

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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

Volume LXXXVII

St. Louis, MO • September 9, 2025

Issue No. 9

*The Lord bless and keep you;
the Lord make his face
to shine upon you
and be gracious to you.*

Baptist Missionary Association of Missouri Annual Meeting

**Stony Point Baptist Church
Mineral Point, Missouri**

October 11 • 9:00 A.M.

From the Host Pastor 2025 State Annual Meeting

Greetings from Stony Point Missionary Baptist Church. We look forward to hosting the BMA of Missouri Annual Meeting, Saturday, October 11, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. The church is located at 13129 Old Hwy 8 East, Mineral Point, MO 63660.

Coffee, milk, juice and donuts will be provided for those arriving early. A noon meal will also be provided.

Come and share in the blessing of God's Word, business, worship and fellowship.

For those needing hotel accommodations, there are lodging options in nearby Farmington. If you need further assistance, please call the church phone (573) 562-7036 or my cell (573) 330-7501.

We are looking forward to seeing you,
Pastor Claude Evans

Meramec Landmark Baptist Association Annual Meeting

**Straightway Baptist Church
Steelville, Missouri**

September 26 • 10:00 A.M.

Joy and the Gospel from Everlasting Smiles Shoebox Gifts

Angela Rice, Coordinator of Short-Term Missions

Christmas is a season of giving, and this year you have the opportunity to make an eternal impact in the life of a child in El Salvador through Everlasting Smiles Shoebox Gifts. Each shoebox is more than just a Christmas present...it's a door to share the Gospel, plant churches, and build connections through the local church.

It's not too late to get involved! For just \$20, we will pack a shoebox for you. That includes the box, shipping, Christmas gift items, and most importantly, a Bible. Each gift will be placed directly into the hands of a child, reminding them not only that they are loved, but that Jesus is the greatest gift of all.

The deadline to turn in shoeboxes has been extended to October 10, giving you more time to participate in this life-changing ministry. Whether you pack a box yourself or sponsor one through a donation, your involvement will help spread joy and hope to children who may be hearing the Gospel for the very first time.

Don't miss this opportunity to share Christ's love in a tangible way. To learn more or to give, visit bmaglobal.org/christmas-shoeboxes.

Together, we can bring everlasting smiles this Christmas!



Tools – But Just Tools

Don Burke

Like many guys of my generation, I have my share of tools. And many of my tools – especially those bulkier ones – have been allocated a place in my garage. The table saw stands confidently at the end of a work bench, the powered miter saw on the floor beside it, a bench sander on the other side of the room, with the portable router nearby on a shelf.

One day recently I happened to be within earshot of that part of the garage, and unbeknownst to my tools I overheard a little conversation that was going on amongst them.

“You know boys, I’m a little concerned about this Burke fellow,” said Miter Saw. “Me, too,” agreed Sander. “Yeah,” added Table Saw, “He’s started a couple of projects, and bought materials for even more – but hasn’t worked on them in weeks. Maybe he just needs some help with them.”

A few days later I walked into the garage and the place was a total wreck. Half-routed boards were here and there, and half-sanded pieces slung to the far corners of the garage, half a dozen pieces of anything-but-square-cut lengths of lumber scattered around the floor. The place was a mess.

So since it was only me and the tools in the garage at the moment, I said, “Okay guys, I know you think I don’t know – but I do. I overheard you talking together the other day, so I know that you can understand what I’m saying, and that you are able to talk to me. So

what’s the deal? Where did all this mess come from?”

Sheepishly, Table Saw’s stuttering voice broke the silence. “W...w...well, I guess it’s like this. We got to talking about all the work that needs to be done – some projects you’ve started, and others you’ve talked about wishing you could jump into. So we decided to help you do some of them.”

Sander spoke up, “Yeah, that bird house that you cut all the pieces for, I decided that I would sand those cut pieces so they are ready for you to fasten together. Except without hands I couldn’t keep the pieces from being slung everywhere.”

Router broke in, “Me and Miter Saw decided to work on that bookshelf you’ve talked about making. But as we got into it, without arms to guide me I gouged up the shelf edges pretty bad.” And Miter added, “And without any design plans, all the board lengths weren’t cut to fit together properly anyway.”

“Now boys, boys, boys...,” I began, “I don’t know what to do with you. On the one hand I do appreciate all the concern and all the hard work y’all put into this; but on the other hand, what were you thinking? You are my tools, and I purchased each one of you to serve me in a very particular way. You are tools – my cherished tools. But as tools you have to realize what you are..., and what you *are not*.

• See **TOOLS** page 5 •

State Missions

Dear Churches,

As your Missions Director, one of the areas that I am tasked with is to help us as churches to become the healthiest churches we can become. In my humble opinion, this is probably the most important area of my effort and work until we have an association of healthy churches that are brimming to the full, and as a result, birthing a church would just be a natural expression of that growth.

So, when I think about ways to become healthier churches, one of my questions and thought processes is how do we, as the rank and file of any of our churches, seek to win our sphere of influence? If you're like most American Christians, you invite your friends to church, and that certainly is not wrong. Most non-Christians claim that we are a post-Christian nation and therefore may need to rethink our strategy.

