

# The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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

Volume LXXXVII

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Issue No. 5

## The Master's Builders at Camp Garwood

On March 31st, The Master's Builders began work on a newly poured slab at Camp Garwood, in Garwood, MO. The camp is about 12 1/2 miles northeast of Van Buren, Missouri. This was our first time going to Camp Garwood to work, and we were so very blessed during our time there. The Camp Director, Chris Polk, and his wife, Laura, were so caring and concerned about our needs as we settled in for our two weeks of work. We were all able to stay in a newly renovated dorm there, and that made it so convenient for the job site and the cafeteria.

The Builders were at Camp Garwood to help with a 20x60 building. This building includes two living quarters for visiting evangelists, group leaders, etc., on one side, and a nurse's station and quarters on the other. Between the two sides of the building Chris also wanted to make sure to include a nice breezeway that will have a large ceiling fan and benches. This will help



facilitate check-in and a cool-down area for campers. The Builders framed the building, put in doors and windows, hung metal siding in two colors on the exterior, and the electrical wiring was run for the building. Joe McElroy and Jacob Hale of McElroy Construction



did the trusses and added the metal roofing. It was such a pleasure to have these guys do this work as the Builders are no longer able to set trusses! While we were there, this area of Missouri and Arkansas had historical and catastrophic flooding. The Builders were unable to work on the building for two days. Several locations around the area received 12 to 15 inches of rain, and the creeks and hollows filled up quickly! We had to keep a close eye on the camp creek for a couple of days! There were also several tornadoes, and the Builders were thankful that none touched down near the camp. The rain set us back a bit, but we enjoyed two afternoons of movies in the cafeteria and some delicious meals.

The BMA churches of southeast MO certainly kept us well-fed! We were overwhelmed and blessed by their commitment to making sure we lacked for nothing. Meals, supplies, desserts, and snacks were either brought in or money was sent in to help with providing meals for us. These were the churches I have listed that helped, and if I missed any, please forgive me and know we so appreciate each one of you: Stony



• See *MASTER'S BUILDERS* page 5 •

## BMA Global Celebrates with Missionary Reunions

Dr. Jonathan Montgomery, Director of Missionary Care

We had a great turnout for our first of three missionary family reunions on April 5. Despite the bad storms and flooding across Arkansas, several were able to make it to Central Baptist College in Conway as BMA Global celebrated our missions heritage with some of the men and women who have made these last 75 years of global missions possible.

The group enjoyed a delicious catered meal from B Hive Catering and Chef Tommy Bowman, son of missionaries Bobby and Ruth Bowman. There were games, gifts, door prizes, and a photo booth for the missionary families. The room was full of laughter and great stories during our time of fellowship as former and current missionaries reconnected, reminisced, and celebrated their shared experiences.

Our next family reunion is heading to Mississippi. We will be at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel on June 7, beginning at 11:30 a.m. We hope to see many of our Mississippi friends at this gathering. Our final reunion is scheduled for Jacksonville College in Jacksonville, Texas, on September 6.

The missionary reunions are open to all BMA international and interstate missionaries, including those who have served, missionary kids who grew up on the field, and their families. Those interested in



attending are asked to RSVP by registering at <https://form.jotform.com/250163918763159>. For any questions about the 75th anniversary reunions, feel free to email me at [jonathan@bmaglobal.org](mailto:jonathan@bmaglobal.org).

## What is America's Hope?

Dr. John Adams

Moral Action Committee Executive Director

What is America's hope? We must claim God's promise of healing.

In 2 Chronicles 7:14 God says, *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

We must meet conditions before healing can come:

First, God's people must humble themselves before a holy and righteous God. We must become broken in our souls and spirits in order for our Father to renew us.

Second, we must pray. We must renew our daily fellowship with the Father. Our Father desires to spend time with us, but do we desire to be in His presence? Prayer is essential.

Third, we must turn from our sin. How can we do this? Dr. Adrian Rogers said we must “name it, nail it and forsake it.” We must identify and confess our faults to the Father. John said, *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness* (1 John 1:9).

Fourth, we must not carry our guilt around. Every believer must “nail” his sins to Christ's cross. They have been paid for by Christ's blood, and they will not be held against us. Paul

• See *AMERICA* page 7 •



## State Missions

Dear BMAMO churches,

We are one month away from being six months into 2025. VBS is either here or right around the corner. Church camps at Garwood and Richwoods will happen within the next three months. Revivals will be happening, as well as all sorts of opportunities for the gospel and for discipleship. I hope and pray that our churches are praying and preparing for these opportunities. They only come once a year – what wonderful seeds can be planted in these ministries!

There are three things in this article I want to point out. The first is the message that I shared Sunday morning on Proverbs 3, which covers our purpose in life. Verses one through four tells us to love God and love others. Verse five covers the power that makes that possible, which is trusting in the Lord with all your heart and leaning not on your own understanding. It takes faith to carry out the purpose, which is to love God and love others. I can't speak for you, but I can tell you it's difficult for me to stay in third place. But I truly do believe that's where the richest life is lived. The rest of the passage, verses six through thirty-five, covers the process – all the disciplines that you and I are to do through our daily life so that we can keep faith, so that we can carry out our purpose – which is to love God and love others.

