- June 6-7 – Prayer Retreat with Bro. Larry Barker
- June 20-21 – GMA Retreat

We are looking forward to each of these events. Be sure to mark your calendar!

Our winter financial report includes funds set aside for the new building. Also, notice camp has received a gracious gift from the disbanding of Independence Missionary Baptist Church in Neelyville. It saddens us to hear of another church closing its doors, but we pray that the Lord will bless the remaining

members and encourage them through this process. We are honored they see camp as a worthy ministry for this gift.

Earlier this month we attended the visitation for our dear friend, Bro. James Hoffmann. While it saddens us that this side of heaven we will no longer see his smile or hear his laugh, we rejoice at the thought of his home-going. Bro. Hoffmann loved camp and has been a tremendous help over the years. He and Sis. Mary pressure washed and painted the dorm interiors, helped assemble bunks and worked on countless projects. A few years back, they would load up the grandkids and come to camp to work. They would stay all week, drive home on Sunday to preach, then come back to camp Sunday night to stay another week. The kids

### CAMP GARWOOD October 1, 2024 - January 31, 2025

<i>General Fund</i>	
Beginning Balance	\$ 10,179.23
Receipts	46,794.64
Disbursements	(10,570.57)
Ending Balance	\$ 46,403.30
<i>Food</i>	
Beginning Balance	\$ 0.00
Receipts	400.00
Disbursements	(380.13)
Ending Balance	\$ 19.87
<i>Insurance</i>	
Beginning Balance	\$ 0.00
Receipts	2,934.68
Disbursements	(4,000.00)
Ending Balance	\$ (1,065.85)
Ending Balance All Funds	\$ 45,357.85
Money Market Acct - as of 12/31/24	\$ 31,782.99

brought motorcycles to ride. I'll never forget, they were in a minivan type of vehicle packed full of luggage and motorcycles. I'm thankful he made the trip to camp one

last time this past summer. He was able to see the Dorm 7 remodel and visit for a while in the dining hall. We will continue to pray for Sis. Mary and the family.

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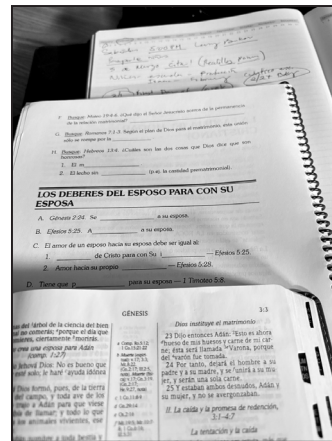
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medic6905@hotmail.com

#### • From MISIÓN BELÉN page 2 •

they have been living in constant fear and anxiety of being sent back home. So after praying and going over priorities, the head of the family has decided that going home in a self-voluntary way is the best, leaving them with an American dream that has become a nightmare. Like this family there are many who are living here in uncertainty. This is why our ministry is having amazing and numerous opportunities to connect with many Spanish-speaking families, to show them the Jesus of the gospel and think of them as missionaries as they are planning to head back home. Such



a time is this – the kingdom must advance. As long as we can communicate the gospel we will continue reaching out to anyone who is seeking the Lord for forgiveness,

peace, joy and justice.

• For our Brother Elvis Garcia, always building rapport for ministry opportunities. His unconditional support and advice, his experience serving Jesus and the Great Commission makes us comfortable to reach out to him and be comforted and blessed! Praise the Lord for his humble heart and wisdom shared as we go through this transition for our Hispanic families' missionary work,

especially in this pioneer work in the Midwest. Thank you, Bro. Elvis!

• For God's Word and the Holy Spirit's work. Let me share a wonderful testimony of His work during our last discipleship session. While reading Hebrew 13:4 the Lord convicted this young couple to do the right thing, and they are now planning to get married. We will start a series of Bible studies on biblical marriage in the upcoming weeks.

• For our contact here in Granite City with the CPS agency that led us to meet a family of six children and dad and mom. We are working every day to help this family recover their home by repairing doors, installing smoke detectors, electric GFI receptacles, removing debris, and many small repairs. This past Monday we just heard about a generous donor who will purchase the largest item on the home, the windows! Praise the Lord. Every day I get to pick the man up from his temporary residence that the agency provided for the children and have a prayer time with him and his wife as we prepare for the day. We are praying they can be returned home by February 10. They are still in need of new doors for their front and back deck entrance.

• For our new friends, two pastors in Granite

• See MISIÓN BELÉN page 5 •



## • Updates from Our Churches •

### Oak Hill, Alton

HELLO to all from Oak Hill! We are grateful and thankful the Lord blessed us with warmer weather and more sunshine, allowing us to have church services the last two Sundays in January.