When we look at what Jesus did, he chose his 12 disciples and then he spent three years of his life with them. He poured his life into theirs. By the end of those three years, and of course, after his death burial and resurrection, they were "all in" with that one exception. I believe most of us would take those odds and that experience that for the next three years if we poured our lives into 12 of our friends, neighbors and relatives, and after those three years, not professions of faith, but 11 disciples producing disciples that produced disciples. I know I would take those statistics.

Here is my loving challenge to you. I'm certainly not telling you not to invite your friends to church. But what I am encouraging you to do is to just simply start investing your Christian life into those folks within your sphere of influence. You may already be doing that, but of course there is always room for improvement.

I came across a little tool that I believe will help us do this. It's called bless. B. L. E. S. S. is an acronym, simply a way to try to expose those within your sphere of influence to your Christian experience.

- **BEGIN WITH PRAYER** - a very simple approach and process. You're going to write down every person within your sphere of influence and that is now your prayer list. You're going to ask God to help you live the Christian life in front of them and make them hungry for Him and for you to effectively share the life of Christ with them through your life.
- **LISTEN** - you're going to listen to their needs, their story, listen for opportunities to lean in.
- **EAT** - you're going to fellowship with these people. You're going to spend time with them. You're going to invest.
- **SERVE** - as you listen and fellowship, you're going to see opportunities to serve these people. That's what you're going to do - you are serving them.
- **SHARE** - It's a pretty amazing thing that when you show your willingness to listen to others, they become so much more willing to listen to your story and then it just becomes a natural out flowing of life. When you've listened to their story and they've listened to your story, you simply share with them God's story.

Pray on this. See if this is not something that God will naturally bless as you strive to bless others.

Bro. Ben



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

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. (Psalm 63:1)

We are thankful for God's grace and opened doors to share the gospel. I have a personal goal for every day: Don't go to bed unless I have spoken to ten of my contacts about God's grace, love, kindness and forgiveness.

Last Sunday Jorge and Genesis joined us to worship! We have been serving these families throughout the last three summers. Finally, the parents sent them to join us for worship on Sunday morning. We are planning to have a special program for them. Their aunt is the

one who drove them over and stayed during the service at Lindsay Lane. This lady was using her translator app in the phone to listen and understand the message being preached by Pastor Brian. At the end of the service the children wanted to have a snack and play games like they did during last summer outreach. Praise the Lord!

We are planning with Pastor Brian to carry out a new program for these kids and hopefully

• See **MISIÓN BELÉN** page 3 •

B.L.E.S.S.

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

I will pray for the people in my life and the places that I'm in.

LISTEN

I will listen to and discover the needs of others and the places where God is at work.

EAT

I will share meals and spend time with people in my life.

SERVE

I will respond to the needs of others and help them in tangible and impacting ways.

STORY

I will share the story of Jesus and what He is doing in my life with others.

Financial Report BMA Of Missouri Missions August 2025

Checking Account:

Balance July 31 \$ 44,461.93

Income:

Missions	\$	3,479.29
Insurance refund		79.89
Total Income		\$ 3,559.18
Total Available		\$ 48,021.11

Expenses:

Director, salary/bonus	\$	450.00
Director, TX training		821.80
Secretary, salary/bonus		200.00
Juan Fernandez, support		2,333.33
Total Expenses		\$ (3,805.13)
Balance August 31		\$ 44,215.98

BMAMS Revolving Loan Investment:

Balance July 31	\$	123,073.10
Interest		0.00
Balance August 31		\$ 123,073.10
Total in All Accounts August 31		\$ 167,289.08

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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• From MISIÓN BELÉN page 2 •

their parents also. Join the blessing and come worship with us in Spanish! Launching date is December, Lord willing. Last Sunday we



spent two hours practicing some songs and preparing music for this awesome event. Also, we are planning a Christmas giving tree for children in our community! We can't wait to see how God will continue bringing more and more families to gather to worship in spirit and truth!

To Bro. Jonathan and his wife Meagan and all the missionary team sent by Antioch Church in Arkansas, thank you again for the special trip to bless our family and other families in the community! These kids promised to come back tomorrow for Bible study and prayer! Thank you for praying and encouraging others to pray and support this pioneer ministry in the St. Louis area.

My weekly ministry schedule goes as follows:

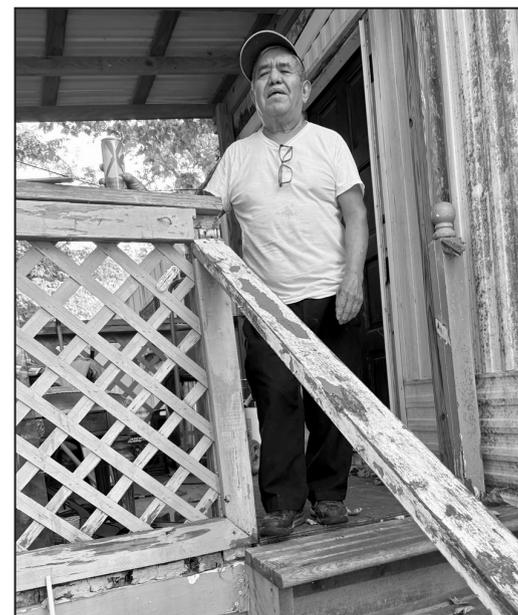
- Prayer Network: Monday-Saturday, 6:30-7:00 p.m.
- *Presencial* (in-person) Meeting (prayer and Bible study): Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.
- Prayer Walk: 7:30-9:00 a.m.

- Evangelism: Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- Discipleship: Monday and Thursday, 9:30-10:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:00-8:45 p.m.; Saturday, 8:00-9:30 a.m. and 5:00-7:00 p.m.; Sunday, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 5:00-8:00 p.m.
- Membership: Study and sermon preparation, Tuesday-Friday, 3:00-6:00 p.m.
- Missions: not yet.

Thank you for praying for the Lord's leading in our service for His kingdom to continue expanding. If you would like to spend time in prayer, would you like to come with me and visit one of the houses where we have Bible study? Don't hesitate to text me or call at (618) 581-8056 – I would love to have you around. We are thankful for each group that has come to join us in this special pioneer ministry. To God be the glory.

In His service,

Juan Fernandez (Acts 20:24)



Michael Strong Newsletter (*excerpts*)

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters! Summer closed out with a bang. We celebrated our seventh baptism in a little over two months. We then finished the month out by giving away food, children's clothes, and backpacks full of school supplies at our annual Back-to-School party. God has blessed us with some great partners like the churches of the BMAA and Good In the 'Hood who provided what we needed to be a blessing. Our people love to serve the community, and it was a great time of fellowship and gospel conversations.

I recently mentioned my plans to be traveling to visit churches and that our people would be launching a Celebrate Recovery group. I am happy to report that both have happened, and God was clearly involved. Four members of FMBC held their first CR meeting with ten in attendance and a great plan of action. I got to watch them work together to serve the attendees and then gather together for a feedback session afterward. I heard them discuss challenges they saw and come up with plans together on how to overcome them. They are truly becoming godly leaders!

I traveled to speak at churches in Arkansas and Missouri and visited as many partners as possible over the course of 11 days. God was clearly at work. He made it clear everywhere we went that He was already working in the hearts of the people we were meeting with. I am planning on going back out to meet with more churches in order to raise funds to continue planting. If you are interested in having me come to your church to share about the work, please let me know. We plan on planting multiple churches, so we will continually need partners and partnerships. As many of you have heard recently on the news,

there is a great need for the power of the gospel to take root in Minneapolis. We are working to serve neighbors struggling with the recent shootings and uptick in violent crime by showing them the only true hope available to mankind – Jesus Christ.

We are headed into the colder months here in Minnesota. This allows us to grow deeper with the people in the church and community we have connected with. We are about to launch a new sermon series through the book of Ephesians to help our people understand better the new life they have in Christ. We will also have two brothers taking on regular preaching duties, one of these we are praying we can raise funds to employ as a second pastor. If God leads you to help us with this, we would be greatly helped. This man has been helping me think through putting together a Bible Institute to raise up pastors, planters, and teachers. We are also working to ordain Isaiah and train up a few other men to prepare them to be leaders in the church. I am back in BMA Seminary working toward my M.Div. degree to continue to grow as well so I can better serve our people and the church in general. I would like to ask for your prayers with all of these items.

If you are interested in having me come share with your church, or would like to set up some time to talk on the phone or for a future visit, please feel free to contact me via email (mike@nncmpls.com) or by cell phone ((501) 838-9673). Thanks again for your prayers and support.

Your brother in Christ and partner in ministry,
Michael Strong

• Updates from Our Churches •

Lower Doe Run, Ellington

Greetings! Sunday, August 17, the congregation wondered what was going on. The phone was set for recording; there were two specials; extra prayer and then "Brother Johnny come to the pulpit." There were surprised faces. And these were the first words of the sermon from Johnny Beardsley, Jr. (with deep emotion): "When I was 18 years old, the Lord called me to preach. I did one time. After that I got scared and I thought I could not preach. I started running from God for 35 years. I ran away every time I got in church. I would make an excuse and stop going. The Lord would work on me every day. I would have my ups and downs in my life with the Lord. Today I'm letting everybody know that I answered the Lord's call that the Lord has given me, and today I'm more at peace with my Lord and Savior. I know with His strength, I can do all things through Christ." His sermon was from Jonah 1:1-17.

At the close of his sermon the pastor called Johnny and his family to the front. The church gave the hand of appreciation and encouragement and voted to issue him a license to preach the gospel ministry. Johnny has been leading children's church the past few months. Continue to pray for him and his family.

We have had visitors the last two weeks and are praying for God's clear leading in their lives. We have celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary, attended the Logan Creek Association and the DEW Retreat. We were privileged this month to visit the "We Are Free" facili-

ty in Arkansas, visit church member Thelma Hoffmann in Maud, TX, help pack the team supplies for Zambia, and share missionary memories with Wednesday Bible Study at Emerson, AR. The outreach of the church at the Clark's Mountain Facility in Piedmont is growing with our members, Helen Morris and Frieda Williams. We are thankful that Janet Howard is a big part of that ministry.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Sis. Helen as her son, Danny Joe, sailed away home to heaven on the 6th of August. This means that she has three children now on the other side.

We hope several are excited to attend the Ladies Retreat at Drury Hotel in Cape on September 5-6.

Hold the fort until He comes.

*Melvin Meade, Pastor
Carolyn Meade, Reporter*

Bethel, Sikeston

Happy fall to all from Bethel, Sikeston.

We are so ready for some fall temps after all the hot temps we had last month.

We have all been so blessed by Sis. Helen's discipleship class, with lots of people in attendance eager to hear what the Lord has given her to teach each night. We are so thankful that God has led her to teach this class and she obeyed.

We finished our 100 Christmas shoe boxes early this year and have already started on contents for next year's boxes.

On the 17th after the evening service we celebrated Bro. Billy's birthday in the fellowship hall with cake and ice cream and good fellow-

ship. We appreciate our pastor for all that he does and how he cares for all of us.

Our 5th Sunday night singing was filled with spirit-filled songs giving honor and glory to God! We were blessed and thankful to have Bro. Tom Foster, Jr., and Lana Jo join us for the evening and sing two specials.

God has truly blessed us this month as we were able to purchase a new church van. Our old ones were costing too much in repairs. We are thankful for our deacons, Bro. Joe McElroy and Bro. Matt Bolen, as they took care of finding a suitable one that would fit our needs.

God bless you all!

*Billy Davis, Pastor
Joan Wood, Reporter*

Kewanee, New Madrid

Hello from Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church.

We have had a lot going on in the month of August. But I did want to give you an updated report on Camp Garwood. We had 27 total attend camp this year – 12 adults and 15 kids. We also had nine people from church that visited camp throughout the week. Bro. Don, Sis. Terry, and Marshall Adams drove over every single night! Everyone that was able to come was such a blessing! We had three souls saved at camp this year. They all came forth to KMBC, were baptized and joined the church as new members. Praise God! We also had three others this month that came forward and were baptized and joined the church! What a wonderful Lord we serve! We had five from our church attend the DEW weekend at Camp Garwood.

The Sunday before school started we had a "Blessing of the Backpacks" after morning worship. Prayer was lifted up for the students and teachers as they began their new school year.

Some of our ladies took a road trip to Branson to see "David" at the Sight & Sound Theater on August 8th. A good time was had by all!

We filled crates with school supplies for our teachers to help them in supplying their students throughout the school year. We also filled care baskets for our students leaving for college. We love our students and teachers and will be praying for them all year!

We will be having our 90th anniversary for KMBC on September 21st. Everyone is invited to attend. There will be worship, food and special music throughout the day. What could be a better way to spend a day in the Lord!!

*Dan Wisely, Pastor
Debbie Nowell, Reporter*

Landmark, DeSoto

Hello to all from Landmark Baptist Church, DeSoto! Hope everyone is enjoying the cooler temperatures. (I certainly am!)

We are looking forward to a couple of events at Landmark. We're hosting the Washington County WMA and Brotherhood Meeting on Friday, September 12, starting at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome! You DON'T have to be a WMA or Brotherhood member to attend, so come on out and join us. We'll be serving a light meal and refreshments after the meeting.

Next item on the calendar is our Homecoming Service on Sunday, October 5th. We'll have dinner after morning services, and the Southern Gospel group, Wanda Mountain Boys, will present their musical testimony beginning at 1:30 p.m. Hope you can share this special time with us.

We had our 5th Sunday potluck dinner on the 31st,

which was enjoyed by all who were able to attend, then observed the Lord's Supper during evening services. For me, this service is always a time of introspection and spiritual renewal, reminding me to be forgiving of others as Christ is forgiving of me.

God has still been blessing us with visitors on a regular basis. We're still praying that they will decide to make Landmark their church home.

Please keep Bro. David Burch in your prayers. He took a tumble and broke several bones in his right hand. It is slowly healing, but he is still dealing with a lot of pain because of it. That hasn't stopped him from teaching Adult Sunday School or leading singing! We appreciate his dedication to God's work.

Please continue to pray for several other members who are dealing with health issues and other burdens, as we continue to lift up all of you too. I try to never underestimate the power of prayer!

That's all the news I have for now. Let's all remember to keep counting all the blessings God pours out on us every day!

*Len Young, Pastor
Barbara Williams, Reporter*

Abundant Life in Christ, Charleston

We rejoice in the addition of Ciara Bowers by baptism during August. Ciara is one of the ones who had made a profession in July. She literally ran down the aisle when she came forward to present herself.

While we did receive numerous inquiries when we put out word we were seeking to send out a second missionary, we were not successful in finding the man we thought God would have us to send. While we do not intend to make a public appeal again in the near future, we are still looking for a Filipino national interested in being our missionary, going to a new field and beginning a new work.

Rodney Dunlap, Pastor

~ Upcoming Events ~

<p>Meramec Association Annual Meeting – Sept. 26; 10 a.m.; Straightway, Steelville</p> <p>RE:CHARGE Leadership Retreat – Sept. 29-Oct. 1; Memphis, TN, area churches</p> <p>BMA of MO Annual Meeting – Oct. 11;</p>	<p>9 a.m.; Stony Point, Mineral Point</p> <p>Lifeword Sunday – Oct. 19</p> <p>Celebration 2025 (worship celebration for adults) – Nov. 18-20; Chateau on the Lake, Branson</p>
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Send event info to mmbpaper@gmail.com.

• From *TOOLS* page 1 •

As tools, used under the strength and guidance of my hands and arms, you are instrumental in achieving great things, but under your own strength and direction, well, this mess shows where you end up. As tools, it is your place to do what you are designed to do in whatever task I may place you. But it is never the job of the tool to have to design plans for a project – that job is above your pay grade. So while I thank you for your concern and effort, how about we come to an understanding from this point on: the division of labor here is that you as the tools do what you are designed and assigned to do, and that I as the tool handler will be responsible for planning the designs, for assigning your tasks, and for providing the strength behind you to assure you are able to do your job well.”

To be honest, as I write this I find myself really identifying with the tools when it comes to church work, Associational work and even personal ministry work. I look around at our world, feeling the need for some great work of God. I see our churches disbanding; I see the decline of young men called into the ministry; I feel the need for more laborers in the field while many Christians are simply not involved. I sense the burden of Christ’s orders to take His Word to the uttermost parts of the earth. I have a growing antsy-ness inside saying, “Don’t just

stand there, *do something!*”

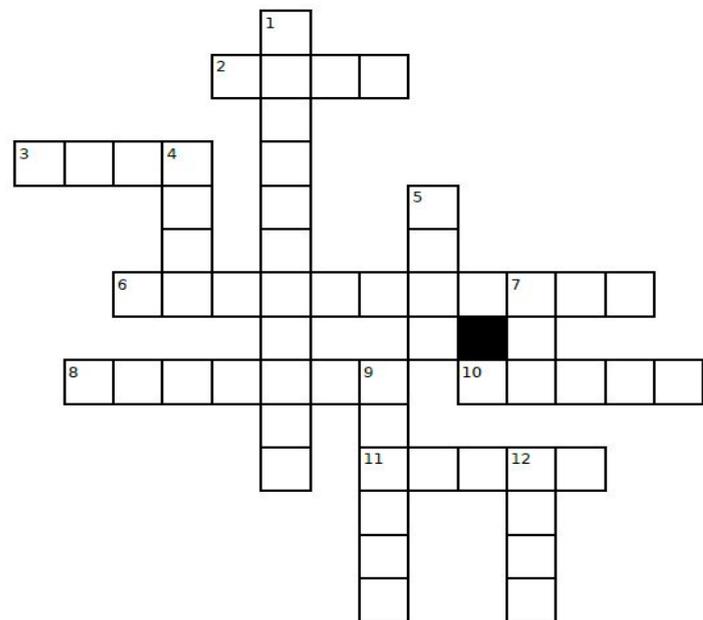
I have to wonder if that is how Paul felt in Acts 16. Having preached through Phrygia and Galatia, he got the itch to move on into Asia and later into Bithynia. After all, he was appointed the Apostle to the Gentiles, and these were Gentiles, weren’t they? And yet even while his desires made sense and matched with his calling and Jesus’ commission, the Spirit told Paul, “No.” So instead of “Don’t just stand there, *do something,*” Paul’s orders seemed more like, “Don’t just *do something,* stand there,” (at least for the moment). And in due time Paul received his real assignment – the Macedonian call.

If I know my heart, I want to serve the Lord. And I’m convinced that most within our Association feel the exact same way. Serving God involves being ready and willing, at His disposal, when He reaches for us or when He is the one directing us to go. But it’s not our place to step in and plan the designs for Him. Sure, like Paul, we may at times feel personal drawings toward this or that, but we must realize that we are not specifically led by our feelings or our thinking, but rather by His leading.

We are His tools – His cherished tools, specialized tools to accomplish our assigned duties. But even as cherished tools we are only tools – tools empowered to operate under His strength and under His guidance to accomplish His plans.

Sermon on the Mount

Can you fill in the blanks in the puzzle from these clues taken from the Sermon on the Mount? If you get stuck, you can find the correct answers in chapters 5, 6, and 7 of the book of Matthew. (Feel free to make copies of the puzzle for sharing.)



Down:

1. The wide gate leads to what?
4. If anyone forces you to go one of these, Jesus says to go two.
5. We are to love our enemies and do what for those who persecute us?
7. If this body part causes you to sin, Jesus says to tear it out and throw it away.
9. Even Solomon was not dressed as beautifully as these.
12. Jesus says not to let one of these body parts know what the other is doing.

Across:

2. They shall inherit the earth.
3. You should take this out of your own eye before being concerned about the speck in someone else's eye.
6. They shall be called the children of God.
8. Jesus said that He did not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets, but to do what to them?
10. This is given to those who show it to others.
11. What are we to be and not hide it under a basket?

Helping Us Train a Gospel Army

Joshua & Meagan Phiri

While many of you are enjoying warm weather and summer vacations, here in Zambia, we are preparing for our summer – which begins in September! And with it comes one of the most exciting and impactful seasons of our year: the Jesus Film outreach.

But before the screens light up and the villages gather under the stars, something powerful is happening behind the scenes.

Equipping the Next Generation of Evangelists

This month, we’ve begun evangelism training with the youth from our churches. Their passion is contagious. These young men and women, many of whom came to Christ just within the past few years, are now stepping out with boldness to share the same Good News that changed their lives.

We’re training them in:

- How to share the Gospel clearly and simply
- How to lead someone to Christ
- How to answer tough questions with love
- And how to follow up with discipleship

This training is in preparation for the Jesus Film events we’ll be doing in several unreached and newly reached villages this coming September and October. We believe that God will use their voices to touch hearts and open eternal doors.