Secondly, I wanted to “give a rose to the living” to Bro. Bryan Buckley. He is doing an

excellent job as your national, state, and district Brotherhood Director. I had the privilege and opportunity to sit in on a national business meeting of the Brotherhood and Bro. Bryan led with firm, strong leadership. Our men's retreat went well, and the Lord blessed. I encourage you to make plans to attend next year. We have a fall retreat coming up in a few months, and we'll get those dates out soon. Please pray for all your association leaders, that we will accomplish the task that is in front of us. If you get an opportunity, you might ask Bro. Bryan about the life-saving work he was able to do by the grace of the Lord at the national meeting. It was truly a miracle.

Thirdly, I just wanted to share with you the blessing that the Lord has done for us at Bethel. We have been working on a men's ministry for quite a while now, and we just had our first men's steak night. We had several men show up, and it was a great time with food and fellowship. We had no structure other than *We're gonna eat meat* and *We're gonna talk as men*, and the Lord richly blessed. For confidentiality's sake, I will not share the name, but the Sunday before our men's steak night a family showed up that Dawn and I have been praying for for three years, and it was an absolute blessing. They are certainly in crisis right now, which is one of the reasons they came, but God is using that crisis and bringing glory to His name. I know every church, every pastor has a family like that. May the Lord bless you as you minister to them selflessly.

May the Lord send us revival and may our churches plant churches, and reproducers reproduce reproducers.

Bro. Ben



### MISIÓN BAUTISTA BELÉN (Bethlehem Mission)

Serving Hispanic Families • St. Louis Metro East

Juan Fernandez

pastorjuanfernandez@gmail.com • (618) 581-8056

Equipping saints for the Kingdom:

A new generation of disciples who make disciples that multiply.

*And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive....*

**Praises!**

The Lord open doors for me to participate leading prayer events in Spanish. The first one was in the Gravois community where I was asked to lead the opening prayer for our Hispanic community. This is the second year in a row that I was asked to participate, representing and bringing a brief message. Also, I participated in the National Day of Prayer. I prayed for the Lord to continue opening doors for the gospel among our families, for men of peace to step up and be trained to be the men God wants them to be. Thank you, Jesus!

Also, I have received a certification as a bilingual interpreter of English/Spanish. This certification will allow me to participate in a deeper, more significant manner with our Hispanic families, praise the Lord. The test for this certification lasted three and half hours.

We continue with health and joy serving our Spanish-speaking families as the Lord opens doors. My weekly ministry schedule includes:

- Sunday, 3:30 p.m. – Daniel and Rolman
- Monday, 5:00 p.m. – Coaching soccer

- Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – Javier and Xochitl
- Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. – Rodriguez family and Joses family; 8:00 p.m. – Avalos and his employees
- Thursday, 4:00 p.m. – Hamed and Silvia
- Friday, 8:00 p.m. – Jose and family
- Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – Pascual and Carlos; 12:00 p.m. – Soccer coaching; 5:00 p.m. – Nahum and Ermilanda.

**Mother's Day!**

Like in the U.S., many in our Hispanic countries also celebrate Mother's Day as a special day in the month of May. We are planning to prepare a potluck to celebrate this special holiday. We have invited most of our contacts to join us this coming Sunday during lunch time. We will be singing some special songs and give the gospel presentation for everyone, too. We are preparing tables, plates, etc., for these special ladies. Would you pray the Lord brings His mercy for salvation in each one of them? Amen, Amen.

• See MISIÓN BELÉN page 5 •



<b>Financial Report</b>	
<b>BMA Of Missouri Missions</b>	
<b>April 2025</b>	
<b>Checking Account:</b>	
Balance March 31	\$ 46,173.17
<b>Income:</b>	
Missions	\$ <u>2,548.45</u>
Total Income	\$ <u>2,548.45</u>
Total Available	\$ 48,721.62
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Director, salary/bonus	\$ 450.00
Secretary, salary/bonus	200.00
Juan Fernandez, support	2,333.33
Director mileage/mtg exp	<u>241.10</u>
Total Expenses	\$ <u>(3,224.43)</u>
Balance April 30	\$ 45,497.19
<b>BMAMS Revolving Loan Investment:</b>	
Balance March 31	\$ 121,313.66
Interest	<u>997.09</u>
Balance April 30	\$ <u>122,310.75</u>
Total in All Accounts April 30	\$ 167,807.94

### The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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## WMA



### WMA of Missouri Retreat

Speaker: Yalanda Merrell

September 5-6

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

Registration: \$70 (\$80 after August 22 deadline)

Payable to MO WMA

% Janet Widger • 5014 Hwy N • Salem, MO 65560

For hotel reservations call 1-800-325-0720

(use group #10118265)

Room rate is \$155 plus tax (deadline August 3)

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## Camp Garwood



We've had a very busy spring at camp. As most of you know, the Master's Builders came to work on our new nurse/evangelist building. They were here for two weeks and were able to raise the building, get the metal on and get most of the wiring in place. We had worked ahead of their arrival taking down the old canteen building, leveling the ground and getting the rough plumbing ready. Daniel Cooper and his crew volunteered their time pouring the concrete.

To this point we have spent \$47,691.62 on the building. We are in the process of finishing the wiring and plumbing.



We will soon be insulating and hanging sheetrock. I've lost nearly all of May due to a birthday party, a wedding, a Trail Life weekend and the mid-year meeting. I have been working some after work, going to work from camp. We're getting there, it just takes time.

We had a great Renewal Weekend with the men. There were 35-40 men. This weekend is always encouraging to those who attend.