Bro. Chad said last Sunday that in a couple of weeks he will take Carstyn down to St. Jude's for a check-up. Please keep him and his family in your prayers for a great check-up and NO cancer!

Our local schools have been closed due to sickness with kids and teachers. We hope that the sickness dies down or goes away and they can have school. 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*

### Ohlman, Bunker

We ended our 2024 Wednesday night student ministry with a great Christmas program on December 18th. The kids only had two rehearsals, but they did great! It was wonderful to have a full house in attendance. Many of the parents and other family members came, which was an encouragement to the students.

The new year 2025 started out icy, snowy and cold which caused the Bunker School District to cancel school. That meant that we cancelled our Wednesday night student ministry as well. Our first Wednesday night back was on January 15th with about 40 students due to a sports

tournament scheduled. The attendance was better on the 29th. We hope that this will continue to increase.

Our hearts were saddened on January 14th when we received the information that one of our Wednesday night girls passed away tragically and unexpectedly. Her funeral service was on January 20th in Ellington with a large number in attendance, especially students that attended school with her. Bro. Kris Whitaker officiated and ministered to the students. A dinner was prepared for the family and friends at Ohlman after the burial, with the community and other churches contributing. The ladies fed about 200. We are thankful that we could minister in this way to the family. We pray that her family, including siblings and cousins, will return to our Wednesday night ministry as well as attend on Sundays.

Looking ahead to March, we will be hosting the MO GMA annual house party and meeting on March 14th and 15th. On March 23rd at 5:00 p.m. we will have Bro. & Sis. Quillman for services and fellowship with refreshments afterwards. Everyone is welcome to join us.

*Terry Sharpe, Pastor  
Janet Widger, Reporter*

### Stony Point, Mineral Point

Happy February from Stony Point.

We had a great time in January with our chili cook-off and box-car derby races. A lot of people attended, and the chili was amazing. It was hard to choose a winner, but Kim Douglas came away

with first place. Congrats, Kim! A great time was had by the kids and adults.

Trenton and Kaylee Ruble were saved, joined our church and were baptized! Welcome, Trenton and Kaylee. We are happy and blessed to have you.

*Claude Evans, Pastor  
DeLaina Stegall, Reporter*

### Ozark Heights, Potosi

Greetings from Ozark Heights Missionary Baptist Church.

January didn't start well, to say the least, because of some challenging weather. Like many of you, the ice/snow caused us to close the services of January 5th and 12th. Finally we enjoyed fellowship on January 19th with only 18 who were able to get out of their driveways and brave the extreme cold of 8 degrees with 17 mph winds. But where two or three are gathered, He will be also. We were blessed to be there with our brothers and sisters, enjoying Bro. Dwight's message.

We still have several Ozark Heights members going through notable sickness, and we continue to pray for them. Sis. Cheryl Petete had a car accident and has been enduring a lot of pain. We are praying that God would heal each and every need.

Our church sends its condolences to the families of James Hoffmann and Deborah Simpson Rauhut.

When something goes wrong, the Lord is always there to quiet the storm. Our God continually WOWs us. Our faith was challenged when last summer our air

conditioner to our auditorium failed during the heat of July. To replace the old system was going to be quite costly, but just after we ordered the new HVAC system a large anonymous donation came to the church. We were able to not only replace both a new furnace and new air conditioning system, but the church has finished renovating our parking lot, foyer, restrooms, and nursery. Trust in Him and our Lord shall supply your every need. Praising God!

We were able to reestablish our Talent Night services on January 26th with many singers. These included Kevin Reed from Cadet Missionary Baptist who sang a couple songs, along with those giving their testimony of our God of the impossible.

Bro. Dwight has been providing powerful messages and leading us on Wednesdays on reaching out to our Father in prayer. The messages are followed by breaking into prayer groups for prayer time. Our church is blessed to have Bro. Dwight as our under-shepherd leading us.

On Sunday mornings Bro. Jeff Moorman has youth church for 2nd grade to 6th grade to bring the Word to their level of understanding. Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m. Bro. Jeff continues to lead the teens in the Christian Teens Standard Class, to bring them to set their Christian standards by their own commitment and not just have followers but teen leaders bringing their peers to greater understanding of a Christian teen's character.

On Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Terri teach those 5th grade and below about the amazing characters found in the Bible. They also have a huge TV to play videos of some of God's leaders in the Bible.

Our services are now Sunday School at 10:00 a.m., worship service at 11:00

a.m., Sunday evening services at 6:00 p.m., and Wednesday evening services at 6:00 p.m. Business meeting is on the first Wednesday evening of the month at 6:00 p.m..

We continue to pray God will WOW us by leading those to seek Him and His will in their lives and to come to serve the Lord. Ozark Heights' desire is to see God's power showing the world He is the God of the impossible.

May God bless each of our sister churches, those who are sick, and those winning the lost unto salvation.



*Dwight Petete, Pastor  
Gary Gilliam, Reporter*

### Lower Doe Run, Ellington

Greetings to all the readers of the associational paper. It is very encouraging to hear from you all over the country when you meet or call to say we read your article from first to last to know that you are well and continuing the Great Commission locally and around the world. We thank our editor for including the missionary puzzle in January's issue and look for another soon.

Sometimes we look back at the month and think we haven't had much activity, but we know that "little is much if God is in it"! Our tiny group of youth held a Christmas program titled "Mary Had a Little Lamb." Joseph was portrayed by Asher Beardsley, Mary was portrayed by Caroline Long, Angel was portrayed by Layla Long, a shepherd was portrayed by Sara Beardsley, and the narrator was Carolyn Meade. The congregation led with carols at times and helped the youth with their songs.

Shortly after this Bro. Albert Meade was admitted at

## ~ Upcoming Events ~

**World Missions Day** – Feb. 23

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

**MO GMA House Party and Annual Meeting** – March 14-15; Ohlman, Bunker

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

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

**Brotherhood Men's / Renewal Retreat** – April 25-26; Camp Garwood  
**Missions Symposium / Mid-Year Meeting** – May 9-10; Bethel, Sikeston

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



Poplar Bluff hospital and Sis. Helen Morris was airlifted to West Plains hospital. Bro. Albert has since been in a Cape hospital for a new pacemaker and back home, and Helen to the nursing home in Piedmont for rehab. We are praying that all this will help them in their service for the Lord. We plan to celebrate Helen's 90th birthday at the home on February 2.

We missed two weeks of services at the church due to snow and ice. Melvin was privileged to preach at Charity in Bismarck on one of those weeks.

God is so good, and we are looking for the trumpet sound. "What If It Were Today?"

*Melvin Meade, Pastor  
Carolyn Meade, Reporter*

### Lindsay Lane, Florissant

Greetings from Lindsay Lane Baptist Church.

It's been some time since we shared our blessings with you. We were able to enjoy our soup and carols Sunday, then it turned into winter! I missed several Sundays due to illness and weather! Car in the detached garage, bitter

cold, snow, ice! My dear pastor came and dug me out!

Peyton Krieg recently gave his testimony of asking the Lord to save him! We've had regular visitors and praying God will lead them and follow His leading!

Our hearts were saddened by the home-going of Bro. Hoffmann, but we know he is praising God and not suffering anymore. The visitation was a time of rejoicing and reuniting with "kids" that I had in VBS and Sunday school!

Recently I had cataract surgery! What a thrill! I can see clearly now, at least in one eye. The other will be done later in February. I'm thanking God for those in the medical field and the miracles they perform!

We ask that you keep those in prayer that are hurting, having surgery, those who have lost loved ones. Sis. Jamie Moore recently fell on the ice and broke her ankle. Bro. Rick Jones recently lost his mother. Sis. Terri Krieg will be having surgery.

By the time you read this our Valentine banquet will be history! This is always a great

time of food, fellowship and fun! Our Saints Alive fellowship is the second Tuesday of the month.

We are excited about our new members making Lindsay Lane their home! Continue to lift us up in your prayers as we share the good news in the Florissant area. We thank God for Bro. Brian's preaching the Word. May God bless until we meet again.

*Brian Meade, Pastor  
Kathy Chapman, Reporter*

### Mt. Olive, Salem

It is hard to believe that we are now in the year 2025! Wow! We are looking forward to what this year is going to bring for Mt. Olive!

Bro. Larry and Sis. Rhonda went on a mission trip to Costa Rica the first part of January. While they were gone we had to cancel some Sunday and Wednesday services due to the winter weather and the ice and snow that it left on the ground. When we were able to go it was wonderful to finally be back at Jesus' house and to have Bro. Larry and Sis. Rhonda back "home" with us!

On January 29th they gave

a report on their mission trip during the Wednesday evening service. We are praising the Lord for the souls that were saved while they were there. To God be the glory! We also had our yearly event planning meeting. We are excited and looking forward to the times of fellowship we will spend together throughout the year, and look forward to reaching out to our community, showing them who Jesus is!!

*Larry Nash, Pastor  
Deiatre Gillam, Reporter*

### Landmark, DeSoto

WARM greetings to all... at least WARMER than it was, praise the Lord! We had to miss several services at Landmark in January due to the snow and ice and plain ol' cold temperatures.

Our first Sunday back (the 12th? the 19th? I've blinked since then and can't quite remember) was super blessed. We really missed gathering together as a church family and singing His praises and studying His Word. We had a "welcome back" potluck dinner afterward. Good fellowship and good food were

enjoyed by all.