Imagine this: a dusty village square, the hum of a generator, children gathering in wonder, and the life of Jesus unfolding on a makeshift screen – spoken in their very own language. Every time we’ve shown this film, lives have been changed. Chains have been broken. Hope has been born. And this year, we believe for even more.

A Harvest Already Growing

Even before the first film is shown, God is already at work.

More than 15 people have recently come to Christ in the villages we’re serving. Each one is now walking through one-on-one and small group discipleship – learning what it truly means to follow Jesus, live in His Word, and grow in His grace.

And soon... they’ll take the next step in baptism.

The Joy and Challenge of Baptism

Baptism here is both beautiful and challenging.

It’s not as simple as walking into a church baptistry. In many villages, there’s no nearby river... no permanent well... and definitely no plumbing. Often, we have to wait until the rainy season, or travel to another village with water access, bringing the new believers with us. Sometimes the only option is to dig temporary pits.

Despite these obstacles, they come – joyfully.

Some walk miles. Others bring friends and family to witness the day. Because for them, baptism is not a ritual – it’s a bold declaration: “I belong to Jesus now.”

And we rejoice with them.

Please Pray with Us

As we prepare for this upcoming evangelism outreach, would you stand with us in prayer?

Pray for our youth – that their courage would grow, and their hearts would burn with love for the lost.

Pray for those in discipleship – that their roots in Christ would go deep and strong.

Pray for water – for spiritual and physical provision, so that every soul ready for baptism would have the chance to take that step.

Pray for the harvest – for open hearts in the villages where the Jesus Film will be shown.

Thank you for being part of this story. Your prayers, encouragement, and support are helping write new chapters of redemption in places that once knew only darkness.

We can’t wait to share more with you in the coming weeks. There is so much more to come.

With love from Zambia, Joshua & Meagan Phiri
Loving the Least and the Lost

The Poirier Mission Work

Quebec

We had a great month serving the Lord in the field of witnessing. We always enjoy seeing new visitors coming through the door of the church. We have a group of young girls studying the Word every week. Others have finished their study on the ABCs of Christian growth. The Lord has blessed us with visitors, and we are very appreciative. We pray also that the Lord will send more laborers into our field to fill the void for the work. We have an elderly man who is 88 years old, in a wheelchair, who wants to come to church on Sunday, but is unable because his daughter who is supposed to pick him up for church doesn't show up at his apartment on a regular basis. For four weeks he has not had a ride to church, and it is hard for him. He loves his church, loves to pray, to sing and to fellowship with the people. We don't have a vehicle suitable for him, and the public service company has not processed his application for transportation yet. So I visit him every Monday afternoon, talk to him about the Sunday messages, sing some songs with him and talk about the Lord. He is lonely and he looks forward to me coming, talking to him, and reassuring him that the Lord is coming soon. Pray for M. Bernier.

Haiti

All roads in the capital are under the control of gangs who charge fees to those who travel in the country. We have a lady from our church who left for Haiti a few days ago. She got there, but traveling has involved much difficulty and prayers. She contacted her husband yesterday and asked him to find her police protection – she is afraid for her life. Her husband contacted me and asked for help. So I got on WhatsApp and called supervisor Ali, a friend in a high position in the police force of Port au Prince, and he told me he will try to find her and provide her safety. You wonder why she went to Haiti now? The decision she made was to see her mother for the last time before she passes away. Her mother is old and sick. And on this same trip she brought some relief funds to help our church people, but at the same time she is vulnerable with the potential of facing the gangs at every corner, demanding money.

At church this past month four families have been beaten and chased from their home by the gangs. They fled into the mountain with only the clothes on their back. While they left everything behind, they are just glad to be alive and together with their children. They may have lost everything, but they did not lose their love for the Lord. It was a big loss for the church of Pastor Mario who asked for prayers for those families. Besides that, Pastor Mario thanks everyone who had a part in supplying the means to buy food for the people at church each month.

Ivory Coast (Gonaté)

The church is going through a time of sickness, and they asked prayer for the people. Evangelization is going good with two people accepting the Lord as their Savior last week and have begun a study on what to do now that they are saved.

Dominican Republic

Our Haitians friends who are in the Dominican Republic are safe at home, staying away from the Dominican authority for fear of deportation back to Haiti. They assemble every week at their home and listen to the message I send them during the week. They request prayer.

Beni

With our Bro. Prince, soul winning is going well. Many gospel tracts have been handed out to the people, and the community is listening to the message. There is severe opposition by certain muslim groups who throw stones at them, trying to stop their work in the area. Pray for Bro. Prince.

Thank you for your prayers and sacrifice for the ministries the Lord has bestowed on us. May the Lord bless you richly and give you much love for those who suffer.

Your servant in the Lord,

Michel & Ruth Poirier (pasteur.poirier56@gmail.com)

Preparing Harvest Workers for the Harvest

Melina Baker – Bookkeeper, BMA Theological Seminary

In my role as the bookkeeper here at the seminary, I have the opportunity to participate in registration each semester, and I must say, Fall 2025 has been exciting! With 102 willing harvesters preparing for their missions, we are seeing a 39% increase in enrollment from Fall 2024 to Fall 2025. This increase is due to an in-house initiative and an effort by members of the BMA who encouraged young men to pursue biblical education at the seminary. We are grateful to all those who have helped us reach new students, but most importantly, we are thankful for God's provision in allowing us to continue to fulfill our mission through the students He has brought to us.

Numbers are important, but they don't tell the whole story. The seminary continues to reach beyond its traditional classrooms to fulfill the missions emphasis of the BMA by educating harvest workers worldwide. This chart shows the home countries of our students:

- United States – 68 students
- Philippines – 15 students
- Ghana – 6 students
- Nigeria – 3 students
- Liberia - 2 students
- Venezuela – 2 students
- Guatemala – 1 student
- Mexico – 1 student
- Peru – 1 student
- South Africa – 1 student
- United Arab Emirates – 1 student
- Vietnam – 1 student

Of these 102 harvest workers, 52 are on full or partial scholarship. Established scholarship funds provide for 19 of these students for a total of \$24,750, but the remaining 32 students are considered

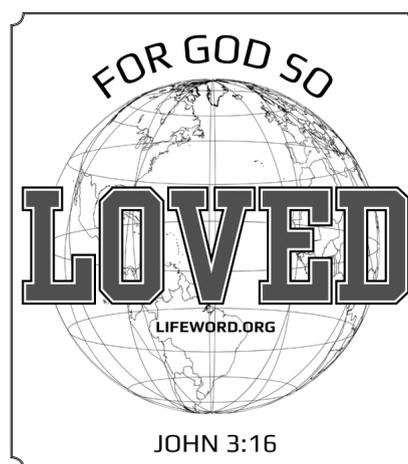
unfunded, meaning that although they have proven their need and have exemplified a desire to pursue their education, they do not match the criteria for any of the funds we have available. Of the unfunded students, the vast majority are international students who seek to grow in knowledge so they can share the gospel in their home countries. If the \$26,650 of funding doesn't come through for the remaining students, the funds will be taken from the seminary's operating funds, which are intended to pay salaries, utilities, maintenance, computer-related expenses and other expenses.

How can you help? First and most importantly, please pray for the seminary as we teach right doctrine and equip harvesters with godly toolkits. Seminary is not an easy undertaking, but it is worthwhile, so pray also for the harvesters and their families during this time of training. If you know of young men who are called to ministry, would you consider sending them our way? Even though we had a robust enrollment, we have room for many more students! Finally, you may feel led to help financially to ensure we are able to continue to educate students going forward at low or no cost to themselves.

We are eminently grateful for God's provision. We see it every day and know as we seek God's will in our work, He will continue to provide for us and our students. In meetings at the seminary, the phrase that comes up over and over is the "harvest is great and the harvest workers are few." We are keenly aware of our place in training up future harvest workers and we know that God does not assign a mission without providing the means to accomplish it.

Lifeword Sunday, October 19

God so loved the world, that He gave . . .



Giving is the natural overflow of loving. When you love someone, the natural response is to give. God proved His love for you and me when He gave His most prized possession, His only Son, Jesus. That's the gospel and that's the story we proclaim at Lifeword.

Today 2 billion people around the world will be able to hear that story through a Lifeword broadcast. Over 250 writers, creators, broadcasters from around the world are sharing His story in over 170 languages. Your gifts on Lifeword Sunday make all this possible.

On this special day, please pray for the ministry of Lifeword. Pray for open doors. Pray for fruit to remain wherever a Lifeword broadcast is heard. Pray

for God to provide abundant resources for us to share His love with those who have never heard.

Thank you for sharing this ministry with us. Together, we can tell the world this amazing story – *God so loved the world.*

WeTellTheStory.com



A Sower Went Out to Sow

Judy Wallace

I was a new, young bride totally clueless about what it meant to be a farmer's wife. My dad was always home for dinner by 5:30 p.m. so I figured my hubby would be too. I was wrong. My first stab at a home cooked meal was ready at 5:30. My farmer came home at 9:00!

Many long hours were involved in making a crop, most of which were spent preparing the soil to accept the seed. First there was plowing. Reaching deep into the soil, the plow would bring up clods and chunks that would have to be removed. Next came the discing that broke up the clods while the chunks often had to be removed by hand. Sometimes chemicals were used to either kill weeds or fertilize the soil. This could be done with a spray coop or by crop dusters. Finally, the do-it-all would be run over the field to smooth it all down and get the field ready for the planter.

In earlier writings I have shared about being 'seed flingers.' Everywhere we go we can and should display a countenance of joy and peace. These two attributes are sorely missing in our world today so when we exhibit these, people take notice. Try walking through Walmart smiling all the way! You will be surprised at how many smile back. Even that small gesture can open conversations that could lead to deeper interaction.

But let's more closely examine preparing the field. The greatest teacher of all, Jesus Christ, gave us the analogy of differing soils. He even revealed to us that only one fourth of those who are exposed to the seed would respond in a positive way. So, the soil and farming analogies both give us insight that the 'go and tell' commandment of Jesus may include long term, intentional relationships that require prepping the soil.

Pray for a field. The fields we are used to are more like lush meadows with beautiful flowers; they're our Christian friends and like-minded folk that already know Jesus as their Savior. That's where we like to put in our time and effort. But we must go into the highways and hedges where the weeds grow and the clods and chunks are obvious. These people may not be ready for the Roman Road, the Four Spiritual Laws, or the Evangelism Explosion hand. They need to see Jesus! They need to know who God is and all that He has done for them.

A sower went out to sow. He didn't arise and wonder what his task was for that day...he knew he was to sow, and he knew what it involved. We know what the task is for our life...GO AND TELL! We might not feel prepared, but if we are determined to obey His commands, we will by faith know that what He calls us to do He will equip us to do!

Scriptures: Proverbs 11:30; Luke 14:23; John 14:21; Hosea 10:12 (Sometimes we are the ones with the clods and chunks that need to be removed in our own lives.)

Response

1. Truly realize that you are a sower that has been sent out to sow.
2. Determine to be a seed flinger wherever you go.
3. Earnestly pray for a field...a person with which you can build a relationship to show and tell them about life in Christ.
4. Obey when He answers that prayer.

Prayer: Father, I write out of the conviction of my own heart that this is what I am to be doing. Open my eyes to someone that I am to build a relationship with for the very purpose of leading them to you.

Much Has Happened!

Mickeal and Sharon Quillman

This past month has been one of the most exciting and encouraging seasons of ministry we've had here in Zambia! God blessed us with the opportunity to host a wonderful



team from Temple Baptist Church in Jonesboro, Arkansas, led by Pastor Andy, along with the dedicated servants of Baptist Medical Missions International (BMMI). Altogether, we had 25 people – 17 from BMMI and 8 from Temple – serving alongside us to meet both physical and spiritual needs.

Medical Missions & Evangelism

Throughout the week, our combined teams hosted a medical clinic, treating 762 people from surrounding villages and providing much-needed medicine. While doctors and nurses cared for physical needs, Pastor Andy and the evangelism team faithfully shared the Gospel. We praise the Lord that 59 people made a first-time profession of faith in Jesus Christ!

But the ministry went far beyond medicine. Carpentry projects were completed, including a brand-new desk. Two young ladies from Temple brought joy for women and girls as they waited for treatment by painting their nails. Sis. Toya from Antioch Baptist in Conway added a beautiful touch by painting our church name on the building, and Mya from Temple designed and painted a new logo for our primary school. We are also especially thankful for Courtney, who worked alongside the BMMI team to minister to expectant mothers. Her care and encouragement were a blessing to so many.

Travel Challenges and Vehicle Need

Getting into these remote villages is no small task – each trip takes about four hours round-trip over rough, sandy terrain. This time, our travels were full of vehicle breakdowns, but God provided through the skill and perseverance of Steve, Jeremy, and Ken from Temple, Jonesboro, who kept us on the move. Please join us in praying as we seek to raise funds for a more reliable vehicle to continue this vital ministry without disruption.

Church Growth and New Leadership

God's work here continues to flourish. New believers are coming to Christ weekly, and Bible studies are spreading into neighboring villages. One of the most joyful moments this month was the ordination of Bro. Lackson Munkombwe as pastor of our very first church plant. Pastor Andy and others from Temple, Jonesboro, joined us for this historic occasion. We are eager to see all that God will do through Pastor Lackson in the years to come.



and two teacher's aides – all faithful church members and believers, most of them newly saved!

Upcoming Projects

In the coming weeks, we plan to:

- Build an outdoor baptistry for the church;
- Re-do the cement floor in the church building;
- Paint the interior and exterior walls.

Please continue to pray for strength, provision, and open doors for the gospel as we move forward in these projects.

We are deeply grateful for your prayers, financial support, and encouragement. The work is not always easy, but your partnership is helping make an eternal difference in Zambia.

Serving Him together,
Mickeal and Sharon Quillman



School Ministry Impact

Our Chabantu Baptist Academy has now grown to 154 children! This growth has strengthened our children's ministry and opened the door for entire families to hear the Gospel. Many parents are coming to Christ through their children's connection to the school. We now have six teachers

RE:CHARGE Leadership Retreat

Registration is open! Join Healthy Church Solutions and BMA Global for ReCharge '25, September 29 - October 1. This year, we're adding an element of adventure by rotating between churches, or "recharge stations." Everyone will have a chance to see three different nearby churches at work using unique strategies and God-sized vision to reach their communities. Journey together, as a reminder you are not alone, and receive spiritual refueling, encouragement, and fellowship in the Memphis, TN, and South Haven, MS, area. Our speaker is Sam Rainer, lead pastor of West Bradenton Baptist Church in Florida, president of Church Answers, and the co-founder and co-owner of Rainer Publishing.

Monday evening, September 29, at 6 p.m., we'll begin at Calvary Baptist Church in Horn Lake, MS, and enjoy a catered dinner and a night of worship with artist Michael O'Brien. Tuesday morning, September 30, we'll fill the tank at Mosaic Church in Memphis, TN, with a catered Chick-fil-A breakfast, separate ladies' and guys breakouts, and session one with Sam Rainer. The ladies' breakout will be led by Lori Cline and will be a powerful time of encouragement as she unpacks what it's been like to walk through cancer, with ever-deepening faith. Men will participate in a men's ministry panel led by pastors who are ministering in a variety of ministry settings and understand all kinds of challenges. Tuesday afternoon is unscheduled free time for you and your spouse, friends, or team to rest or explore the Memphis area. Memphis boasts world-famous BBQ, Beale Street, Sun Studios, Graceland, the Peabody Hotel, Memphis Zoo, the Botanic Gardens, