

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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

Volume LXXXVII

St. Louis, MO • June 10, 2025

Issue No. 6

BMA of Missouri Mission Symposium and Semi-Annual Meeting

Pam Burke

Bethel Baptist Church of Sikeston hosted the 2024 BMA Mission Symposium on Friday evening, May 9. The service began with congregational singing led by Bro. Matt Bolen. Bro. Ben Kingston introduced the program for the evening, which included spoken and video presentations from four of our missionaries.



operating an elementary school, and running a feeding program. One of these young pastors should soon be licensed



missionaries, the meeting concluded with a state mission update and challenge by Bro. Ben Kingston.

The 97th Semi-Annual Meeting of the BMA of Missouri was held the next day, also at Bethel. The meeting opened with a welcome from host pastor, Bro. Billy Davis, and a congregational song led by Bro. Matt Bolen. Then Bro. Joe McElroy shared a



Bro. Michel Poirier shared about the various locations included in his ministry. He and his wife live and base their work out of Quebec, Canada. Bro. Poirier is also involved in training and other mission activities in Africa and in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, where gang crimes are dangerous obstacles.

Bro. Mickeal Quillman related the ministry opportunities he and his wife are experiencing in Zambia. Some highlights of their work include reaching people in twenty-four villages, currently training six pastors,

and ordained.

The progress on a church re-plant in Union, Missouri, was then highlighted by Missionary Chuck Tedrow. In addition to some in-depth doctrinal training with the core group of church members, extensive work is currently being done on updating the building to better meet the needs of the revitalization of the church.

Lastly, Bro. Juan Fernandez shared about the work he is doing in St. Louis and neighboring communities. He is using a variety of activities on a daily basis to spread the gospel and lead in discipleship of the Hispanic-speaking residents in the area. He spoke about the theme of his mission work -- “loving, serving, and equipping the saints.”



After the inspirational presentations by these

devotional thought from various scriptures on the topic “Be Committed.”

Moderator Dan Wisely opened the business meeting. Directors and representatives from the state departments presented their respective reports.

Following the business meeting, Bro. Michel Poirier presented the day’s message from Nehemiah 4 on discouragement and ways to fight it.

Bro. Jerry Adams offered thanks to Bethel for hosting the meeting. Bro. Brad Bandermann offered a prayer of thanks over Bro. Poirier and Bro. McElroy for their messages.

The meeting was concluded by the host church providing a delicious meal for everyone in attendance.



LITTLE ROCK MEETING GREAT SUCCESS: 500 CHURCHES REPRESENTED BY MESSENGERS AND 100 BY LETTER; BODY KNOWN AS NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION Bright Future for Missions, Literature and Education

C. A. Darst

(reprinted from June 5, 1950, issue of Missouri Missionary Baptist)

Editor's Note: Seventy-five years ago this month the then-current editor of the State paper covered the news of the first annual national meeting of the North American Baptist Association (NABA), the previous name for the BMAA. To commemorate this important event, Bro. Darst's article is reprinted here to remind us of our beginnings and to call to memory those who led in that most important period of time.

600 Churches Represented

It was reported that messengers and visitors came from eighteen different states. The enrollment committee reported some 500 churches represented by messengers and they calculated that 100 letters were received from churches not represented by messengers. More than 200 letters in all were received. Some of these were from churches represented by messengers also. Many more

letters were expected, since letters were being received daily, even during the meeting.

Wonderful Fellowship

I have never attended a national meeting that had the fellowship and where the atmosphere was equal to that of this meeting. God's presence, in the Person of the Holy Spirit, was present during the entire meeting. It was good to be there. You who were not there missed a great meeting.

Principles of Cooperation

On Thursday morning, after a good devotional led by Bro. E. L. Jones, the messengers were called together by Pastor W. J. Burgess for temporary organization and Bro. Burgess was elected Chairman or President and Bro. J. E. Cobb was elected as the assistant. Three recording clerks were elected. They

• See NABA page 3 •

State Missions

Dear BMAMO churches,

Well, we had a tremendous Missions Symposium on May 9 at Bethel in Sikeston. Special thanks to Bro. Billy Davis, his wife, and all the members there. They did an excellent job hosting!

All of our speakers were very refreshing and it was exciting to see what God is doing in their respective fields.

Bro. Mike Quillman, Bro. Mike Poirier, Bro. Juan Fernandez, and Bro. Chuck Tedrow all did a fantastic job and our hearts were thrilled over all the souls that have been saved and the seeds being planted. All of these men are committed to the God of their mission and to His mission of reaching lost men, women, boys, and girls with the gospel of Christ.

The older I get, the more difficult it seems to do simple tasks. I am constantly reminded of how important it is to stay motivated and encouraged. Many times if we do not encourage ourselves, no one else will.



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

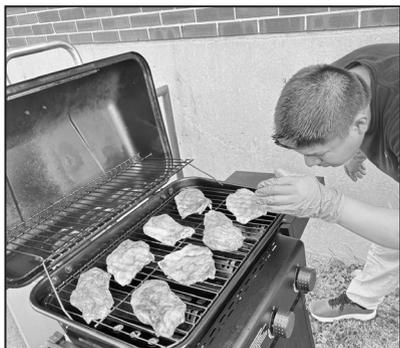
Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!
(1 Chronicles 16:24)

In Misión Belen we are fulfilling the great commission among our Spanish-speaking families and some in English too, by God's grace and your continuous, graceful support in prayer.