Looking forward to May 30-31 when we will be hosting our Prayer Retreat. How's your prayer life? Would you say it is all it should be? Most of us, if we are honest, could use encouragement in this area. Bro. Larry Barker will be at camp to do just that. You may be thinking, "I don't need that. I know how to pray I just need to do it." That may be true. But setting aside this weekend for prayer will be a great boost to help you do just that!



I know you are busy. I'm busy. We are all too busy. That's the problem. Clear your schedule. Join us and spend the weekend with the Lord in intimate conversation. You will not regret it.

While you are setting your schedule, add June 20-21 for the GMA Retreat and

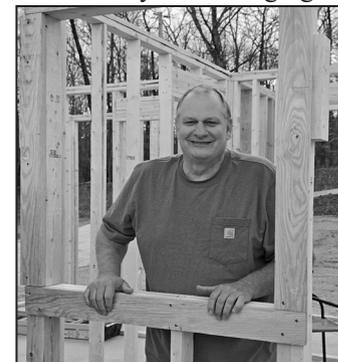
July 28-August 1 for Camp Week. It'll be here before we know it.

Camp Theme: *Walk the Path.* Psalm 16:11 says, *You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

There are always things to do at camp. If you want to help get the grounds ready, reach out to us at [campgarwood@gmail.com](mailto:campgarwood@gmail.com) or give me a call at (573) 380-1975.

There's only twelve Saturdays until camp week. Take out May and a couple other dates, and we only have seven days to complete the building and get everything else ready. Your prayers are greatly appreciated.

Chris Polk



## • Updates from Our Churches •

### Stony Point, Mineral Point

Hello again from Stony Point! We hope everyone had a good April. We have had a very wet month but still had a great Easter with a breakfast and an egg hunt for the kids.

We also had a visit from Mickeal Quillman and his wife in March. It was wonderful to see them and hear about all the good they are doing!

Hoping you all have a wonderful May.

*Claude Evans, Pastor  
Delaina Stegall, Reporter*

### Lindsay Lane, Florissant

Greetings once again from Lindsay Lane. We pray God's richest blessings on you and yours.

We pray for those that have been in harm's way with the weather system we've had this month.

All the flowers are very beautiful!

We've been busy here at Lindsay Lane. We had a workday with the men cutting down a big tree that was rotten! Praise God there were no injuries, just sore backs! Some painted inside the building; others cleaned out cabinets and vacuumed the whole building. We are so blessed to have those willing and able to keep God's house cleaned and in order!

Our FBI classes for this semester are winding down, but some are continuing with an archeology class. Others are taking a break.

Our teens are beginning a youth class on Sunday afternoon with lunch, devotional time, then fun time in the gym. Our seniors still meet the second Tuesday for food, fun and fellowship.

Please keep Sis. Debbie Tucker and Sis. Thelma Cornett in your prayers, as they have some on-going health issues, as well as our other shut-ins.

Continue to lift Lindsay Lane up in your prayers as we share the gospel here and in our neighborhoods.

*Brian Meade, Pastor  
Kathy Chapman, Reporter*

### Lower Doe Run, Ellington

It is a joy to serve the Lord in His church where scripture says "He gets glory." We at Lower Doe Run send greetings to all who are privileged to receive this publication. A friend I hadn't seen for a while called and said she reads cover to cover, especially news from the churches.

We started a Children's Church every Wednesday evening. It is going well under the leadership of Johnny Beardsley, Jr., and his daughter, Sara. Along with children, there are some of the adults coming by to support and fellowship. Pray that we see parents and families come also.

We do have another visiting family that drives over from Piedmont to worship with us every Sunday.

Sister Helen was pleasantly surprised when two of her daughters and a son-in-law took her out of the nursing home and brought her to church on Easter. They gave her a 90th birthday celebration in February. Sister Frieda will celebrate her 92nd birthday this month. They both love the Lord so very much.

Eleven ladies gathered at Sister Dianna Meade's house for our new Bible study, "Called By My Name," written by Valarie Fish. The ten

lessons are centered on 2 Chronicles 7:14. We had just finished the study by Judy Wallace, "In His Presents."

We pray for and continue to help those affected by recent tornadoes. One Red Cross worker at Des Arc says along with physical items they need a shoulder to cry on and listening ears for their healing.

*Melvin Meade, Pastor  
Carolyn Meade, Reporter*

### Landmark, DeSoto

Hello, everyone! Greetings from all of us at Landmark DeSoto.

We've had some ups and downs this past month, kinda like one of Archie Campbell's routines, "That's good/that's bad," but God has been with us through each and every one.

We had a good attendance on Easter Sunday (that's GOOD!) even though the day was overcast and cloudy (that's BAD!).

Last week, we had a young lady (Isabella) come to the altar for salvation and then present herself as a candidate for baptism (that's GOOD!).

Our pastor and wife have been dealing with some very aggravating health issues (that's BAD!). But they're both scheduled for testing to see how to deal with these problems (that's GOOD!).

We had to reschedule our fundraiser barbecue, originally set for April 5th, due to storms and tornadoes (that's BAD!). But we held it on Saturday, May 3rd (that's GOOD!). Found out we were in competition with the barbecue at the Methodist church down the street on the same day (that's BAD!). We still made a profit for the church AND reached out to

all who came with Christian tracts and church flyers (that's GOOD!).

On May 4th, the Tutterou Family came to visit our morning services and sang a wonderful special for the congregation (that's GOOD!).

Bro. Len is still providing us with strong messages given to him by the Holy Spirit (that's REALLY GOOD!).

