

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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

Volume LXXXVII

St. Louis, MO • July 8, 2025

Issue No. 7

Blessed is
the Nation
whose God
is the Lord



BMA Seminary to Offer Free Course on Inductive People Helping

The Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary has scheduled a Fall 2025 “free course” to be offered from September 2 to October 30.

The course, entitled “Inductive People Helping,” will explore the concept of integrating Inductive Bible Study questions with principles of people helping/counseling.

The premise of Inductive People Helping is that students of the Bible can apply the same questions and principles used in their study to the practice

of helping/counseling others in need. Inductive Bible Study involves asking a series of questions to determine what a passage of Scripture says, what it means, and how it applies. Similarly, such questions can potentially assist people helpers during counseling opportunities.

The course is designed to assist pastors, ministers, or laypeople in asking questions that observe, facilitate understanding, and encourage change. Having prior knowledge of Inductive Bible Study, particularly the questions used in the DiscipleWay Bible Study discipline, is helpful but not mandatory.

Ronnie Johnson, Ph.D., Professor of Christian Education, will be the course instructor. Dr. Johnson has been a faculty member at the BMA Seminary since 1990 and specializes in Christian education, discipleship, and Christian counseling. Dr. Johnson created the course based on his article, “Inductive People Helping: Integrating Inductive Bible Study and the Process Model of Helping,” which was published in the *Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling* in March of 2025.

Dr. Johnson has also published articles in the *Evangelical Dictionary of Christian Education*, the *Children’s Ministry Magazine*, and the *Christian Education Journal*. Dr. Johnson currently serves on the Baptist Publishing House editorial team, focusing on leader-assistance materials. With experience as a hospital chaplain, youth minister, and pastor, he is currently the adult Sunday School teacher at First Baptist Church in Maydelle, Texas.

Anyone interested in taking the course should contact BMA Seminary for more information. Web: <https://bmats.edu/free/> E-mail: bmats@bmats.edu Call: (800) 259-5673.

Building Leaders

Larry Barker

God’s call to leadership requires a focus on leading yourself and then on leading others to God’s agenda. The challenge is not just teaching people to live like Jesus but to also lead like Jesus. Begin simple, where you are, and realize that leadership development is an extension of your discipleship pathway. Mac Lake refers to discipleship as “Intimacy with Jesus” and leadership as “Influence for Jesus.” Discipleship focuses on character, and the journey of leadership development begins by adding competencies and skill sets to that character building. You must be able to lead yourself well in the ways of Christ in order to lead others.

In developing leaders, it is vitally important to remember three principles:

- **Think smaller not bigger.** What two or three people can you begin demonstrating what leadership looks like up close?
- **Think slower not faster.** This is not an assembly line where production of numbers drives the process. Dumping information on leaders in the making does not produce transformation.
- **Think strategic not generic.** What competencies does this unique person that God has called them to be really need? This is the beauty of smaller being better and more strategic because you can customize the content per the needs of the potential leader.

Begin the leadership pathway by prayerfully identifying potential leaders. You as a leader in the church should always be looking for potential leaders by knowing what you are looking for. The practice of most is to look outside their church for leaders doing well in other ministries, but commit to first focus on those God gives you out of your harvest. Always have your eyes open for the young potential leaders that God brings your way to mentor. How will you enable them to take the next steps and walk with them in their development? What regular rhythm can you develop to spend time with those you identify and allow iron to sharpen iron?

Now you begin to invest in the potential leader. Remember, it is not about mass production and teaching generic leadership principles but individual, customized training. There must be a process in place where they can receive what they need to properly equip them for leadership. They must be trained in the message (how to handle the gospel and to have a strong theological foundation), the mission (applying the gospel to their context), and the ministry (putting into practice what they have learned). This can happen one on one or even one on two or three. First, teach them to walk with Christ and build an intimate relationship with Him.

The time has now come to hopefully initiate the potential leaders. There must be entry level places of service and ministry. God has given us the perfect track for coaching them in the skills needed for leadership: discipleship! They need to be taught to make disciples and should not be given leadership responsibilities unless they are making disciples. There must be “on the job” training opportunities where they can put into practice the skills they will use whether beginning small

• See *LEADERS* page 8 •



Missouri State Camp Week

July 28 – August 1

Speakers: Shawn Hammontree
and Jordan Bowen

Theme: *Walk the Path*

State Missions

Dear BMAMO Churches,

What can you rally around? There is an old civil or revolutionary war folklore story about a soldier that was watching his men run away from the enemy on a very important battlefield when he stood up on a log and started screaming, "Rally men, Rally! Don't run like dogs, fight like men!"

When he did this repeatedly, the men turned back and fought valiantly. They turned the tide that day and changed the outcome of that battle, and some argue, the outcome of the war.

I have been able to find documentation about this event in the past but was not able to procure that same proof at this writing. Nevertheless, to borrow those sentiments again, I want to ask the question: "What should you and I and the New Testament church rally around?"

Well, I'm glad you asked. Robert Logan, in his book *The Missional Journey*, has twelve life surrenders called the *via cordis*, which means "the way of the heart." And it's around these twelve life surrenders that we can all agree upon that we should rally around in this dark age.