We're still being blessed with visitors on a regular basis. Still praying they'll decide Landmark is "home."

Our church WMA meetings were put on hold for a while due to the holidays and then the weather. We'll start meetings again on Feb. 23rd. We've been studying out of Bro. Buddy Johnson's book, "Towsacks," about his missionary work in Mexico. If you haven't read it, I certainly recommend it. We're also looking forward to Bro. and Sis. Quillman visiting our church in March. Exciting times for all God's children!

Please continue to remember our congregation in your prayers. Lots of sickness, ailments, and other burdens. I'm SO glad we can take all these burdens and lay them at Jesus' feet. Now if I could just keep myself from trying to grab them back up . . . something else to pray about. We will keep on lifting all of you up in our prayers also.

Until next month, keep on smilin' because the KING is COMING!

*Len Young, Pastor  
Barbara Williams, Reporter*

### • From MISIÓN BELÉN page 3 •

City that are getting together to pray once a month for our ministry, that doors will open for reaching out with the gospel. Also, two sisters in Christ that are also joining this prayer team on site.



• For our summer outreach plans. We have penciled the dates of June 2-6 for VBS here in Granite City. Bro. Jonathan Cofer is coming from Texas with 25 students to reach out to our community and share the gospel. Some details are still pending relative to their stay, but we thank Bro. Larry Barker for connecting us. It is always such a blessing to team up in ministry and prayer.

• For our multiplication center in Granite City. Last week we received a new pulpit donated by Anthony's family, Bro. Stan and Sis. Jeanette. Thank you for always praying for us and getting together for lunch on Wednesday. It is such a wonderful and powerful testimony to pray before our meal and have the manager share prayer request of their employees and herself.

• Praise the Lord for two new garage doors that were installed last week. It's been a long waiting period to get the place ready, safe and comfortable enough to have our new friends coming for weekly Bible study and ESL. A microphone is needed and a smart TV to be used for preaching, teaching and showing lyrics for worship singing! To God be the glory. And thanks to each one of you and your church families who have been in our multiplication center and have been a loving testimony of God's love for our family, ministry and community!

• For Daniel and Megan, who were blessed to welcome

their first baby. Lucas Mateo Reyes Boyd arrived last Saturday night. Thank you, Jesus, for these parents who are planning to come and dedicate baby Lucas with us in a special service soon. We have several kids whose parents have expressed desire to have their babies dedicated. Juanito, our son, is pending his dedication. May the Lord provide His timing and place to gather in love and holiness to celebrate an abundant life and blessing to the youngest in our community.

• Our 11th wedding anniversary. Hannah, I love you, *mi amor*. The Lord has blessed us with these years of blessing after blessing. We are so glad to celebrate this anniversary serving among the BMA pastors, missionaries, churches and special ministries! Thank you for keeping our marriage ministry in your prayers.

### Prayer Requests

• For open doors and hearts to receive the Gospel.  
• For new contacts in our community to gather to pray and be a part of our daily, weekly and monthly outreach.

• For health for each one in our family and families in our community

• For friends of our children. They grow so fast, and we are seeking time to get to connect with other young families to grow in ministry and connect to serve better in the Kingdom.

• For outreach through soccer coaching and ESL class starting next month.

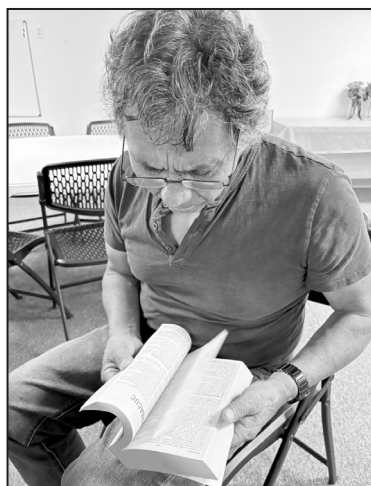
• For our monthly outreach first Sunday of the month.

• For our daily door-to-door outreach and job site prayer opportunities, open doors.

• For my dad Juan Manuel Fernandez, and my mom Martha, for their U.S. citizenship process to be completed soon.

• To be found faithful and fruitful in our ministry, and God to be glorified in everyday outreach.

In His service, Juan Fernandez



## Send Me: ChangeMakers

Did you know that the vast majority of church planting around the world is being led by local leaders rather than American missionaries? BMA Global currently partners with over 400 individuals worldwide in this mission. Astonishingly, fewer than 50 of these partners are American missionaries. The rest are ChangeMakers—men and women who were often reached, discipled, and trained by BMA missionaries or fellow ChangeMakers. These local leaders now continue the ministry in their own countries, embodying the model of “go, disciple, plant, and repeat.”

This incredible global movement of faith is made possible by the support of BMA churches. Through generous giving, particularly to the Jerry Kidd Missions Offering, these churches enable BMA Global to partner with and support missionaries, ChangeMakers, and church plants worldwide.

To strengthen this ongoing effort, BMA Global is inviting churches to participate in World Missions

Day—an annual opportunity to celebrate and support the transformative work being done across the globe. Churches are encouraged to:

- Pick a Sunday to celebrate World Missions Day (Feb. 23 is the official day).
- Register their church and order free promotional materials.
- Set a giving goal to support global missions.
- Dedicate part of their Sunday service to pray for missionaries and take up a special offering.

This year’s World Missions Day coincides with BMA Global’s 75th anniversary, making it an especially meaningful occasion. To commemorate this milestone, the organization is offering several



exciting resources to churches:

- Free promotional materials, including posters and bulletin inserts.
- Special 75th-anniversary edition of the Gleaner magazine.
- A World Missions Day video, showcasing how God is working around the world.
- A free BMA Global polo for every pastor.
- Specially designed T-shirts available for purchase.

Visit [bmaglobal.org/worldmissionsday](http://bmaglobal.org/worldmissionsday) to learn more, access resources, and join this global celebration.

By participating in World Missions Day, churches have a unique opportunity to amplify their impact, pray for missionaries, and support the movement of ChangeMakers who are transforming lives and communities around the globe. Together, we can continue to spread the Gospel and celebrate 75 years of faith-filled service.

## What about Accreditation?

Dr. Philip Attebery, President BMA Seminary

Not long after realizing that I needed to gain a seminary education, I began to consider which school to attend. Since my home church affiliated with the Baptist Missionary Association, the BMA Seminary seemed like an obvious choice. So, I leaned heavily toward attending the BMA Seminary. However, before making the final commitment, I wanted to know the answer to one more question, “Is BMA Seminary accredited?” I felt like an accredited school would help ensure that I received a quality education that would be accepted by those who knew the difference between a genuine degree and a degree in name only.

I called the BMA Seminary and spoke with the school’s chief academic officer, Dr. Wilbur Benningfield. During the conversation, Dr. Benningfield affirmed that BMA Seminary was indeed accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (now called the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges).

Although that set my mind at ease, I honestly did not know what it meant. After serving nearly 25 years as BMA Seminary’s chief academic officer, I learned that not all accreditors are “recognized” accreditors. Many accrediting entities exist but not all are recognized. Perhaps the easiest way to determine if an accrediting agency is recognized is to consult the Council for Higher Education Accreditation’s website ([www.chea.org](http://www.chea.org)). Recognized accreditors will appear in the Directory of Recognized Accrediting Organizations.

These include BMA Seminary’s accreditors: SACSCOC and the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools.

Is an accredited seminary education all that important? It can be. Some employers, including churches, expect those they hire to hold earned accredited degrees. Also, most graduate and post-graduate degree programs require accredited degrees as prerequisites to further study at their schools. For example, an accredited master’s degree is usually required as a prerequisite for admission into an accredited doctoral program.

The purpose of accreditation is not for accreditors to tell schools what they can or cannot teach. Instead, the primary purposes are to ensure that a school provides a quality education, handles finances with integrity, and communicates accurately with its constituents. Having an accredited degree tells others that you have earned a degree that has met expected standards of quality.

There is benefit from studying God’s Word and work at any level, if done correctly. BMA Seminary offers certificates and accredited associate, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees. These degrees are taught by highly credentialed professors and focus upon equipping individuals for Christ-centered service and leadership roles in various church-related ministries. BMA Seminary holds an unwavering commitment to the authority of Scripture and teaches so as to nurture the historical and doctrinal character of churches in the BMA of America.

## 6th Annual CBC Scholarship Gala

Central Baptist College’s 6th Annual Scholarship Gala is just around the corner, but there is still time for you to be involved! The Gala will take place on Friday, February 28 at 6:00 p.m. at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway. The evening will be a celebration of CBC’s Legacy of Faith and serves as the college’s sole fundraising event of the year. Chef Billie Rodriguez and CBC Dining Services will cater the black-tie optional event.

The keynote speaker for the evening is Arkansas native and former Razorback head football coach Houston Nutt who is sure to be an excellent speaker. With a career record of 135-96, Houston Nutt was head football coach at Murray State, Boise State, Arkansas, and Ole Miss. He was named Coach of the Year and The Football News Division 1-A Coach of the year in 1998 and is a three-time SEC Coach of the Year. He has been a college football studio analyst on CBS Sports Network since 2012. He and his wife Diana have four children.

All proceeds from the event will go towards the Central Baptist College Scholarship Fund which supports institutionally funded scholarships. Event sponsorships begin at \$2,000, and single tickets are available for \$100 each. If you cannot attend, we ask that you still prayerfully consider participating by making a one-time contribution to the Gala event.

For more information, to purchase single tickets, or to make a one-time donation, visit [cbc.edu/gala](http://cbc.edu/gala). Limited event sponsorships are also still available. For any questions or for more information, contact Jessica Faulkner, Director of Public Relations, by email at [jfaulkner@cbc.edu](mailto:jfaulkner@cbc.edu) or by phone at 501-205-8800.

CBC truly has a Legacy of Faith, and as we look forward to celebrating this Legacy, we cannot help but praise God for the mighty work He has done in and through this institution. Like the psalmist, we declare, “O, give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!” (Psalm 107:1).

Please continue to pray for us as we strive to accomplish our mission of transforming lives for the glory of God and the furtherance of His kingdom. Your prayers and gifts are what makes our work here possible, and we thank you for your support!

## CBC Academic Achievements

Central Baptist College announced the President’s and Dean’s Lists for the Fall 2024 semester. The list included the following students from Missouri.

### President’s List

Caroline Byers  
Kennett

### Dean’s List

Aliya Grotjohn Seneca	Melanie Phillips Dudley	Michael Kelley Poplar Bluff
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## Send Me: Europe

World Missions Day is quickly approaching, and as the BMA continues to celebrate all that God has done through BMA Global over the past 75 years, we focus this week on Europe.

BMA Global's presence in Europe dates back to 1962 when Harold Morris became the first BMA missionary to serve in the region. After more than a decade of ministry in Brazil, Morris spent a year in France and Portugal laying the groundwork for future missions in Europe.

Today, BMA Global has five missionary families planting churches in the region: in France are Sean and Kendall Pasley, and in Romania, Bryan and Pam Risner, Cristian and Vanessa Martinez, Candra Barnett, and Sara Filimon.

Numerous ChangeMakers also serve throughout the region in Romania, Portugal, Czech Republic, and Ukraine.

ChangeMakers in Ukraine face unique challenges serving during wartime. These challenges haven't stopped the work there, but instead the opportunities are endless.

Sasha Grebenyuk is one ChangeMaker who has been serving in Ukraine since well before the war began three years ago. In the last three years, five new churches have formed. The gospel is still reaching people, war or no war.

As a part of our World Missions Day celebration, we are excited to offer a free special anniversary edition Gleaner magazine. This edition features an overview of the history of our global work as well as a look at what's happening now and our vision for the future.

We have much to thank God for, and hope you will join us for World Missions Day. Request your free Gleaner and learn how you can get involved by visiting [bmaglobal.org/worldmissionsday](http://bmaglobal.org/worldmissionsday) or emailing [sidney@bmaglobal.org](mailto:sidney@bmaglobal.org).



## Send Me: North America

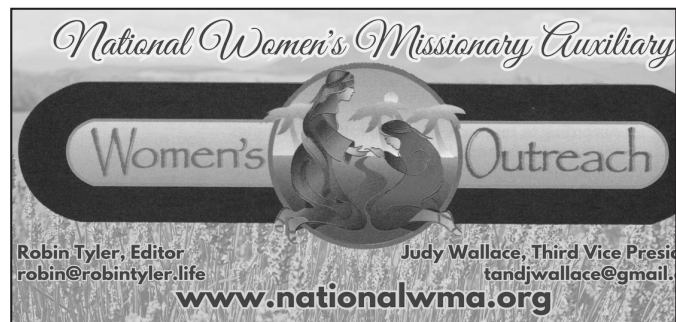
The BMA has a rich legacy of church planting in North America, evidenced by more than 1,100 BMA churches that exist today in North America. What's even more exciting is reaching the nations within our own borders—we have church plants serving eight different language groups within the United States, and we hope to add many more in the years to come.

We already have new projects on the horizon that we are excited about! In just a few short months at the National Meeting we hope to present six or seven new North American church planters. Three of these will be new Spanish-speaking plants and one Ukrainian, and then we hope to have planters going to Utah and Indianapolis as well.

Not including these new planters to be commissioned, we currently have 16 families serving across the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico. All the way from the Bronx, NY, to just outside San Diego, CA. From the center of Utah to Phoenix, AZ. From just across the river in St. Louis, MO, to Orlando, FL, the gospel is being advanced by these families committed to the mission of God!

God is raising up men who are willing to go. We need more church planters, and we need you. It's through the Jerry Kidd Missions Offering that will be taken up on World Missions Day, February 23, that we will be able to take on these projects and support them.