We still have several members who are dealing with serious health and other issues (that's BAD!). But we know your prayers help us all to cope with the problems of this earth, and we continue to keep all of you in our prayers (that's GOOD!). And we KNOW that leaning on God's constant love, strength, protection, and wisdom will get us through all the problems of this earth (that's GOOD!).

Did ya' notice there are more GOODS than BADS? That's because following God's path always gives us way more GOODS. And that's GREAT!

Love to all, and Happy Mother's Day too,

*Len Young, Pastor  
Barbara Williams, Reporter*

### Bethel, Sikeston

Greetings from Bethel, Sikeston.

We were blessed on the 6th to have Bro. Mickeal and Sis. Sharon Quillman visit us and tell us all about the work they are doing in Zambia, Africa, including the souls that have been saved and the churches being built! What a great God we have!! We were very thankful for their visit.

Our Easter program was very humbling and represented our Lord and Savior's resurrection very well. All the actors played their parts very well also. We are so thankful for Sis. Helen Beardsley and Sis. Shelly Kinder for putting this program together and for the ones that took the time to participate and practice.

Bro. Matt and Sis. Keeley Bolen represented Bethel at the BMAA national meeting in Waxahachie, Texas,

this month. Bro. Matt was appointed a trustee on the board of directors of Baptist Publishing House! What an honor! God is so good!

We filled baby bottles with our change again this year for Aspire. We had a good response from all our members that were willing to contribute to this much-needed cause.

Please keep the Hale and Pipkin family in your prayers for the loss of Tim Hale.

Pray all you mothers have a blessed and wonderful Mother's Day spent with your families.

May God bless you all!!

*Billy Davis, Pastor  
Joan Wood, Reporter*

### Ozark Heights, Potosi

Greetings, brothers and sisters! We hope this finds you healthy, both physically and spiritually. God has truly provided blessings beyond measure. Enjoying spirit-filled messages by our pastor, as well as our youth ministry.

It has been a busy April as we prepared for Easter at our church. Bro. Lloyd and Bro. Gary recently remodeled the baptistry, and it was finished in time for our Easter Sunday services. We had a large crowd for our Easter Sunday service – if only we could have 135 every week. I'm sure we all shared that same thought, "Where were they the next Sunday?"

We had a tornado that touched down locally, damaging several buildings from the storm and heavy rain that flooded our town. We thank God there were none injured from the storm and the flood. For those like me, who have lived in Potosi their whole life, we have never seen our little creek so big and intense. We are praying that First Baptist Potosi gets their steeple back in place soon.

The week following our Easter service work began on our 63rd Annual Homecoming held on May 4th. We had a nice turnout for worship, followed by a wonderful

## ~ Upcoming Events ~

**Prayer Retreat** – May 30-31; Speaker Larry Barker; Camp Garwood

**MO GMA Retreat** – June 20-21; Camp Garwood

**SOAR '25 On Purpose** – July 2-4; Loews Arlington Hotel; Arlington, Texas

**BMA of Missouri Camp** – July 28-Aug. 1; Camp Garwood

*Send event info to [mmbpaper@gmail.com](mailto:mmbpaper@gmail.com).*

meal. We had a great singing by the Heritage Boys, and you could feel the Holy Spirit filling and blessing our hearts.

Please continue to lift us up in your prayers as we pray for you.

*Dwight Petete, Pastor  
Gary Gilliam, Reporter*

### Oak Hill, Alton

Hello to all from Oak Hill! I'm sorry I didn't realize we have another young man, Lane Wheeler, who will be graduating from Alton High School May 9th at 7:00 p.m. We enjoyed a great time of fellowshiping and enjoying great tasting food at Ethan's graduation party. May 18th is

when we will celebrate with Lane his graduation from Alton High School. Some of our kids who are attending our local schools are counting down the number of days left to attend school and are excited about getting out of school for the summer!

One of our dear church members has been sick, so we would like to ask that you would remember Oak Hill in your prayers. 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*

• **From BUILDERS page 1** • Point, Matthews, Ohlman, Bates Creek, Black River, Zion, and Kewanee. Also, on the two Sundays, we had a wonderful lunch at the two churches we attended: Lower Doe Run and Ohlman. A big "Thank You" to everyone for loving on us through your kitchens! The folks at Ohlman came in one evening during the rain and fried fish with all the "fixins" for us for supper! There were several ladies that spent hours at the cafeteria and at their homes to make sure we were never hungry. Thank you to these special people: Beatrice Evans (Ms. Bea), who was ALWAYS there, early to late every single day; Barbara Werley (Ms. Barbie), who cooked AND made sure the Builders stayed organized; Laura Polk, who cooked a wonderful rib dinner for us; Sharon Lourance and her mother, Joan, who provided endless snacks and a full Thanksgiving meal; and Janet Widger, who also spent many days in the kitchen preparing meals and helping Ms. Bea and Ms. Barbie. Janet also pleased a bunch of old folks one evening with cornbread, beans, and fried potatoes for supper! Janet Widger also served with the Just the Crumbs disaster relief ministry, while they were serving the community of Des Arc, MO. She had also helped Bro. Lavon Hayden of

MS, Doyle Morris of OK, and Dwyann Morrow of MS in this ministry in NC. The town of Des Arc was almost totally destroyed in the March 14 tornado outbreaks. What a compassionate, loving, and caring group of people who serve in this ministry! Two of our Master's Builders ladies had the opportunity to help in Des Arc and saw firsthand the full impact of their ministry.

While working at the camp, we had the opportunity to reconnect with former missionary to the Philippines Bro. Melvin Meade and wife Carolyn. What a surprise to learn they were so close and then being blessed to attend their church services and eat a meal with them! We also learned that Bro. Meade is an accomplished artist and craftsman. He gifted each Master's Builders family with a beautifully decorated cedar birdhouse. Thank you to these special people and their church family.

Several men came and helped with the building when they could, and they were a great blessing to The Master's Builders. These included: Chris Polk, Camp Director and Pastor at First Missionary Baptist Matthews, and his father, Lonnie Polk; Claude Evans, Pastor of Stony Point Baptist Church; Terry Sharpe, Pastor of Ohlman Baptist Church; Melvin Meade, Pastor of

• **See BUILDERS page 8** •

## BMATS Professor Presents Research

Dr. Ricky Williams, Professor of Church Ministries and Director of Hispanic Studies at Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary, presented his research "A Qualitative Study of Bilingual Worship Experience in BMA Churches" during the Evangelical Missiological Society's South-Central Conference held in Dallas, Texas, on March 28, 2025.

EMS is a professional society composed of missiologists, administrators, teachers, pastors, and students to facilitate scholarly support for the Great Commission.

A growing Hispanic population within the United States and relatively few bilingual worship opportunities motivated the research. Williams interviewed pastors and worshipers to determine the feasibility of churches conducting a single worship service in both Spanish and English.

The research found two primary benefits of bilingual worship. First, such services allow second-generation Hispanics, who speak predominantly English, to worship with their first-generation parents, who speak mostly Spanish. One parent shared, "I doubt that our teenage children would be believers without the bilingual service." Second, several Hispanic participants expressed their love for the "oneness" that occurs between the Anglo and Hispanic attendees of bilingual services.

Williams was selected by his EMS peers to make an additional presentation at the society's national meeting in October 2025.



### • From MISIÓN BELÉN page 2 •

#### Conference for Men

Brother Elvis Garcia invited me to participate in a men's conference at Daniel Springs Camp (in the state of Texas) on May 16 and 17. I, along with two other church planters (Bros. Cherry Gamboa and Adixon Pin), was so blessed by being asked to speak at this event, with Bro. Larry Barker as the main speaker. We can't wait to see how the Lord will be calling men to serve in His Kingdom. The theme for this conference is: Hands to the LABOR! Manos A LA OBRA! VBS this Summer!

It's just around the corner. We have been blessed beyond measure every summer with each one of you and your church family supporting us with your prayers, finances, materials and, above all, your presence! Thanks, Bro. Steve and Sis. Deiatre, for the amazing support during last summer. They spent five continuous days of VBS in our backyard. We continue in a relationship with a new friend Jesus, as well as his wife and kids, as result of this summer outreach.

This summer VBS for us here in Misión Bautista "Belen" is 10:00 a.m. to noon, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the first week of June! We are planning to have a wonderful time this summer.

We are so thankful that this summer we are

receiving our church family from Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, Arkansas. Pastor Jonathan Cofer has been invited to come and be the blessing for our ministry as their group of 25 students are traveling to St. Louis, Missouri, the first week of June. The place is being prepared as we speak, and we are

looking forward to inviting kids and their family to hear the gospel, have fun and meet new friends!

#### Father's Day!

By the time you are reading this article, both of the events mentioned above will be already passed. But this second Sunday of the month of June we are preparing our grill again to serve an amazing BBQ party for each one of the dads that want to join us for this special potluck.

We have some friends who are gathering on Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon to go over Bible questions and answers. We pray the Lord will bring them together for this special time of food, fellowship and friendship. Please be in prayer for an authentic relationship with God for each one of these men who are committing to learn more about God and the plan God has for each one regarding marriage and parenting, Lord willing.

Thank you for keeping us in your prayers. The Lord bless our service and may we be found faithful and fruitful for His Kingdom.

In His service,  
Juan Fernandez



## CBC Fall Stampede Days Announced

The Central Baptist College Stampede Open House schedule has been set for the 2025-2026 academic year. We will offer prospective students three opportunities to experience campus life firsthand.

The Stampede Preview Days at Central Baptist College allow prospective students to immerse themselves in campus life alongside their peers. During these Preview Days, attendees will enjoy a guided campus tour, have lunch in the dining hall, participate in a chapel service, and observe a class. Faculty members and professors will be available to meet and answer questions. Additionally, students will have the option (by appointment) to meet with a representative from the Athletic Department or audition for the Music Department. At the end of the day, attendees will have a chance to win a CBC door prize!

The Stampede Preview dates for 2025-2026 are as follows: Wednesday, October 8; Wednesday,

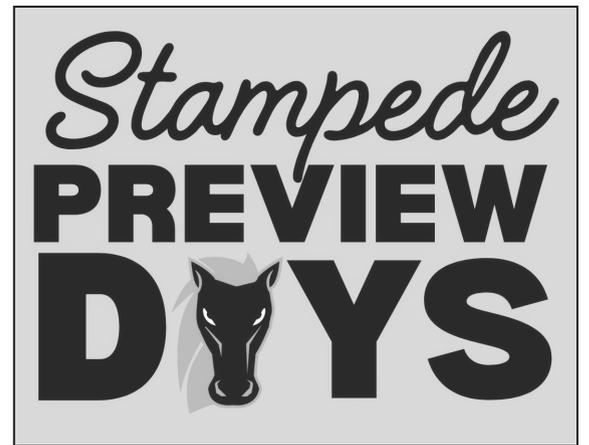
November 12; and Wednesday, March 4.

To register for an upcoming Preview Day, please visit [cbc.edu/visit](http://cbc.edu/visit). If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the Admissions Office via email at [admissions@cbc.edu](mailto:admissions@cbc.edu) or by phone at (501) 329-6873.

### Schedule a Personal Campus Tour

In addition to the Preview Days, individual tours are available through CBC's Office of Admissions. There is no better way for students to become familiar with CBC than by visiting the campus, taking a tour, sitting in on a class, exploring the residence halls, dining in the dining hall, and engaging with administration, faculty, staff, and current students.

We encourage parents, pastors, and youth ministers to motivate their students to visit Central Baptist College before making a final college decision. We believe that a campus visit can provide valuable insight regarding your college



choice, something we have witnessed many times.

To register online, visit [www.cbc.edu/visit](http://www.cbc.edu/visit). Once there, you can select either "Stampede Preview Days" or "Schedule Your Visit." For questions, additional information, or to arrange a visit by phone, please contact the Admissions Office at (501) 329-6873.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

## Church Discipline

Larry Barker

Church discipline is not a "popular" subject. Some have chosen to ignore the biblical commandment to discipline, when necessary, those within their church family. The scriptures are clear that sin must be confronted correctly, carefully, and compassionately to keep the sin from spreading to others (Hebrews 12:15; 1 Corinthians 5:6-7). God's inerrant Word reminds His followers of the danger of leaven and not allowing those who persist in sin to be emulated or imitated. Church, you are called to protect the purity of the church and to honor Christ (Romans 2:24; 1 Corinthians 5:1-2; Revelation 2:20).

Church discipline is to be obeyed with love, great sadness, and heaviness of heart. It is done with seriousness and soberness, understanding the gravity of the situation. The goal must always be to pursue biblical repentance, reconciliation, and restoration, hoping the individual will come back into full fellowship of your church. Yes, it is done with very heavy and burdened hearts but knowing that it is right. Think of the impact that would have on your fellowship by realizing that willful, habitual sin will not be swept under the rug. Though in the world you can do that, it will not happen in your fellowship.

The church is supposed to be different and must stand for the permanence and purity of marriage. God requires His children to stand for the protection of those who are innocent, and His followers are to be distinctly different from the world by upholding standards of purity. God expects His instructions to be followed and His commandments to be obeyed. The other option, no church discipline, says it really does not matter how someone lives, and the sin continues spreading to others. Scripture clearly states that if a church does not exercise discipline, often the Lord Jesus will do it Himself. That discipline could include your church.

Here are some guidelines and principles to follow in church discipline: When made aware of a particular sin keep it between the smallest group possible for proper resolution to hopefully occur (Matt. 18:15-17). Be careful not to harm someone's reputation too quickly or wrongfully. Be cautious to not cast doubt and suspicion that is undeserved. However, some sins are already publicly known and should be dealt with publicly. In Galatians 2 Paul rebuked Peter in front of everyone.

Disciplinary measures should increase in strength until there is a solution. Be careful to inform and include church leaders in this process, because there is wisdom in the multitude of counsel. Make sure that much prayer is taking place. Jesus' presence must be behind the decisions made by the church (Matthew 18:19-20; 1 Corinthians 5:4). He is present to give power to this disciplinary process, which requires strength, wisdom, compassion, and conviction to be carried out correctly. This is to prevent the church from giving the impression of approving disobedience (1 Corinthians 5:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15; 2

John 10-11).

Never give public endorsement to what God has called iniquity, transgression, sin, and immorality. When under church discipline, how should you deal with those disciplined in public? What if they invite you to get together for some fun activity? Consider this response: "No, we cannot do that, but we would love to sit down and discuss with you where you are spiritually and pray with you on this." Nowhere in Scripture do you see that we should just go on as if

nothing is wrong. Let them know they are loved and that you are praying for them, but you must stand with the Word of God and not compromise its truth.

As soon as genuine repentance has occurred, the person should be quickly brought back into fellowship of the church (2 Corinthians 2:7-8; Galatians 6:1; Matthew 18:21-22, 35). It is unwise to set any timetable in advance for church discipline to be completed. Different situations will be unique. You do not know when a person's heart might soften or harden. You do not know when repentance may occur. Also, granting forgiveness is different from restoring trust. Trust is only built slowly over time, can be shattered quickly, and take a long time to rebuild.

Looking at all of the verses above and 1 Corinthians 5, there are several reasons for biblical church discipline. First, believe it or not, it is for the good of the person being disciplined. It is

out of love for them that you want to see them disciplined for their spiritual health and vitality. You should never encourage hypocrisy where members are hardened, confirmed, and lulled in their sins. It is also for the good of other Christians, as they see the danger of sin as according to 1 Timothy 5:20. This is not for just any sin but ongoing sin that is not repented of and when the one in sin refuses counsel, guidance, or repentance.

Church discipline is also for the health of the church as a whole. No church or believer should ever boast of their tolerance of ongoing, unrepentant sin. Scripture is very clear about what a little yeast can do. Encouragement, love, and support will be your focus, and church discipline will be the exception, not the rule. The corporate witness of the church is not to be forgotten or taken lightly. People do notice when there is no difference between how followers of Christ live and how others live. Some have asked, "What about grace?" This is the most gracious thing you can do (Hebrews 12:6).

Lastly, but most important, church discipline is to be practiced for the glory of God as we reflect His holiness. We are to be conspicuously holy. This is not for our reputation but for His (1 Peter 1:16; 1 Peter 2:12; Colossians 1:21-22; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

Resources to consider are: *The Handbook on Church Discipline* by Jay E. Adams, *Church Discipline* by Jonathan Leeman, and *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church* by Mark Dever.





## A Lasting Legacy

Kelly Williams

This is the final post in our Legacy series. Where did this past year go? I cannot believe this is my last blog post about *A Lasting Legacy*. When I set this theme last year at the National WMA meeting in Branson, my thoughts were consumed with ways to improve my legacy for those, particularly my four grandchildren, who are coming behind me.

I recently had a wonderful conversation with my daughter (the mother of my four grandchildren). She told me that Grayson, our 8-year-old grandson, wants to come and stay with us for a few days because he wants to sit with Grammie and we both read our Bibles each morning.

The amazing thing about that is I have struggled for many years to consistently and faithfully read my Bible. I always thought I was too busy. But about five years ago, Ken, my husband, bought me a Rainbow Bible for Christmas and it has a daily schedule in the back of it. I committed then to strive to be faithful to read according to that schedule. I have been able to do so for the last five years. I love the schedule because I read the entire Bible by the end of September, then read the New Testament again before the end of the year.

That is one area of my legacy that I have worked on with God's help. I asked God to help me make time each day for my quiet time. Now every morning at 5:00 a.m. God gives me a nudge to get up so that I can spend time with Him in His Word and prayer.

What area do you struggle with? Your thoughts? Your actions? Your inaction? An area I am working on is to be more patient. My brain runs a million miles per minute, and when I ask a question (particularly of my husband) I am working to wait patiently for his answer. You see, he thinks in his mind before he speaks! I don't know if I have ever done that! So of course, I get myself into much trouble that way. So patience is one area I will forever be working on.

Another area I am struggling in is that of speaking to people about Jesus. I can readily speak of God and His amazing grace to my family and friends, but what about strangers? Do you tell the checkout person at Walmart what God is doing in your life? Or do you use self-check so you don't have to speak to anyone? What about the nail salon people? The lady who is sitting beside you as you have your nails done? This coming year, Judy Wallace has determined our new theme to be *Go and Tell*. Certainly this is about our missions' work, but also perhaps it is to go next door and tell your neighbor about Christ and His saving grace.

Psalm 71:18 has been our theme verse this year and it states: *Now also when I am old and gray-headed, O God, forsake me not; until I have showed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to everyone that is to come.*

That is my prayer, that I will share my Savior, Jesus, with all who I come in contact with daily.

## Thank You, BMA Family

Charles Johnson, President of the BMA of America  
(via Baptist Trumpet)



The 2025 National Association meeting has now concluded, and we embark on our next 75 years of the Lord's Kingdom work through the BMA of America. I want to personally thank all who attended the meeting and express my special gratitude to Pathway and Heritage Baptist Churches in Waxahachie for their gracious hospitality and attention to detail in hosting our Association.

The BMA Conference Team, led by Donny Parrish, is to be commended for faithfully planning, preparing and implementing the National Association meeting. They went above and beyond the call of duty to ensure the success of this vital event.

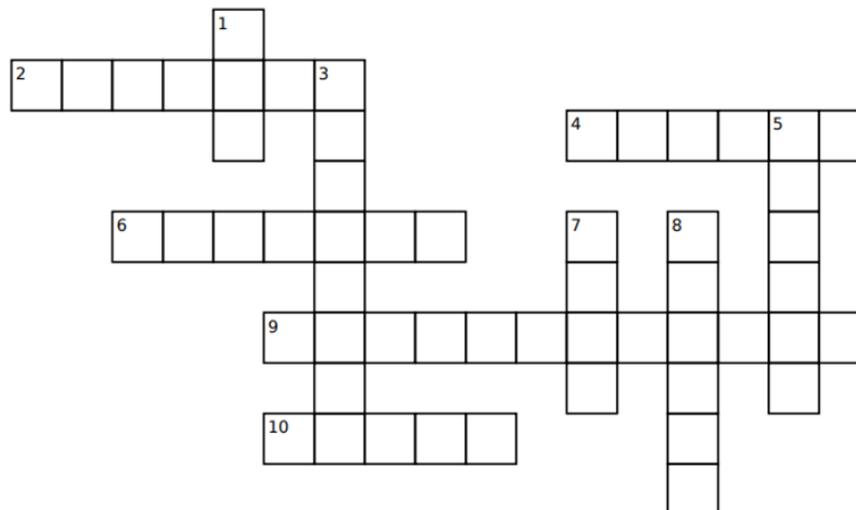
I want to thank the churches and messengers for their encouragement and confidence in reelecting me to a second term as your president. It is truly a privilege to serve the Lord and His local bodies of believers in this capacity. I ask for your continued prayers and understanding.

Plans are already underway for the 2026 National Association meeting, which will be held in Conway, Arkansas, with Antioch Baptist Church as the primary host. The theme for 2026 will be *Until Then*. Many people are discussing the impending return of Jesus Christ, yet often these same individuals neither act nor live as if His return is near. In this meeting, our goal is to encourage all of us to be faithful in living and working for our Lord until He comes back.

May God abundantly bless the churches of the BMA of America is my sincere prayer.

## Plants in the Bible

Can you identify these plants mentioned in the Bible? If you get stuck, there are hints provided on page 8 of this paper. (Feel free to make copies of the puzzle for sharing.)



Down:

1. Leaves from this tree were used to make body coverings
3. A tree used by a short man to see over a crowd
5. James asks, "Can a fig tree bear \_\_\_\_\_?"
7. Stalks of this plant were used to hide a couple of spies
8. God looked for a good harvest of this fruit in His people but received bad

Across:

2. Used to make a stew that led to serious consequences
4. Cleanse me with this and I will be whiter than snow
6. A seed Jesus used to illustrate a small amount of faith
9. One of the fruits the children of Israel longed for after leaving Egypt
10. A type of wood used to line floors and walls in Solomon's temple

### • From AMERICA page 1 •

declared, *Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross* (Colossians 2:14).

The songwriter wrote,

*My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought, My sin not in part, but the whole; Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul.*

Fifth, we must "forsake" wickedness. When we forsake a wicked life, we literally run from it. Paul told Timothy, *Flee also youthful lusts...* (II Timothy 2:22).

Are we willing to forsake the worldly lifestyle and embrace righteousness? Will we let Jesus lead us?

When these conditions are met, our Father will forgive us. He will wipe the slate clean and give us a fresh start. He will fellowship with us and bless His children again.

Jesus said, *Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me* (Revelation 3:20). Glory!

Our American and Christian hope is Jesus, God's only Son.

## Central Baptist College News

### Retirement of President Kimbrow

As we reflect on the time President Terry Kimbrow has dedicated to Central Baptist College and her mission, we are overwhelmed with thankfulness towards President Kimbrow and towards God for His guiding hand over the decades. President Kimbrow's retirement celebration was Friday, May 9.

As the longest standing CBC president, Kimbrow has made a profound impact on CBC and on many lives over the years. We strive to celebrate and thank President Kimbrow with the same dedication, joy, and heart with which he has faithfully served CBC for so many years!



### Student Activities Recap!

It has been a busy and exciting time on campus over the month of April with two major student events taking place.

We had our 10th Annual Hall Wars on campus April 14-17. With staple events like Footsketball and Lip Sync and new games like Slingshot Splashdown and Next Level @ Night, it was a great week of making memories and having fun!

After a Lip Sync with nearly all teams represented, the Hall Wars Champions were announced with the Commuter Girls (Purple Team) taking home the trophy!

The second annual event that took place in April was Spring Fling on Friday, April 25. Every year, this is a favorite event for many students, with a crawfish boil and games on the lawn. This year, we had an excellent turn out and a lot of fun taking a break from the busyness of the semester to enjoy the evening.

Please continue to pray for us as we finish up our semester and look towards graduation. It has been a great year, and we are prayerfully looking forward to another year of transformed lives and academic excellence starting in August!

### • From BUILDERS page 5 •

Lower Doe Run Baptist Church; Matt Bolen; Jeff Reynolds; Johnny Beardsley; and of course Joe McElroy and Jacob Hale. I may have missed some, but we do appreciate each one of you!

There is so much more that I would love to include, but this article is getting quite lengthy, so "Follow us" on Facebook, please! "Like" us at "The Master's Builders" (arbor logo) and you'll be able to follow all the details of each job, with pictures too! This was job #193 for The Master's Builders. We plan to head out to Go Forth Baptist Church in Kilgore, TX, to work next. While there, we plan to help with framing walls inside a metal building on site to provide a gym space, classrooms, a kitchen, and bathrooms. We plan to begin work on

Monday, April 28th, for two weeks. Come by and visit us and see what is going on if you are in the area. We would love to see you! Please pray for this ministry! We need workers if we are to continue. If you have questions about The Master's Builders ministry, or if your church has building needs, contact Mike Green at (972) 935-3877, David Axe at (903) 918-0702 or Eddie Sikes at (479) 462-1675.

Nelda Malone - Reporter



## 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.

**Bro. Aaron Maxwell**, a 46-year veteran pastor/missionary, has returned to Missouri and is available for pastoring and pulpit supply. He can be reached at (870) 834-0100. (0425)

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

## EIM VBS CURRICULUM

Evangelistic International Ministries is excited to announce the release of its 2025 VBS curriculum! This year we invite you to experience *Good News on the Ranch*. Enjoy a week full of down-home fun as we mosey through the gospel along the Good News Trail.

Each evening, our ranch-hands will introduce important aspects of God's plan for salvation. Available in both KJV and ESV translations, the curriculum



is designed to both create and grow a foundation for each student's understanding of the gospel. You and your students will leave our ranch ready to share the Good News!

Please visit [www.eimworldwide.org](http://www.eimworldwide.org) to preview and download the curriculum. Our previous VBS curriculum, *The Good News Cruise*, is also available on our website. For questions, feel free to text Michelle Rawls at (870) 461-1517 or email [michellerawlsrn@gmail.com](mailto:michellerawlsrn@gmail.com).

### Plants in the Bible

Here are scripture references to help with each clue in the crossword puzzle on page 7.

Down:

1. Gen 3:7
3. Luke 19:4
5. James 3:12
7. Josh 2:6
8. Isaiah 5:4

Across:

2. Gen 25:34
4. Psalm 51:7
6. Matt 17:20
9. Num 20:5
10. 1Kings 6:16

## SOAR - July 2-4

Loews Arlington Hotel, Arlington, Texas

Registration: \$140 per person  
(\$160 after June 2nd deadline)

Hotel: \$149 per night until June 9th

**Register your group today  
at [soarconference.com](http://soarconference.com)!**

Discounted tickets for area attractions available for booking on the website!

If you have any questions, contact Donny Parrish ([donny@lifeword.org](mailto:donny@lifeword.org)).