Praises

• For the partnership with Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, AR, this summer. They traveled here to minister alongside with Misión Belen through our VBS program. Their enthusiasm and dedication to have planned this trip since early in the year now has becoming a reality. We pray that the Lord continues blessing us with this kind of partnership. Every single summer for the last four years, you and your church have made an impact on our Hispanic population. We have this summer families returning who participated in the last VBS. Would you pray for them to join our ministry and continue growing and learning about Christ and His perfect will. We can't say thank you enough for this networking. May the Lord receive all the honor and glory.

• The third Wednesday of the month, after the ESL class in Hazelwood, our friend Pascual was led to trust in Jesus for his past, present and future. There is joy in Heaven! We met him through our contacts in Hazelwood. The owner of this restaurant/store has been key in recommending our ministry to other families in the area. We are praying that the Lord allows us to gather these families on



Wednesday night for prayer and Bible study soon.

• We have several contacts in the area of Florissant and Hazelwood. Since March 2024, once a week I have been recording a series on marriage which has led to good interaction with young couples who are listening and responding to its message of the gospel. We are so blessed. This recording is happening at Lindsay Lane Church – so thankful for the opportunity to connect with these church families. We have been working in their neighborhood and have had many spiritual conversations. Pray for these conversations to become conversions, lives transformed by the power of the gospel.

• We continue to see God's work in our Men of Peace Bible study. We now have three who are participating in a Discovery Bible Study. We are hoping to complete our ten series of Stories of Hope and wait to see how the Holy Spirit continues to convict these young men to become the men God planned for them

to be. Would you please keep Rolman, Daniel and Pascual in your prayers? We can't do God's work in our own strength – we need you to pray that these men commit their lives to be disciplined and trained to become spiritual leaders at home, church and the community.

We are planning to start a new children's program. Would you be in prayer for the

• See **MISIÓN BELÉN** page 3 •

So let me try to pass on some encouragement to you, pastor, Sunday school teacher, youth leader, or faithful church member. I was speaking to a young man at Bethel some months ago and he encouraged me when I was at a particularly low spot. I asked him what or why would he encourage me about and he used the word 'consistent.' Now, this isn't a brag-on-me moment; I would not say this about myself, but he saw what I could not see at the moment.

I want to tell you that in this world, consistency is a rare commodity. Someone being consistently prepared, faithful, positive, growing – these traits are rare. They are perhaps one of the greatest needs in our churches. And I believe that many, if not all, of our pastors and others I listed above are exhibiting these traits.

I am very proud of you for suiting up and showing up consistently to preach, teach, disciple, lovingly correct, etc.

I leave you with these points of view on what your consistency could lead to in the way of a formula:

1. Effort alone can change outcomes.
2. Effort with prayerful, thoughtful, guided direction can change trajectory.
3. Directed effort with passion can draw others to the movement.
4. Directed passionate effort that causes others to follow suit can change the world in which we live.

Just something to chew on!

May the Lord richly bless your efforts as you consistently follow Him.

Bro. Ben

Financial Report
BMA Of Missouri Missions
May 2025

<u>Checking Account:</u>	
Balance April 30	\$ 45,497.19
<u>Income:</u>	
Missions	\$ <u>3,017.03</u>
Total Income	\$ <u>3,017.03</u>
Total Available	\$ 48,514.22
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Director, salary/bonus	\$ 450.00
Secretary, salary/bonus	200.00
Juan Fernandez, support	2,333.33
Director mileage/mtg exp	<u>244.29</u>
Total Expenses	\$ <u>(3,227.62)</u>
Balance May 31	\$ 45,286.60
<u>BMAMS Revolving Loan Investment:</u>	
Balance April 30	\$ 122,310.75
Interest	<u>0.00</u>
Balance May 31	\$ <u>122,310.75</u>
Total in All Accounts May 31	\$ 167,597.35

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WMA

JOY

JUST OUR YES

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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• From MISIÓN BELÉN page 2 •

families we are in constant contact with – the challenge is real. We are hoping soon to have three families who will commit to our discipleship process and leadership training to expand our ministry to their hearts. We have seen more opportunities to connect with families in the St. Ann, St. John, and Overland areas.

We pray for God's way of assuring our steps that we can be faithful and fruitful to the call to serve him among our Hispanic families in the area – it is such a blessing to be led to where God is at work!

Thanks to Hannah, we just completed a whole new semester homeschooling our children. Hannah took upon herself the challenge to be the teacher as well as mom for our kids, so proud and thankful for her commitment, love and patience toward Victoria, Eleanor, Juanito and myself. We love you, Hannah.

Prayers

- More open doors



for prayer, evangelism, discipleship and leadership training for each one of our contacts.

- For our prayer network, pastoral support, coaching sessions.
- For a sense of freshness in every portion of our ministry, which has been underway five years this coming December.
- Three families to become our core ministry team.
- For our three home Bible studies, to expand and grow in faithfulness and obedience to the Great Commission.

• For healthy lifestyle for each one in our family, especially myself, as I have a series of lab work to do this coming week.

• For Father's Day picnic to be fruitful.

• For VBS and summer camp this summer.

• For my studies at BMA Seminary.

• My parents' health and decisions for their housing situation.

In His service, Juan Fernandez (Acts 20:24)

• From NABA page 1 •

were Brethren M. E. Childers, E. T. Burgess and Gerald Parson.