I'm asking God to do exceeding and abundantly above all that we could ask or think. Join me in this prayer, and also pray that we will see more church planters raised up to expand the Kingdom through multiplication. Prayerfully consider how you can be involved in the Jerry Kidd Missions Offering this World Missions Day.



## ARE YOU SALTY?

Jackie Ricks

During the sermon last Sunday evening, I realized the verses the pastor preached from were exactly the formula for leaving a lasting legacy in a Christian's life. I've heard them all my life and even taught them to various ages or used them in devotionals. However, I'd never thought of them along the lines of leaving a legacy to others. Yet, these instructions are the ones that Jesus gave to show us how to live. Check out the analogy in Matthew 5:13-16: *You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

These are instructions to us as believers. We are to be as salt and light. I love salty food! I hope I never have to do without salt in my food. The world also needs salt, or in other words, Christians. Salt

adds flavor to dishes. Christians add an important "flavor" to the world. With all the sin and depravity in the world, it would be hard to swallow without some salty Christians to change the flavor and make life easier and more palatable. Salt is also a preservative. With all the evil in the world, Christians may be the only thing helping this world preserve until the coming of Christ! It's hard to think what the world would be like without believers.

Salt is also valuable; in fact, that's where the word "salary" comes from. In early days, salt was often traded for goods, just as currency. You may also have heard the phrase "worth his salt," meaning that a person does a good job or is valuable. Just as salt is important in our lives, believers are important in the world as long as we don't lose our "flavor" or value. Salt that was no longer good was taken out and thrown in the road to be walked on. We need to make sure we don't lose our flavor and value.

Jesus also says here that Christians are the light of the world. Can you imagine living in complete darkness? You may remember that in John 9:5, Jesus says, "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." This seems to be a contradiction; however, we have two lights in the physical world today; do we not? There is the sun by day and the moon by night. Jesus compares to the sun, which is the only true light source, just as He is the true light source. Then a Christian compares to the moon, which only reflects the light from the sun. Without the sun (Son), the moon (a believer) does not shine on anything. Just as the moon sometimes shines brighter than other times, so do we as Christians. We sometimes allow the world to get in our way. In

fact, there are times that we completely block out Jesus' light from shining through our lives.

Consider an eclipse. In a solar eclipse, the moon passes between the earth and the sun, thus blocking the light. As humans, we sometimes allow our own lives to become so "important" to us that we block out the light of Jesus shining through us. We try to make it all about ourselves instead of about Him. Then there is the lunar eclipse. That happens when the earth gets between the moon and the sun to block the light. There are times that even Christians allow the sins of the world to enter their lives and block Jesus' light from shining through them.

As these verses say, we should not hide our light or allow anything to get in the way of letting Christ's light shine forth in the world. Whether we realize it or not, people observe us daily. We should be careful to make sure that people see Christ in us rather than the world and its sin.

Are you being "salty" enough to help give the world a better "flavor"? Do you let Jesus' light shine forth in yours? Only by doing these things will you be able to provide a lasting Christian legacy for others.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:13-16; John 1:1-9; 8:12; 9:5; Ephesians 5:8-14; Colossians 4:5-6

PRAYER: "Thank You, Lord, for being the light that we need to bring to others in this world. Help me to live as you want me to as an example of believers. Please help me to be both the salt and the light that will point unbelievers to you and also help other believers to live as you want us to live. In Jesus' name, Amen."

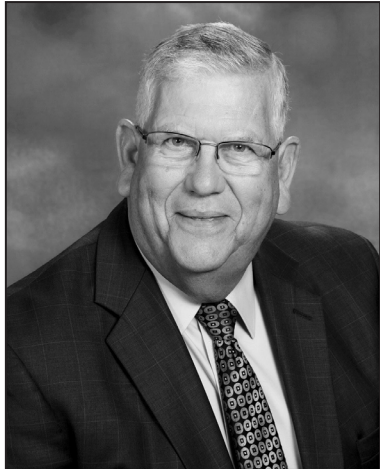
RESPONSE: Examine your own life to see if you are being the salt and light that God wants you to be.

## Bro. James Hoffmann, Former Pastor and Editor, Called Home

(via Ortmann Stipanovich Funeral Homes)

Bro. James Hoffmann passed away January 14. Born on September 11, 1943, he was married to the former Mary Weaver. He was the loving father of Jim (Laura) Hoffmann of Searcy, AR; Jamie (Darrell) Eye of Highland Village, TX; Jana (Matt) Hauk of Wentzville, MO. He had eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

He is also survived by two sisters, Minnie Gillam and Mary Shults. He was preceded in death by his parents Edwin and Mary Irene Hoffmann, brother Don Hoffmann and sister Ola Smith.



Bro. James was born in St. Louis, MO. He surrendered to preach in August 1961 and was ordained in November 1962. After graduating from Central Baptist College in Conway, AR, in 1965, he pastored churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of America in Arkansas, Missouri and Michigan. He also served as a missionary in Alaska. In 1988 he returned to his childhood church, Bethany Baptist Church in Overland, MO where he faithfully served until his retirement in 2015. He also served as editor of The Missouri Missionary Baptist paper for 33 years. His favorite way to spend time was loving on his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He loved woodworking, gardening, fishing and traveling.

He was buried at Bishop Cemetery in Jonesboro AR. In lieu of flowers the family request donations be made to Camp Garwood in c/o Chris Polk, PO Box 271, Matthews, MO 63867.

## Former AR Editor, Pastor, Missionary Dies

(via Baptist Trumpet)

Bro. Bobby Eugene Bowman, 88 of Conway, AR, passed away January 12. He was a member of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Greenbrier.

In 1976, Bro. Bowman and his wife, Ruth, were elected to serve as BMA missionaries to Honduras. The Bowmans helped meet a great need for the people of Honduras by providing medical treatment. Over their years of ministry there, they helped plant nine Baptist churches where there were none before.

After leaving the mission field, Bro. Bowman founded Baptist Medical Missions International (BMMI) in 1996, then served as editor of the Baptist Trumpet from 2002-2005.

Then beginning in 2005, Bro. Bowman served as an evangelist with Evangelistic International Ministries (EIM).

Survivors include: his wife of 69 years, Leta "Ruth" Bowman; four children, Blenda (Dwight) Smith of Potts Camp, MS.; Dr. Gary Bowman of Greenbrier, AR, Lisa (David) Martin of Conway, AR, and Thomas "Tommy" (Casey) Bowman of Greenbrier; 10 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

A celebration of his life will be announced at a later time.



## Deaths

**Deborah Gay Rauhut**, 72, of Potosi, departed this life on January 17 in St. Louis, surrounded by the love and care of her family. She was an active member of First Baptist Church, Potosi, where she served in a variety of roles, including teaching Sunday school, working in the Overflow ministry, and playing piano. She also played piano and was involved in other ministries at Bates Creek Baptist Church, Potosi. Burial was at Sunset Hills Cemetery, Potosi.

**Barbara Jean (Dodson) Britt**, 84, passed away peacefully on January 12 in Frisco, TX, surrounded by family. Barbara was the widow of Bro. Richard T. Britt, who pastored several churches, mostly in Missouri.

• From HOFFMANN page 1 •

grandkids and their children, his great-grandkids. (If that sounds confusing, one of those "great grandkids" has a hyphen – the other is just bragging!)

But Dad didn't just enjoy watching and talking about his family, he had a great influence on our lives. Sometimes ministering to a whole church and community conflicts with being a father. Jamie used to love when we had a guest preacher at church – not because she didn't like Dad's sermons but because it was the only time she got to sit with Dad in church. There were times when important family events were missed because Dad was meeting the critical needs of others. But through it all, with Mom's hard work and support, Dad taught us his faith and love through words and actions. This wasn't something that started with him, for he grew up in a family full of it. But he faithfully passed it on to his children, his grandchildren and his great-grandchildren – through his words and through his life.

Like a lot of men of his generation, Dad could do a little of everything, and a lot of work. He worked hard at being a pastor, always being available for families in need. Often, he was out when I went to bed, sitting with someone at the hospital, and gone when I got up, praying with someone, studying or taking someone to an appointment. Anything that needed done, from digging up a septic line, to repairing electrical wiring, to roofing a house, to fixing the dishwasher or the car, to making rocking horses for the grandkids – Dad could do it. And if he didn't know how, he would figure it out.

Dad enjoyed telling stories, traveling, visiting with friends, playing games, telling stories, woodworking, fishing, hunting, telling stories, good jokes, bad jokes and telling stories. Being in an occupation where the workday never ends didn't leave much time for these pursuits – except for telling stories! In later years, Mom and Dad were able to do more traveling, sometimes with friends or family members but often just the two of them. But in Dad's life there was no distinction between faith, work and fun. He served God, found enjoyment and told stories in all of it.

Dad fought a good fight. He finished his course. He kept the faith.

I've pondered what Dad would say if he was here today. I'm sure he would express his love for Mom and how much he enjoyed their life together, all the places they have been. And he would want you to know how well she has cared for him in these last days.

I expect you would have heard more about his grandkids and great-grandkids.

You probably would have gotten a poem. He was inclined to write them for funerals and other special occasions.

And you might have been told not to be sad, or at least not to let your mourning keep you from rejoicing in his victory.

2025

MISSOURI

WMA

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.

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

**CURRENT PROJECT**

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