The reason this is so fresh in my mind is that this happens to be the theme for our Jesus Camp for the teens this year, and it's too good not to share. We will only address seven of these this year, so we will only look at those seven in today's article and for sake of time, I'll just give

them as bullet points to chew on.

Have you ever been challenged to or had the opportunity to give a two-minute explanation of what life for the New Testament Christian is all about? What if you and I were ready to go with this explanation and this was known and practiced by our rank-and-file associational church members? I believe it would become a rallying cry!

Under the heading of "Love God":

- The first surrender in our lives is to a Relationship with Jesus – deepening our experience with and of God.
- The second surrender is Transformation – becoming like Christ
- The third surrender is Responsiveness – instant obedience to the initial promptings of the Holy Spirit

Under the second heading "Love Others":

- The fourth surrender is Authenticity – being genuine and honest with those around you
- The fifth surrender is Respect – loving those around you wherever they are at in their station of life
- The sixth surrender is Involvement – being relationally engaged with others
- The seventh surrender is Serving – being the hands and feet of Jesus

May the Lord bless us as we rally around these surrenders to the lordship of Christ. . . to be continued.

Bro. Ben Kingston



MISIÓN BAUTISTA BELÉN (Bethlehem Mission)

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Juan Fernandez

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For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. (Hebrews 6:10)

We are praising the Lord this summer for the many opportunities to share the precious seed of the gospel. We have increased the number of contacts in the last few months, including Mrs. Maria and her children who attended our VBS. We are so thankful to meet her and be able to connect through follow up.



laborers for the kingdom!

Please add these names into your prayer list: Javier and Xochitl, Cecilia and Fran, Omar, Yaneth, Roberto, Mrs. Maria, and Octavio. We have had them in different situations where the gospel has been presented. We just continue trusting God for the fruits.

Thankful for our beloved Bethany members that opened the doors to welcome the missionary team from our family church, Antioch Missionary Baptist Church. First, for letting us use the building for this team to stay, and for sending yummy homemade cookies, snacks and fresh drinks to keep all of us hydrated. Also, a young couple we have been reaching out to, Javier and Xochitl, came to prepare dinner on Monday evening. Thank you, Mrs. Darlene, for sharing with us rice to cook and for inviting your grandkids to participate in our VBS. Mrs. Cecilia from El Salvador, a former student first generation, cooked homemade pupusas, almost 100! Thankful for these contacts that have joined our mission, even if it's only for reaching out, we pray that one day they became faithful

Pastor Jonathan Cofer, his wife Meagan, Priscila and David, and all the missionary team that came along, thank you! The Lord is glorified in united efforts to share the gospel. David and his sister caused a unique impact these days of VBS in our children and during the time we welcome other children and their families. They are bilingual and talented, such blessing and encouragement to see and feel their love for God and the work God is doing through our ministry. Parents of each one of this mission team must be proud of them. The final day we had around 18-20 children, thank you Jesus! Keep the good work, my brother Jonathan and Meagan. May the Lord



• See MISIÓN BELÉN page 3 •

Financial Report BMA Of Missouri Missions June 2025

Checking Account:

Balance May 31 \$ 45,286.60

Income:

Missions	\$ 3,647.62	
WMA for Juan Fernandez	504.05	
Total Income		<u>\$ 4,151.67</u>
Total Available		\$ 49,438.27

Expenses:

Director, salary/bonus	\$ 450.00	
Secretary, salary/bonus	200.00	
Juan Fernandez, support	2,333.33	
New Test. Church Plant	1,000.00	
Juan Fernandez, work fund	504.05	
Total Expenses		<u>\$ (4,487.38)</u>
Balance June 30		\$ 44,950.89

BMAMS Revolving Loan Investment:

Balance May 31	\$ 122,310.75	
Interest	0.00	
Balance June 30		<u>\$ 122,310.75</u>
Total in All Accounts June 30		\$ 167,261.64

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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)

NOTE: Deadline for special room rate
of \$155 plus tax is **August 3.**

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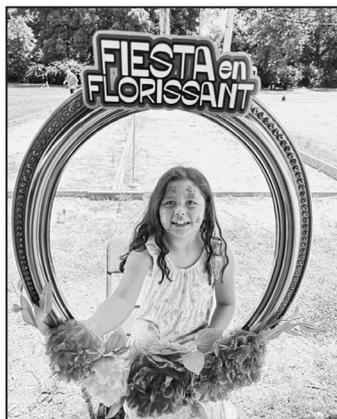
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• From MISIÓN BELÉN page 2 •

continue blessing y'all.

Follow up: As part of our plan to follow up and since more of our families we contacted live in Overland, we are planning to be available on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Pray that these families will continue participating.

Father's Day celebration was a unique event; we had prepared our delicious chicken secret recipe. Hannah and the kids joined this special Sunday in the afternoon to play soccer, cook out and have a time in the Word for these men. We were blessed to have Daniel and Roberto; these young men have been gathering every Sunday for the last six weeks for a Discovery Bible Study on Sunday at 5:00 p.m. This special Sunday we had the privilege to have Mr. Alex, his son Alex, Jr., and his daughter



to become?

The second Sunday of the month we have set aside to have a potluck for the next three months. We are praying for a good time of



households for a strong, bold and fruitful faith to sustain and grow with wife and children. We are facing many challenges as a pioneer ministry. The first year of our ministry we went through C O V I D season, but the Lord is faithful and sustained us and our families to continue reaching out and serving in love. We have been able to grow in our presence on media, although we know the best way to celebrate faith and fellowship is in person. We have many contacts who are blessed with our Bible productions going live Sunday 8:50 a.m. and Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Monday and Thursday evenings are also additional opportunities to connect with families on social media. We are not depending on this to present results of our ministry and services, but we have identified social media to be a partial solution to the many challenges our families are facing.

There is a new challenge that our families are facing. Would you please join us in prayer as many of our contacts have expressed deep concerns regarding their legal status in this country. I have made several visits where I have not been allowed to even talk to anyone. I used to be able to make contact even on the worksite where workers were taking breaks in the open air, but now that has changed. The fear is constant and growing. Pray that we can be Jesus to each one of our neighbors and the doors continue opening for the gospel.



To Him be the glory!
In His service,
Juan Fernandez

Quarterly Financial Reports

**Missouri Missionary Baptist Paper
2nd Quarter 2025**

Beginning Balance April 1	\$ 21,895.39
Offerings	3,928.70
Funds Available	\$ 25,824.09
Salaries	(2,400.00)
Printing & Mailing	(2,642.91)
Other Expenses	(163.68)
Ending Balance June 30	\$ 20,617.50

**Kenneth E. Gibson Grant Fund
2nd Quarter 2025**

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

**BMA Of Missouri Minute Fund
2nd Quarter 2025**

Beginning Balance March 1	\$ 4,762.61
Offerings	75.00
Funds Available	\$ 4,837.61
Clerk Hire	(1,300.00)
Travel	(86.04)
Minute Printing	(1,403.33)
Other Expenses	(45.74)
Ending Balance May 31	\$ 2,002.50

• Updates from Our Churches •

Stony Point, Mineral Point

Hello and Happy July from everyone at Stony Point.

We had an eventful June. Pastor Claude has been in our thoughts and prayers as he underwent heart surgery. He is doing well and on the mend. God is good! He plans on being back to sharing God's Word on June 29. We are all very grateful he came through well. We continue to pray for his full recovery. A big "thank you" to those who stepped in and helped while he was recovering.

VBS was a good time! Along with water fun and hand puppets, there were lessons on the Good Samaritan and Zacchaeus. Wednesday was cancelled due to the threat of bad weather, but it was a good time had by everyone.

Sadly, we lost a loved and long-time member, Marple Jarvis on June 26th.

Please join us in continued prayer for Bro. Claude's recovery. Have a wonderful month ahead!

*Claude Evans, Pastor
Delaina Stegall, Reporter*

Ozark Heights, Potosi

Greetings to all our sister churches from Ozark Heights. We pray all is well with you.

June was very, very busy as we worked with Sis. Terri Moorman and her crew to get ready for VBS. Getting the church all decorated took so much time and energy, no one wants to take down the setting. Our program was "Breaker Rock Beach," and our theme was "God's Truth Never Changes." We had a wonderful turnout with total attendance Monday 34, Tuesday 48 and Wednesday 41.

We had three girls accept Jesus as their Savior and make a profession of faith in front of the group. I don't know who had the most fun – the pastor, teachers, helpers, or the kids. All had a wonderful time. We are praising God for those young souls accepting God's truth and choosing Jesus as the Lord of their life.

Our WMA has been busy on each 3rd Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. They donated snacks for VBS. We had to move WMA to the 4th Wednesday of this month because of Bible School.

Bro. Jim Shy has been teaching on Biblical champions in Brotherhood on the 3rd Wednesday evening of each month. Isaiah was the champion we studied in May and June.

As we turn our focus on July, we are looking forward to Jesus Camp. The kids are excited and ready, and so are the parents. Please pray that we see our youth filled with Bible truths and souls won at Jesus Camp.

Please keep us in your prayers.

*Dwight Petete, Pastor
Gary Gilliam, Reporter*

Lindsay Lane, Florissant

Greetings once again from Lindsay Lane.

Our VBS for 2025 is in the history books! What a wonderful week! The kids were well behaved, ready to listen. We thank God for each one that had a hand in making it a blessing. The kids contributed over \$300.00, which will go toward the Everlasting Smiles Shoebox ministry.

We are so thankful for Sis. Thelma Cornett being able to be with us again.

Our Bible study will con-

tinue during the summer months. Our men's Forge and ladies' Heart to Heart will take a break until September. Our youth ministries will continue through the summer. Some of our folks are looking forward to Jesus Camp as well as Camp Garwood!

The 29th we had lunch after services and then enjoyed the 5th Sunday singing. It was a great time of praise and worship!

This month will soon be gone and we will celebrate our country's independence. We are so thankful for God's goodness and knowing He is in control!

Till we meet again may God bless and keep you!

*Brian Meade, Pastor
Kathy Chapman, Reporter*

Oak Hill, Alton

Hello to all from Oak Hill!

We recently had one of our sisters go to be with the Lord. Sis. Evelyn Foster passed away on June 8th. We would like for you to remember Bro. Tom, the Foster family, and Oak Hill. Bro. Tom and Sis. Evelyn had been married 67 years.

On June 29th we had our fifth Sunday dinner with a lot of great-tasting food. We do not have any events planned for July other than going to church camp. We need to pray that a lot of souls will be saved at camp and that everyone will have a wonderful time.

We always need to keep in mind to try and stay cool and to be hydrated and have a blessed and safe Fourth of July.

Next month I hope I will have some more good news to tell you. Until then we will be praising and honoring our

Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! God bless!!

*Edward Casey, Pastor
Jennifer Williams, Reporter*

Lower Doe Run, Ellington

Greetings from Lower Doe Run Baptist Church, Ellington, MO.

It has been a roller coaster the past two months. It is so good to know that God is in control. The sickness and just plain getting old has hit hard.

We now have two members in Clark's Mountain Nursing Facility, Piedmont. Three others are not able to attend services regularly, and two others await treatment or surgery when possible. A faithfully attending family of four has moved to Florida. But the addition of Wednesday Children Church is a blessing, as we have had as many as seven children.

We were present at the GMA Retreat at Camp Garwood. We are so thankful for those counselors that take time to mentor these young girls. The youngest GMA there was our great-granddaughter. She was elected as their song leader. Churches, send your young girls to this event every summer. One pastor in Dumaguete, Philippines, commented that what our girls learned in GMA was similar to what he learned at the Bible College.

The church fellowship hall was full when the Morris family reunion met last week. Many of them had grown up

in the church and Christian school but don't live nearby anymore. Some that I knew were present from Wisconsin, Florida, Texas, Arkansas, Illinois and Tennessee.

We will have a memorial service on July 12 for the son of Janet Amsden Congdon, grandson of Maudeline (Edith) Amsden Burns and great grandson of the late Sterling Chitwood. It has been a very hard past two months since Timothy Laboo passed.

We are looking forward to Camp Garwood with six campers from the church. We pray for a great revival and harvest of souls.

In Christ.

*Melvin Meade, Pastor
Carolyn Meade, Reporter*

Abundant Life in Christ, Charleston

We were disappointed to not have any professions of faith in this year's VBS; in all previous years we've had at least one. However, there were also no real indications God was dealing with any of the kids. We had a larger crowd than we've had in years. We actually had too many for the number of staff we had.

In more encouraging news, we are searching for a second missionary to send out. By the time this report is published, details of what we are and aren't looking for will have been publicized.

Rodney Dunlap, Pastor

~ Upcoming Events ~

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 – Sept.
5-6; Drury Plaza Hotel Cape Girardeau
Conference Center

BMA of Missouri Annual Meeting – Oct.
11; 9 a.m.; Stony Point, Mineral Point

Send event info to mmbpaper@gmail.com.

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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Builders at Round Prairie, Fairfield, Texas

Right after Memorial Day weekend, The Master's Builders arrived in Fairfield, Texas, at Round Prairie Baptist Church. The Builders were there to help work on the interior of a new sanctuary. Round Prairie is the home church for two of The Master's Builders couples, Donnie and Darlene Cockerell and Don and Pam Windham. It was such a blessing for these Builders to help at their home church. Pastor Chris George and wife Julie made the group feel so welcomed. The Master's Builders framed walls that were 28 ft. tall around a new sanctuary that is approximately 100 x 100 ft. and will have 650 seats! These tall walls had to be framed up on the floor before then being lifted with several man lifts to be put up high. These 28 ft. walls continued around the sanctuary and behind the changing

rooms and closets which were built on each side of the stage. The stage was also built and is 50 x 20 ft. and is 3 ft. tall with an inside staircase on each side. The Builders also

built a sound booth approximately 12 x 8 ft. at the back of the sanctuary. The way the walls were built was in two sections. First, a 16 ft. wall was built on the floor, raised, and secured. Then, 12 ft. walls were built on the floor, lifted, and placed on top of the 16 ft. walls! To place these walls, the Builders had to use a 40 ft. man lift and a 20 ft. scissor lift. It was very interesting watching these walls go up! Much praise and thankfulness was "lifted up" for these lifts each day! Thank you, Lord! It is difficult to describe this process, but if you see the pictures and videos on Facebook, you will see how amazing this work was! Thank you again, Lord, for helping The Master's Builders men through their daily work at Round Prairie and protecting them. Thankfully, only a few band-aids were issued from the first aid kit on this job!



This is the third visit to Round Prairie Baptist Church for the Master's Builders! In 2006 the Builders were called to build a family life center for the church. Then, in 2008 the Builders returned to turn that same family life center into a sanctuary, as



the church had outgrown the old sanctuary! Now, they have outgrown it again! Praise God! A big thank you to all the help from the Round Prairie church members,

as this work was being done. Many members came to help when they could. One member, Jack Carroll, worked each day alongside the Builders. It is such a blessing to The Master's Builders when they can work alongside folks from the church they are helping. There were so many to thank, and they know who they are! The Builders want to send out a special thank you to Landon Bostic. This 16-year-old gave up several of his summer vacation days to work



alongside the group and was such a big help. The Builders pray he also learned some building skills along the way. The Master's Builders were also blessed to have a young couple from Go Forth Baptist Church in Kilgore come out to help, John and Kelsey Gradberg. This couple took some vacation time, brought their tent, and camped and worked with The Master's Builders the whole first

week. They are certainly loved and appreciated by The Master's Builders and are the newest members to the group. There is much prayer for the Lord to send workers, and the Builders are seeing this happen!

While the Builders worked at Round Prairie, their RVs were parked at a campground very near the church. Thank you to Sheldon and Helyn Williams, of Fairfield, for getting their RV park ready for the eight RVs. This park had



not been used for quite some time, and the Williams worked hard to prepare it for the stay. The Master's Builders loved their stay there, even with ALL the rain! Prayers for blessings on this couple for their generosity and kindness. A BIG thank you to all the folks from Round Prairie who prearranged the many delicious meals that were served to the Builders. Monica and Reggie Davis, Kat and Ken Jones, Rodney and Mary Dodd, and many others coordinated and cooked for the group. A lot of work and planning was done to make sure that all were well fed while they worked. Once again, you know who you are, and you are much appreciated!

The Master's Builders' next job is scheduled to be at Daniel Springs Encampment in Gary, Texas, September 8-19th. The Builders will be working on whatever Jason Prewitt, Camp Director, needs done around the camp in the way of repairs or new

construction. Some Builders will stay in the dorms, and others bring RVs as 8 new "hook-ups" were put in several years ago. The Master's Builders always enjoy their time at the camp, and several of the group can include the camp in their salvation stories! If you are in the area, please come by and visit. The Builders would love to meet you and tell you more about this ministry! If this job changes, we will post it on Facebook.

As always, The Master's Builders would encourage you to follow them on Facebook at "The Master's Builders" (arbor logo). Pray for this ministry, follow the jobs, and pray with them each day as they work. You will enjoy it! Rose Bittner does a

wonderful job keeping it up-to-date and informative. "Like" the page and follow. That way, you'll see the schedule of jobs and opportunities to visit. 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.

Special Recognition

Congratulations to one of our own, Mrs. Bettye White Wilson. Bettye was the recipient of the first-ever BMA National WMA Legacy Award! Bettye and her husband John are some of the original members of The Master's Builders, joining the group in the early 1990's. Bettye has been an active member in the WMA all of her adult life. She has taught and led women from all around the world and



has a special interest in missions and missionaries. Bettye and John are both still active members of The Master's Builders. Although they are no longer able to work on the construction sites, they are very involved with the group by utilizing their experience, leadership, and administrative skills

to help the group.

Congratulations, Bettye! A well-deserved recognition!

Nelda Malone- Reporter



Why Attend BMA Seminary?

Dr. Philip Attebery, BMA Seminary President

At the end of each school year, graduating students of the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary are invited to participate in an exit interview with the institution's president.

As part of the 2025 interview, I asked graduates what they would say to encourage those interested in studying for a seminary degree to consider the BMA Seminary. Each response encouraged me as they emphasized our devotion to the Bible, truth, sound doctrine, affordability, and encouragement. Consider these quotes from a sample of our recent graduates.

"BMATS is truly Christ-centered and the quality of faculty is 'up there.'" "BMA [Seminary] is Bible-believing and true to the Word of God, affordable, and encouraging. BMATS went above and beyond in helping me." "BMA [Seminary] is small, teaches Bible truth, sound doctrine, and does not waiver from the Scripture. BMA [Seminary] is a great opportunity, economical. [There was] not a single professor that did not care about my education. They were concerned that I understood and got what I needed."

"BMA [Seminary] is very conservative, stands by sound doctrine of the Word, and professors are qualified by grace. Flexibility online and training is a plus." "I could call or come by and any professor would help. They want my pastoral ministry to be a success." "From the day I walked in, to the day I walked out, I was never concerned that the Bible wasn't the priority here . . . My time at BMA [Seminary] has made me even more committed to the TRUTH, and that affects everything I do in ministry."

"I'd encourage prospective students to attend BMA [Seminary] by first taking DiscipleWay or a free class to see how they like it." "You won't regret having a seminary degree, but you might regret not having it."

BMA Seminary exists, in part, to help Bible-believing churches, agencies, and individuals hold fast to the Word and work of Christ. Please continue to support us through prayers, financial gifts, and encouraging prospective students to attend your BMA Seminary. To request more information or schedule a visit, send an email to president@bmats.edu.

Kellar Library Celebrating 60th Anniversary

The Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary of Jacksonville, TX, will celebrate the 60th Anniversary of its Kellar Library at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 22, 2025. The Seminary is located at 1530 E. Pine Street in Jacksonville.

A collection of manuscripts, a Sefer Torah scroll, and other rare books will be displayed at the event. A dedication of new projects and items will be made, and speakers will briefly discuss the history and importance of Kellar Library. All are welcome to come and discover what Kellar Library has to offer. Refreshments will be provided. We particularly ask pastors and church leaders to consider attending this event, as we have a special gift for you. Attendees will also enjoy book giveaways.



Christ at the Center: The Heartbeat of Central Baptist College

Dr. Jeremy Langley, President

In a world that often feels unstable – morally, culturally, spiritually – Central Baptist College remains steadfast. We know who we are, whose we are, and what we're called to do.

Christian. Conservative. Affordable. These three simple words define our mission and shape the lives of students who come here to learn, grow, and live with purpose.

Christ Is Central. At CBC, Christ isn't just part of our name. He is the foundation of all we do. From academics to athletics, administrative decisions to casual conversations, we seek to honor Jesus Christ in everything. We're unapologetically Christian, not just in name but in active faith.

College should be more than academic preparation. It should be spiritual formation. That's why students at CBC encounter Christ daily: in chapel, in Bible-centered courses, and in a campus culture rooted in discipleship. Our faculty and staff see their roles as callings. They invest in students' lives intellectually, personally, and spiritually.

We believe each student is created in the image of God, full of purpose and potential. At CBC, we don't just help students choose a career – we help them discover a calling with eternal significance.

Holding to Timeless Truth. As a conservative Christian college, we stand on biblical truth. Since our founding in 1952, we've remained rooted in Scripture, not swayed by cultural trends or fleeting opinions. We challenge students to think clearly, live faithfully, and lead courageously, all from a biblical worldview.

To us, being conservative means honoring God's design for life, marriage, and morality. It means valuing character, believing truth is not relative, and understanding that true leadership begins with humility and service. Our curriculum is rigorous, but our convictions are unwavering.

We're not preparing students to retreat from the world but to engage it with grace, truth, and conviction. Our graduates are ambassadors of Christ, equipped to lead with both clarity and compassion.

Excellence Within Reach. Affordability is more than a number – it's part of our mission. In a time when college costs are soaring, CBC remains committed to keeping Christ-centered education accessible.

Our tuition is about 25% lower than the average private college in Arkansas and nearly 50% below the national private average. But we don't just offer lower costs. We deliver higher value. Almost every CBC student receives institutional aid, and many graduate with less debt than their peers at public universities.

This affordability isn't about cutting corners. Our programs are accredited, our faculty is highly qualified, and our campus community is vibrant. Stewardship matters to us. We aim to be wise with the resources God has given and generous to the students He has entrusted to us.

A Place for Purpose. So who chooses CBC? They're students who want more than a degree. They want to grow in faith, character, and calling. They seek mentors who care more about who they become than what they achieve. They want truth, integrity, and a community that glorifies God.

CBC isn't for everyone, and that's okay. We're not trying to be all things to all people. We're committed to the mission God has given us: transforming lives through Christ-centered education that integrates faith and learning in a nurturing, challenging environment.

As president, I get to see that mission lived out every day in students leading Bible studies, professors praying with their classes, and alumni serving in churches, classrooms, hospitals, and businesses around the world. I see it in quiet moments and major milestones. I see it in changed lives.

An Invitation. If you or someone you know is searching for a college that won't compromise – on faith, on truth, or on value – I invite you to visit Central Baptist College. Walk the campus. Talk with our students. Meet our faculty. You'll find more than buildings and books – you'll find a Christ-centered community committed to shaping lives that matter.

The world needs leaders who know the truth and live it boldly. At CBC, we're raising up that generation one student at a time.

We are Christian. We are conservative. We are affordable. We are Central Baptist College.



Plant and Pick

Robin Tyler

It was late 80's. My Mamaw offered to let me pick some greens to cook and have for supper (fyi, supper is currently referred to as dinner). I accepted and went by to pick. She and Papaw lived right smack dab in the middle of a very small town with a population about 100. My husband and I lived two miles from her.

Arriving at her house I walked in through the side door, as all family and friends did. We grabbed a container to pick the greens. Off to the garden we went.

The greens were directly behind her house in a small garden plot. No rows were laid out. Once the soil had been prepared to receive the seed with a turning disc, plow and fertilizer, the seed were scattered over the soil. The natural effect of rain falling caused the seed to be covered slightly by the soil. The seeds germinated and grew in a scattered array of plants on the plot of ground.

In addition to not having rows, three different varieties of greens were planted. She included turnip greens, collard greens and mustard greens. It made the garden look like a smorgasbord of various colors and textures of green. We picked until Mamaw thought I had enough to make a 'mess' (enough for a couple servings and a bit more for leftovers). I left and headed home.

Arriving home, a sink was filled with water. The greens were washed a couple times, and we looked for bugs. All bad greens, and of course the bugs, were discarded. They were prepared and eaten as they were planted, with a mixture of various types of greens all in the same pot. Smoked bacon or ham was added for flavor. The palate of flavor, from the mixture of greens, created a smorgasbord of flavor on our tongue. Mamaw was right, mixing the various types of greens was the best way. It seems each variety presents a different palate that compliments the pot when all cooked together.

Mamaw and Papaw lived a simple life. In their simple life, laziness was definitely not a trait. Family, automotive and tractor repairs, and a large garden were a few things that kept them busy. The garden was always a family affair. Some bought seed, some decided where to plant, some plowed, some laid off rows, some planted, some fertilized, some hoed, some picked, and we were all happy to eat.

Striving and toiling, on our plot of ground in this life, there is a smorgasbord of people. God's mixing of various types of people is the best way. It seems each person presents a different palate of flavor in our kingdom work that compliments the pot. There are people over here, other people over there, and even more people over yonder. Some are like turnips, some collards and some mustard. We may live right smack dab in the center of them, a few miles away, or halfway around the globe. The smorgasbord of people we walk along side, work along side, minister to, play with and cross paths with is by God's design.

God's smorgasbord of turnips, collards and mustards requires special consideration. For it is He *who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.* (1 Timothy 2:4)

It is God's will all people be picked (saved). The garden God has laid out before us is a family affair. Some brothers

Union Church Plant Newsletter

Dear BMA supporting churches.

God is doing an awesome work in Union, MO.

I'm starting to build a ministry team to launch the church as well as starting to work on a website and now have flyers to start outreach. Bro. Austin Hays is going to be our discipleship ministry leader, and Bro. John Sumpter is going to be our outreach ministry leader.

We have about nine people coming to the small group discipleship lessons. Our first priority has been discipleship with this core group of people to make sure we are all on the same page biblically. This month I taught lessons on the church:

- It is important to understand what the local church is not.
- What is the church?
- The Word of God compares the local church to a human body.
- What is the purpose of the local church?
- How do you find a good local church?
- The function of the church: the negative and positive "one-anothers."
- Spiritual gifts.

New Testament Baptist Church has been a great help in the remodel with many people showing up at different times. In June, we were able to paint the lobby, sand the floors, and install can lights. We are working now to install vinyl flooring, the handrail, and all the trim for the lobby. Over the next few weeks, the lobby should be complete.

We are especially thankful to Bro. Larry Barker for finding 119 nice chairs for our auditorium! What a blessing! These chairs were purchased through an anonymous donation and will be picked up and delivered by Pastor J.D. Courtney from Greenbriar, AR.

The church plant voted to support missions through the Meramec Landmark Baptist Association and the BMA National Association, and to purchase one television. The funds we have received from the Association will cover the majority of the remodeling. But we ran into more that needs to be purchased to begin ministry:

- \$4,000 for new carpet
- Welcome banners
- A banner to put outside that says, "Church Coming Soon"

If any church would like me to come speak, I am available this summer on Wednesday nights. I would love to share the vision with your people:

Recognizing the fulfilling of our MISSION
... is totally connected to our FOLLOW-SHIP.

Our church will do this in four actions:

- **Evangelism** of our area and around the world •
 - **Establish** people in the Word of God •
 - **Edify** people to get involved in church •
 - **Engage** people to reproduce themselves. •

Striving together,
Bro. Chuck Tedrow, Church Planter

and sisters get to plant seeds of the gospel by evangelism and discipleship. Some brothers and sisters get to decide if planting of the gospel occurs over here, over there, or even over yonder. Some brothers and sisters help prepare the soil of hearts with prayer, Bible study, a kind word, teaching, showing love, being patient, asking someone to church, etc. Some brothers and sisters get to plant seeds of the gospel with their actions, words or testimony. Some brothers and sisters get to fertilize seeds already planted by applying more truth of the gospel. Some brothers and sisters get to hoe out weeds of doubt, confusion, social and cultural barriers, and prejudices by revealing truth found in the gospel. Some brothers and sisters help God harvest those who believe and accept the gospel. Our whole family gets to rejoice in the harvest!

God is cooking up a smorgasbord of flavor mixing all His 'greens' together. He is creating a heaven more wonderful than we can ever imagine. God knows best!

Scripture: *My food, said Jesus, is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.* (John 4:34-38)

Prayer: Thank you Lord for the smorgasbord of people we walk along side, work along side, minister to, play with, and cross paths with. Open our eyes how we can prepare the soil of hearts, where seeds need to be planted, when to fertilize, what to hoe, and who you are calling to be picked.

Response: Enjoy planting and picking with your family.

Minnesota Church Plant Update

Michael Strong

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I am writing to share what God has been doing and where we believe He is leading us in the near future in regard to the work we are involved in to spur on a disciple-making and church-planting movement in Minnesota. As you may recall, when Laura Beth and I were commissioned as full-time missionaries roughly five years ago, we shared the calling we believe God put on our lives. We believed then, and still do today, that God was going to start thousands of new churches across the world through the churches we would get to serve in some way by planting in Minnesota. We may not be directly involved in most of them, but the part God is using us to play in these first few churches will, Lord willing, cement the foundational elements that will be alive and well in each one of them. This has led us to plant prayerfully, carefully, and slowly as we work with God to make sure the Bible is the ground and Christ and the gospel is the center of everything we do.

Last Month's Highlights

- In the last month, we have:
- Added four members (two by statement, two by baptism)
 - Had a member recommit to God and publicly repent
 - Started training another young man to lead and preach
 - Added a man to help lead small groups monthly
 - Assembled a team of four leaders to launch a Christian recovery meeting (Celebrate Recovery)
 - Had members commit to start a volleyball outreach
 - Seen God move two more people to seek and commit to be discipled as leaders
- Shortly before that we:
- Had a group of five people commit to start an Outreach Team. That group has a leader now and has grown to eight

- people
- Received a donation of 100 backpacks for our annual Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway Outreach

God has also been working through our family to assist other church plants and churches. Our family serves another church plant, leading both of their children's ministry classes and began serving one of their small groups by providing the children's ministry during their weekly in-home meetings.

Our Plan and Plea

I met with Larry Barker to start looking into what to do with the current plant and to also start assessing where to plant the next church. I am working with him on several assignments to accomplish both goals. He and I are in agreement that another year would be fruitful and beneficial for the current church plant. I will be working to secure funding to cover our living expenses and some ministry expenses to finish our part of the work in founding the church plant in North Minneapolis. As we continue to work in North Minneapolis, I will also be seeking God and testing different nearby areas for their potential to be a fruitful harvest for our next work. Our current church plant will be involved in outreach and the initial stages of church planting in the future location.

I currently feel led to seek God for a more long-term funding option for our church planting since we plan on planting many churches in Minnesota in the years to come. Because we operate more like overseas missionaries in this way than typical North American missionaries, we need to develop partnerships that will have the ability to contribute and partner for more than three to five years. We could use prayer for this work as we will likely need to seek accountants and build a financial infrastructure to

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groups, serving on ministry teams, building missional communities, or planting churches. Allow them to start small and build into more responsibility.

The process must provide room for some trial and error and the opportunity to practice what you are teaching them. The transformation into strong godly leaders occurs with good information (What do they need to know?), planned practice (What do they need to do?) and ongoing coaching (What do they need to be aware of and improve?). Workshops are great, and you should appreciate the knowledge that is unloaded in them but where the rubber meets the road is in the implementation. Begin by determining the one competency they need to work and help them learn it then practice it.

Be careful here because the norm in leadership development, if you are not intentional, is to teach the concept over and over again but then never allow the one you are developing to put it into practice. Disciple them and then have the nonnegotiable expectation for them to disciple someone else. This requires identifying those who can reproduce and are willing. Mac Lake states, "We teach the concepts, but we don't let them swing the bat." Show them how and give them the opportunity to hit it out of the park. Then

complete our ongoing work. We will need to have something in place by August when our five-year stipend period with the BMAA ends. Though we will still be BMAA missionaries and able to receive funds from the BMAA, we will need to have some financial support in place to oversee new functions we will be directly responsible for that we have not been responsible for before. I am working to learn what these things will be now. Please pray for us as we transition and I would like to ask you to consider increasing your partnership giving to help us cover the upcoming losses to our stipend and monthly giving.

Currently, I am also working on setting up a Bible Institute. I have a plan and schedule organized. I am working with a seminary professor friend to fine-tune the plan. . . .

I'm excited to report I'm handing off more and more work and seeing our people step up in several ways. We have people who are assisting by overseeing

signage, outreach, the worship team, discipleship groups, children's ministry, preaching, teaching, and accounting. The one area we are still in great need is financial, though that continues to improve as well. Our people continue to grow in Christlikeness and are visibly serving others in need within our church and outside of its membership. They are doing this more and more since their lives are settling down and stabilizing to where they are living "quiet lives" that increasingly honor and glorify God.

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Primary Need

The biggest need is for God's provision of funds to complete the work at FMBC as well as partnerships that will help us continue on to the next church plant work. I am set to lose at least \$2,000 per month and there could be a more significant loss that follows when our five-year term planting FMBC comes to an end. I will be reaching out to our current partners to establish what additional losses may be headed our way. We trust God is going to

sit down and assess how it went by coaching them on how the experience went. A useful tool in the coaching aspect is walking them through a W.I.N. Remember that leadership transformation occurs when there is knowledge, practice, and coaching. First ask them, "What do you believe went WELL?" Always begin with the positive and help them to see the bright spots of the experience. Then ask, "Where do you believe you could IMPROVE?" There is always room for improvement, and this is a golden opportunity to help them sharpen and polish their leadership competencies. The last question is, "What do you need to do NEXT?" Help them to zero in on what their next steps are in order to become a better leader.

A healthy church will plan and implement a process to multiply disciples, multiply leaders, and reproduce themselves through multiplying churches. This process will enable you to produce more qualified leaders. There will always be leaders at every level as they develop the character (spiritual walk), competency (biblical understanding), and the confidence (skills) to serve. You can always recruit, but you also need to be raising up leaders from within. So where is that young potential leader that you can begin customized leadership training journey with, and when will you get started?

provide to finish well so we don't have to compromise the plan at this crucial time and risk losing all of the great growth we are currently seeing. If you are able to partner with us, you can set up giving through the BMAA.

Additional Needs

We would benefit greatly if we were able to obtain the following items as a one-time gift:

- Roland FP-E50 digital piano: \$999.99 plus tax (Amazon)
- Liquid Stands keyboard with wheels: \$97.19 plus tax (Amazon)
- Liquid Stands piano bench adjustable stool: \$77.99 plus tax (Amazon)
- Working 12-passenger van (for picking up church members and visitors who live in women's and children's shelters)
- Working full-size truck (to pull a trailer)
- Trailer for events (enclosed preferred)

Thanks for your partnership. I look forward to sharing more with you soon!

In Christ,
Mike Strong