At this time the messengers elected a Constitution Committee composed of twenty-one members, with Bro. C. C. Winters as an advisory member. Those elected were: J. E. Cobb, D. N. Jackson, J. W. Duggar, C. A. Darst, D. R. Napier, E. L. Jones, Gordon Thompson, Ada J. Smith, Homer Gunn, G. E. Jones, Abner Redden, G. D. Kellar, L. H. Raney, A. L. Meldor, Robert Ford, W. R. Speer, L. T. Simmons, W. S. Leslie, Jeff D. Welch, R. R. Stracner and E. B. Jones. This committee came together and organized by electing Bro. J. E. Cobb Chairman and Bro. Abner Redden Clerk....

Permanent Organization

When the Principles of Cooperation were prepared and adopted by the messengers that provided for the organization, the messengers went into permanent organization. Bro. G. D. Kellar was elected President and Brethren J. E. Cobb and J. W. Duggar were elected Vice-Presidents. The three temporary recording clerks were elected permanent clerks.

Name of the Association

The messengers chose to call the name of the association the NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Our Mission Work

The messengers selected a Missionary Committee of twenty-five members. They are: Brethren M. N. Gregson, Jessie Burns, John Lee, S. F. Bruce, W. R. Speer, L. D. McClung, J. F. Cruze, J. Vickery, J. E. James, W. S. Gordon, L. S. Walker, W. D. Duncan,

J. Hover, E. B. Jones, J. Newton, Gordon Redden, D. C. Duncan, H. W. Darst, Walter Griffin, J. D. Hankins, G. C. Fieldin, O. F. Parker, G. E. Jones, Robert Ford and Olin Wade. This committee organized and made their report to the body.

All of the former missionaries who had declared themselves against the policies of the A.B.A. were elected as our missionaries by the messengers and two additional names were added. The names of our Interstate Missionaries are: Brethren E. C. Endicott, J. W. Miller, T. L. Duren, Gordon Thompson, Earl Kinney, Harold Morris and H. F. Gunn was [were] added. The Foreign Missionaries are James E. Timmons to Mexico, Austin J. Shell to Mexico and Howard White surrendered to go to Brazil.

Bro. Jeff D. Welch was elected Secretary-Treasurer of Missions. The temporary office for missions will be located at 426 W. Jefferson Avenue, Dallas 8, Texas. All interstate and foreign mission funds should be sent to Bro. Welch at the above address. Send regular offerings to this great work.

The missionaries are to be paid \$250 per month, plus \$25 traveling expenses.

Our Literature

The messengers selected a Publications Committee composed of the following sixteen members: Brethren J. F. McClain, who was selected Chairman, C. A. Darst, who was elected Clerk, L. H. Raney, who was elected assistant Chairman, R. G. Holland, who was elected assistant Clerk, Ada J. Smith, H. F. Gunn, J. H. Gibson, Harold Brunson, August

• See NABA page 5 •

• Updates from Our Churches •

Landmark, DeSoto

Happy summer to all our brothers and sisters in Christ! Hope everyone is safe and dried out from all the storms in May. We did not have any major damage here at Landmark, DeSoto, for which we praise God! We're still praying for all those who have suffered losses.

Thanks to Sis. Terry Smith and her helpers for making Mother's Day so special for our ladies with corsages and larger floral arrangements for our mothers.

Sis. Rebecca Young (our pianist and pastor's wife) has helped us move a little further into the 21st century by updating our Facebook page and posting Bro. Len's Sunday morning sermons along with announcements of our upcoming events. Check it out sometime!

We're looking forward to Father's Day and are planning a special breakfast for the dads and all the men of our church on Saturday, June 14th, starting at 9 a.m. Sis. Sharon Page is planning some special fun entertainment for this event. Ought to be a hoot!

God is still blessing us with visitors on a regular basis. We're praying that they will feel "at home" here and join our church family.

Bro. Len is still delivering inspired sermons, helping us to grow in God's Spirit. We are abundantly blessed to have him and Sis. Rebecca here.

Please keep Steve Roberts and his family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of his wife, Lisa. We also covet

your prayers for many others in the congregation that are suffering from illness and other hardships. In turn, we will also lift all of you up in our prayers.

Until next month or until the Lord returns, God bless you all!

*Len Young, Pastor
Barbara Williams, Reporter*

Abundant Life in Christ, Charleston

We were blessed with two invitations to impact our community in May. We were asked to lead the program for the National Day of Prayer here in Charleston. The Charleston High School FCA also asked Pastor Dunlap to preach this year's baccalaureate where he was able to preach a straight-up salvation message without any backlash from the community, and with several words of appreciation.

With our building completed year before last, we started working on our landscaping and continue to do so with noticeable results to the appearance of our property.

Rodney Dunlap, Pastor

Lindsay Lane, Florissant

Greetings from Lindsay Lane. Once again I ask, where did the last five months go? The answer of course is getting closer to the Lord's coming!

Congratulations to all the graduates and God's blessings on you! It's been a busy month for us. We celebrated Mother's Day with the men folks fixing and serving a most delicious breakfast for everyone. Then at the end of

morning services each lady received a beautiful cup and saucer with a miniature flower arrangement!

On the 16th the tornado tore through town! Thanking God for His amazing hand of protection that our church family was spared as well as our meeting place! I don't usually get too concerned because I know God is and always will be in control, but several times that day I was on my knees praying like never before, not for my own safety but the safety of the people in St. Louis as a whole! Our prayers go out for those who have lost everything! We must be ready! And we know that we know we are ready!

We're excited about our VBS starting June 16th. Please pray for the kiddos, parents, workers, and helpers!

Please pray for Sis. Thelma Cornett as she has been under the weather. Thanking God for her testimony and being able to be back in her home! She is truly a blessing and an encouragement to us all! All of our seniors are a gift from God for their faithfulness!

Our youth ministries are in full swing! We held a fundraiser on June 1st with pulled pork with all the fixings, and of course it was delicious! Our monthly Saints Alive lunch will be June 9th with more pulled pork on the menu with more to enjoy! We do love to eat and be fed with a devotional from our pastor!

The 31st of May several of our ladies, along with Pastor Meade, our driver, went to Godfrey, IL, to Josephine's

Tea Room for lunch! It was a great time to enjoy the beautiful day and a delicious lunch! Ladies get in touch with each other, lift up your sisters in prayer daily, and register for the retreat!

We pray God's blessing on the camps coming up, both for the Meramec Association and Camp Garwood! We lift up all the churches preaching the truth. May God bless till we meet again!

*Brian Meade, Pastor
Kathy Chapman, Reporter*

Mt. Olive, Salem

In March, we had four members attend the Missouri State WMA and Brotherhood meeting. March 7th we had clean-up day at the church house. Lots of fun fellowship as we worked on big jobs and little jobs that needed to be done to keep our building and property looking nice to welcome those who come to worship with us!

Our WMA outreach for April was singing for the long-term care patients and giving each of them an Easter gift. We always have a wonderful time visiting with them! We had some visitors who came to worship with us to celebrate Easter Sunday!

We are still excited and rejoicing over our revival in May! Bro. Brian Kingston opened the Word to us every evening, challenging and encouraging us in our Christian walk. We had an extra and exciting Tuesday evening! Our new brother in Christ, Keith, was saved after the service!

He has been attending regularly, and we have been praying for his salvation. What a wonderful blessing to get to welcome him to the family of God!

We had 13 visitors Sunday, June 1st. PTL! We had a wonderful time of fellowship after the service celebrating Sis. Donna's 70th birthday.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we go about our Father's business.

*Larry Nash, Pastor
Deiatre Gillam, Reporter*

Ohlman, Bunker

Spring flew by!

Our Sunday morning worship services are usually a full house. Sunday night, not so much.

May 4th we celebrated our high school seniors.

We had our last Wednesday night student ministry for the summer on May 28th. We had Bro. Doug Mickan and his friends for this night instead of classes. The kids, young and old, all enjoyed him/them. We will still have Wednesday night services at 6:30 p.m., but just not the meal and student classes. When school starts back, we will too.

We will have revival services June 22-25 with Bro. Mike Angus, Communications Director for Just the Crumbs, as evangelist. Services on Sunday will be at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday will start at 7 p.m.

*Terry Sharpe, Pastor
Janet Widger, Reporter*

~ Upcoming Events ~

MO GMA Retreat – June 20-21; Camp Garwood

Revival – June 22-25; Ohlman, Bunker; Mike Angus, evangelist; Sun. 11 a.m. & 5 p.m., Mon.-Wed. 7 p.m.

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

Jesus Camp - July 20-23 for grades K-5; July 23-26 for grades 6-12; Meramec Retreat Center

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

WMA Sponsored Ladies' Retreat – September 5-6; Drury Plaza Hotel Cape Girardeau Conference Center

Send event info to mmbpaper@gmail.com.

Revival!

Ohlman Baptist Church, Bunker

Evangelist, Mike Angus
(Communications Director for Just the Crumbs)

June 22-25

Service Times
Sunday: 11 a.m. & 5 p.m.
Monday-Wednesday: 7 p.m.

Second-Mile Christian

Pastor David Langley
via Oklahoma Baptist

And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. (Matthew 5:41)

Someone once said that Spurgeon instructed preacher boys to preach from Matthew chapter five at least four times a year. After D.L. Moody passed away and the folks who do such things analyzed his sermons, they found that over 50% of all the sermons Moody ever preached came from the text in Matthew chapter five.

So, it stands to reason that if those two men believed Matthew chapter five was so important, then perhaps there is something there for us as well.

Someone shared a little history about the Persian rule and how they instituted a law that said anyone employed by the government could demand that average people work for the government anytime they were asked...on the spot...a mile at a time. When the Romans took over, they liked and kept that part of the Persian law.

Even at the cross, we can see that take place when the soldier commanded Simon (Mt 27:32, Mk 15:21, Lk 23:26) to carry the cross for Christ after Jesus collapsed under its weight.

In Matthew 5:41, the Bible says that *whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain*. It isn't enough to do what is expected, we should do

more than what is required.

The take-away message from the sermon is that as Christians we should be willing to do more than is expected of us. There are many different areas of our lives in which we should be second-mile Christians – home, work, church, marriage, politics, etc.

These are things I'm pondering about my own life...perhaps they will speak to you as well...

- How much of a second-mile Christian are we at home? We should want

to be better Christians at home than we are anywhere else.

- Do we do just enough to get by or do we really go the second mile?

- Do our spouses feel that we give ourselves to them with the same dedication we give ourselves to others' needs?

- Is God's love and goodness recognized and shared in our homes more than just on Sunday?

Some other things I'm pondering about my own life...

- I confess that "walking the second mile" does not come naturally to me. But I also know that Jesus is wise, and His words are life.

- Walking the second mile does not mean you never rebuke or discipline a divisive, quarrelsome person.

Friends, please pray for me in this regard. Please pray for your pastor and your local church. Pray we will be known as second-mile Christians, serving in second-mile churches.

First-Mile vs. Second-Mile Christianity

To love your neighbor is the first mile

To love your enemy is the second mile

To bless those who bless you is the first mile

To bless those who curse you is the second mile

To do good to those who do good to you is the first mile

To do good to those who hate you is the second mile

Praying for those who pray for you is the first mile

Praying for those who would misuse you is the second mile

• From NABA page 3 •

Holden, R. P. Campbell, G. C. Stockstill, H. G. Burch, Mark Wells, Abner Redden, Jack Welch and Errol Williams.

Bro. J. E. Cobb was elected Editor of our Publications and Bro. Walter Griffins was elected Secretary-Treasurer of our Publications. (The title of Editor is used instead of Editor-in-Chief. The title of Secretary-Treasurer is used instead of Business Manager. The writers are known as Associate Editors.)

Little Rock, Arkansas, has been selected as headquarters for our Publications. I might inform you that LITERATURE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THE THIRD QUARTER, which is the next quarter. We expect to have quarterlies for all classes ready for the fourth quarter. The messengers voted to publish our own series of literature.

Send your orders at the present time in care of the Temple Baptist Church, 2400 Wright Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas. It is hoped that before long we will have a permanent location in Little Rock. A committee is looking into that now. However, send your orders at once to the above address, and your orders will be taken care of. In ordering literature, just estimate your cost and if you send too much money the office will give you credit on the next order. It has been difficult to work out every detail in such a short time. If you can send an extra offering to help get the literature business under way, and many are doing that, it will be appreciated. Many of the writers made it known on the floor at the meeting in Little Rock that they are going to donate the money that they shall receive for writing to the association. This means that they are going to do their writing free. Other writers said that they were going to donate a portion of the money received for writing. All of this is to be appreciated. The brethren and sisters have the cause upon their hearts and with such spirit and with the help of the Lord the business is bound to succeed. Thank the Lord!

You might be interested in knowing who the Associate Editors are, that is, who our writers are. The writers for the Sunday School quarterlies are: Adult – G. E. Jones, Senior – L. H. Raney, Intermediate – C. C. Bishop, Junior – H. F. Gunn, Primary – Mrs. Gerald Kellar, Beginners – Mrs. J. W. Duggar, Leaflets – Mrs. Alma Fowler, Help for the Teacher (Senior and Adult) – J. E. Cobb, Help for the Teacher (Junior and Intermediate) – Mark Wells. Writers for the Baptist Training Service quarterlies are: Adult – Abner Redden, Senior – Roy B. Flippo, Intermediate – Alfred E. Jones, Junior – W. S. Gordon, Children's – G. W. Fox, and Leaflets for Kindergarten – Mrs. Kenneth Marshall. We have never had anything for the kindergarten age in the Baptist Training Service. There has been a great demand for some material for this group, so send for

this material when you order for the fourth quarter.

Education Committee

The Principles of Cooperation provide for an Education Committee. I failed to secure the names of this committee.

Bro. Gerald D. Kellar made it known that the trustees of the Jacksonville Baptist Seminary had extended an invitation to the association inviting the churches to select a committee to meet with the trustees and the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas to work out a plan of joint ownership of the Seminary. The messengers accepted the invitation and elected a committee to meet with them.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee reported that the amount of \$3481.00 was received at the meeting. This is several times more than any amount that had been received at any national association that we had heretofore attended.

The Enrollment

The Enrollment Committee reported that there were some 500 churches represented by messengers and 100 more by letter. There were 1400 registered messengers and visitors. Perhaps there were many, many visitors who did not register. All who were present know that there was an overflow. The meeting far surpassed our expectations. You might be interested to know that Missouri was well represented. Personally, I enjoyed seeing the great representation from our own state. Of course, we understand that there are many, many churches all over the country that are in sympathy with what is now known as the NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION who were not privileged to have messengers present. This ASSOCIATION is not a small affair. At the 1949 session of the A.B.A., which was held with the Temple Baptist Church, there were only 550 churches represented by messengers and letter, 508 by messenger and 42 by letter. The NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION had 500 churches represented by messengers and 100 by letter. The Lord has blessed the churches and brethren that have launched out with faith in God, believing that He would bless the long cherished principles of church equality, church sovereignty, and ministerial equality, and has directed us in perfecting an association where we can be protected against alien baptism, modernism, lordship and many other evils that are prevalent in the world, even among Baptists.

The Preaching

The messengers and visitors had the opportunity to hear several messages.

• See NABA page 8 •

Master's Builders Work at Go Forth Baptist in Kilgore, TX

After a couple of weeks of rest, on April 25th The Master's Builders began arriving in Kilgore, TX, to begin work at Go Forth Baptist Church. The church needed help framing the rooms and walls in a 60x100 metal building. Three classrooms, a storage closet, two restrooms, a large kitchen with a serving area, a large pantry, and a janitorial closet were all framed in. The center of the building will be used as a fellowship hall or gym, as needed, and will accommodate half-court basketball. The fellowship hall/gym walls were built with 2x6 wood studs that were 16 ft. tall! It was only by God's provision and strength that these walls even went up! The Master's Builders also installed OSB siding on two sides of the gym, up 16 ft., and framed out the entryway in front of the building. They went as far as they could with the building, as the electrical work needed to be done before work could go any further. All this work was completed in five days!

However, with the tall, heavy wood framing, our men wouldn't have been able to accomplish this work without the amazing men and women of Go Forth Baptist Church. Many came each day and gave of their time, talent, and especially muscles! If you follow The Master's Builders page on Facebook, you'll see and understand just how AMAZING they were! It took many people to put those big tall walls in place. When The Master's Builders called out to "Raise the Wall," the Go Forth Church family were there to help! Praise God! Thank you to each and every one of them! There were ten or twelve who came to help when they could, and many of those worked every day we worked. What a blessing they were to The Master's Builders, and many new friendships were made!

The Builders had eight campers on site at the church, and one couple came from Bethel Baptist Church in Clayton, TX, to help with the work. This was job #194 for The Master's Builders. The Go Forth church family served an evening meal every day, and we were able to enjoy leftovers for lunch most days. They certainly saw to our every need while we worked on the building. They are a church faithful to pray, and they lifted us up in prayer daily! Pastor John Gradberg and his wife, Mickie, were such a blessing to us in so many ways. Brother John was able to work with the Builders a

few days, and Mickie blessed us with fresh eggs from her wonderful chickens. From the very first day we felt we were part of the Gradberg family AND the Go Forth Baptist Church family. This church family has a special place in the hearts of all of The Master's Builders. The Lord just keeps on enlarging our family, and for that, we are thankful! That is one of the biggest blessings to enjoy by being a part of The Master's Builders – meeting new brothers and sisters everywhere you go!

The Master's Builders ladies received a special blessing from the ladies of



Go Forth with an invitation to attend a real "Tea Party"! For many of us it was the first one ever! The church was

beautifully decorated, and the event was so well planned. The theme of the tea party was "Bloom Where You are Planted." The fellowship, testimonies, music, and food were wonderful! As a bonus we all got to dress up with our fanciest dresses, church gloves, hats, and "fascinators"! Once again, you can see more about this wonderful event on our Facebook page. Several of the men from the church served the meal and made sure we were each treated like the blessed women of God that we are! A special thank you to each one who had a part in making this a wonderful day for all!

Please pray for our Master's Builders family. We need workers to join us! Some of our men want to continue to work, but their bodies are wearing out! They love serving God in this ministry and the blessings that go with it. Pray for the Lord to send workers and for safety as our men work. The Master's Builders' next job will be at Round Prairie Baptist Church in Fairfield, TX, starting May 28th. If you can, PLEASE come visit and see what we do! We would love to meet you and visit with you.

If you have questions about The Master's Builders ministry or 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.

Please follow us on Facebook and pray for us! "Like" our page at "The Master's Builders" (arbor logo) and

Just the Crumbs Update

After severely damaging tornados swept through the mid-west on May 16 and 17, Just the Crumbs Disaster Relief sought God's guidance as to where to next set up a kitchen. We identified a good location at Victory Baptist Church in London, KY, where we arrived on May 22 and fed a meal to the volunteers on-site that evening. We are continuing to serve three meals a day for the on-site volunteers and a good hot meal about midday for community members. Another Just the Crumbs team is feeding volunteers from Georgia doing skid steer and chainsaw work at Morganfield, KY.

Just the Crumbs has served in North Carolina since late September 2024. As this report is typed, we still have work to do in the Lake Lure, NC, area during the month of June. After that, we will step back and seek God's guidance for our next move.

After tornadoes did damage all across our country on Friday night and Saturday, March 15 and 16, Just the Crumbs deployed one team to serve the community and volunteers in the Jefferson Davis/Covington County Baptist Association building in MS. Another team was deployed to Des Arc, MO, serving until the immediate needs were met.

As always, it takes funds to keep the feeding, debris removal, clean-outs, and rebuilds going. There aren't words to express our appreciation to every person, church and other group who has given of your time and finances to support these relief operations. There continues to be total devastation in some of the tornado-hit communities; we are thankful that there are still groups coming in to offer the help that is needed. Recovery is a slow process, because so much has to be rebuilt from ground level and even below; many have no insurance and no funds to rebuild. Many of all ages are still trying to find a way to begin again. We need to extend hope in Christ wherever, however, and whenever we can.

Volunteers for every phase of our work are always needed. To schedule a time to serve, you may call Lavon Haden at (601) 522-6055 or Brandy Haden at (601) 441-4586. Please leave a text and/or call again if your call is not immediately answered or returned. Cell service in these areas is not always dependable. Follow our Facebook page where you can learn a lot about our activities and our needs.

Financial donations may be made through PayPal at justthecrumbs21@gmail.com or VenMo @justthecrumbs; mailed to 10 Wagon Trail, Sumrall, MS 39482; mailed to BMA of MS Missions, 4226 Highway 15 N, Laurel, MS 39443; or mailed to BMAA Missions, P.O. Box 878, Conway, AR 72033. Every donation is humbly and deeply appreciated. Our website is www.justthecrumbsministries.com.

In Christ,
Lavon Haden, CEO
Brandy Haden, President

watch for daily updates where we share lots of pictures and information about this ministry and the work we do.

Nelda Malone – Reporter





First One Step, and Then Two

Robin Tyler

My sister was born when I was 11. She came along a little later in life for mom and dad. With two older siblings, and experienced parents, she was destined for an extraordinary childhood. She was a toy for my brother and myself. If a baby could remember events from infancy, she could tell you of the time she was lying in my lap, and somehow slipped off onto the floor and bumped her head.

Luckily it wasn't far to the floor. There was no lasting damage, other than the ability later in life to attend college for her doctorate. I'd like to take all the credit for the effect it had on her IQ, but our mother might disagree. Other than the one tumble, my brother and I generally tried to take good care of her.

It was a family affair making sure she reached her childhood milestones triumphantly. We all took turns teaching her the necessary skills to become an independent person. One skill encouraged by all members of the family was walking. I remember propping my sister up in front of our refrigerator. Backing a few feet away from her, and holding out my hands, I would try to coax her to step toward me. Her faith in me caused her to give it a try. First one step, and then two, would bring a loud applause and a jubilant celebration. You would've thought she had won an Olympic medal.

Days passed by and she became more and more confident, taking more and more steps. In no time at all she was toddling all around the house. The hesitancy of a step taken in front of the refrigerator was quickly replaced by confident feet

running all over the house. What started as first one step, and then two, became a constant confident walking child.

Her childhood days have long passed. She now has an eleven-year-old of her own. When he was young she had the joy of propping him up, backing a few feet away, holding out her hands, and coaxing him to step toward her. First one step, and then two, would bring a loud applause and a jubilant celebration. Again, we have an Olympic medalist!

The task of learning to walk is probably done a little different in each family. For some reason the refrigerator worked great for my sister as well as my children. It seemed to always be a great unoccupied flat surface, from which a child could easily be propped. Those days are long gone, but the memories are forever etched in my heart. Trusting family and friends to take care of them, a child seems to abandon fear as they try a new task or skill. Stepping into the unknown can rattle the best of us, but watching the faith of a child makes me wish I could have such abandonment toward God. A friend of mine told me this acronym for 'faith':

Forsaking
All
I
Take
Him

I'd heard an acronym similar to this most of my life, except the word 'Trust' was used in place of 'Take'. Personally, I've come to prefer using the word 'Take.' A child steps out in faith to the one holding their arms out to catch them. They totally trust

BMA Seminary's Sixty-Eighth Commencement

The BMA Theological Seminary of Jacksonville, TX, conducted their 2025 commencement exercises Saturday, May 17 in the Dorman Chapel. The twenty students receiving degrees are:

Master of Divinity

Tanner Scott Choppy – Tomball, TX
Christopher Dewayne Proctor – Whitney, TX
Rafael A. Romero – Tampa, FL

Master of Arts in Church Ministries

David Nicholas Ledlow – Vancleave, MS

Master of Arts (Pastoral Theology)

Brian Edward Mauk – Gilmer, TX
Michael Morris Styers – King, NC

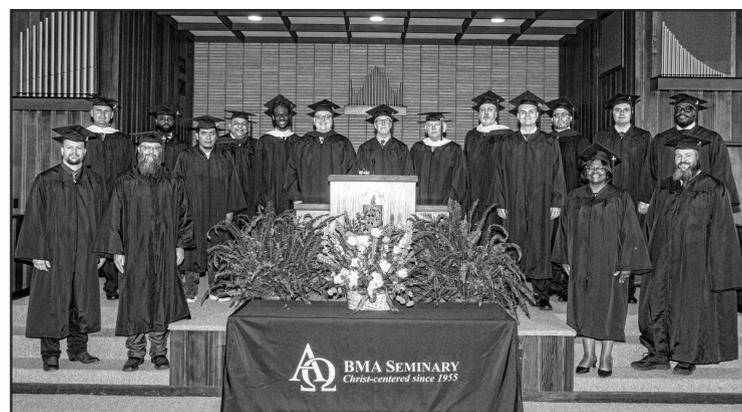
Master of Arts (Religion)

Rick A. Kolczak – San Antonio, TX
Billy Christopher Williams – Tyler, TX

Bro. Charles Johnson, pastor of Rosewood Baptist Church in Gilmer, TX, and current president of the Baptist Missionary Association of America, presented the commencement address.

BMA Seminary provides accredited theological education to qualified individuals by seeking to equip them for

Christian service and leadership roles. The seminary supports the educational needs of the Baptist Missionary Association of America and other groups who share a like commitment to the authority of Scripture by offering certificates, associate, bachelor, and master's degrees.



Bachelor of Arts in Religion

Andrew McKenna Baxter – Athens, TX
Blake Everett Box – Athens, TX
May Lin Christina Chiang – Singapore
Cheryl Lou Curry – Jackson, TN
Don Ray Davis, Jr. – Chandler, TX
Eniowo Adewole Joseph – Ondo, Nigeria
Dustin Lee Heese – Battle Mountain, NV
Cameron Todd Loe – Magnolia, AR

Associate of Divinity

William Vance Cawley – Fred, TX
Demarcus LeCharles Howard – Conroe, TX
Dustin Lee Huie – Sulphur Springs, TX
Guilmar Juarez A Reynoso – Ixcan Playa Grande, Guatemala

the one encouraging them and they choose to 'take' the first step, and then two. It's the action of 'taking' that shows faith.

In this acronym, the word 'Him' represents God. Taking that first step in obedience, our heart can feel as though it is in cement. Our hesitancy to take that first step can be caused by fear, selfishness, denial, lack of self worth, pride, busyness and many other things.

The very first step in "Taking Him" occurs at salvation. (*If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord", and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.* (Romans 10:9)) After that, each 'Taking-Him' step builds upon the previous.

Days will pass by as we become more and more confident. He is always with us and the source of our confidence. We take more and more steps, and in no time at all we find ourselves toddling all around doing what God calls us to do. Feet running all over doing Kingdom work replaces the hesitant first steps. What started as first one step, and then two, becomes a constant growing child of God.

Each step chosen to 'Take Him' is not necessarily easier than the previous ones. Personally, fear is what sometimes hinders me from taking the first step. It takes pushing fear aside, remembering Who I am stepping

towards, wiggling my toes, and taking the first step. To 'Take Him' includes salvation, and things like spending time with Him in prayer, a better attitude, checking on someone who's sick, repentance, starting a new ministry, attending church, going on a mission trip, studying the Bible, supporting missionaries financially, beginning a prayer group or whatever God is calling you to do. It's a continual choosing to 'Take Him.'

Prop yourself up against a sturdy object. Allow God to chisel the cement from your heart. Look at the hands reaching out asking you to step in faith, and wiggle your toes. Take Him. It's first one step, and then two. With certainty it is known that the prize is much more valuable than any Olympic medal.

Scripture: *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off every encumbrance and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with endurance the race set out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.* (Hebrews 12:1-3)

Prayer: Father, I take you.

Central Baptist College News

CBC Alumni Association "Join in June" Promotion

We're excited to announce the return of the CBC Alumni Association's "Join in June" promotion for a limited time! During June, alumni who join the CBC Alumni Association will receive an exclusive gift as part of this initiative.

Join or renew your membership today to receive a free alumni cup. Membership rates are \$35 per year for individuals and \$50 for couples. Visit www.cbc.edu/alumniassociation to join now!

If you're already a member, no worries! Purchase an alumni cup for just \$10. For more information, please contact Mallory at mguyton@cbc.edu.

Mustangs in the Making

We invite you to enroll your children or grandchildren in our "Mustangs in the Making" program. This free program is for children from birth through their senior year of high school and allows the CBC Advancement office to nurture our "Future Mustangs" by fostering a love for CBC from an early age. Each year on their birthday, your child or grandchild will receive a birthday card and a special gift on certain milestone years. To enroll, visit www.cbc.edu/makingmustangs or contact Mallory at mguyton@cbc.edu or (501) 205-8875.



Legacy Leaders

Legacy Leaders is a giving program designed to help alumni and friends of CBC give back to the college. This program recognizes individuals who believe in CBC's mission and future. Your contribution, no matter the amount, will significantly impact the college and our students' lives.

• From NABA page 5 •

Bro. H. L. Groom preached the opening message in the new auditorium and at the same time Bro. T. Sherron Jackson preached in the other auditorium. Bro. L. S. Walker preached in the new auditorium in the afternoon of the first day. Then in the evening services ... Bro. W. J. Dorman preached in the new auditorium and Bro. J. W. Duggar preached in the other auditorium. If there were others who preached, I failed to learn about it. Since I was on committees and the committees were in session most of the time, and especially during preaching, I did not get to hear any of the preaching and the many inspirational talks that I heard about. However, the rumors were that all the messages were good and the services were spiritual.

I might add right here that I certainly appreciated the invitation and opportunity extended to me by Pastor W. J. Burgess and the Temple Baptist Church to preach on

Wednesday evening. It was a joy to preach to that great host of people that evening. Bro. Burgess has a great church and is doing a good work.

Good Entertainment

Pastor W. J. Burgess, the host pastor, was shouting happy, as well as the other pastors of that city, because the messengers and visitors swarmed Little Rock. The names of the other pastors are D. N. Jackson, E. T. Burgess, W. D. Bowman and L. E. Jolly. We were well cared for, even though some had to go several miles out of the city for tourist courts.

The Next Meeting

The next meeting of the association, which is known as the NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, will meet with Pastor J. W. Duggar and the Parkview Baptist Church of Laurel, Mississippi, on Wednesday and Thursday after the second Sunday in March. Bro. D. N. Jackson was elected to bring the opening message.

To join Legacy Leaders, visit www.cbc.edu/legacyleaders.

Contribution Levels:

- Pillar: \$10 per month •
- Tower: \$25 per month •
- Sustainer: \$50 per month •
- Leader: \$75 per month •
- Old Main: \$100 per month •
- 1952: \$250 per month •

Homecoming 2026

CBC will host its annual Homecoming activities starting on Monday, January 12, and continuing through Saturday, January 17. A variety of events will take place throughout the week, with the main events scheduled for Friday and Saturday. Make sure to mark your calendars for Homecoming 2026!

JESUS CAMP 2025

KIDDIE CAMP JULY 20-23 (K - 5 GRADE) \$ 50

TEEN CAMP JULY 23-26 (6 - 12 GRADE) \$60

All meals provided - Outdoor theater-style tabernacle w/amazing view
Basketball - Volleyball - Baseball - Obstacle course - Swimming
Air conditioned dormitories - Located just 30 minutes from St. Clair

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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.

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!**

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

*If you have any questions, contact
Donny Parrish (donny@lifeword.org).*

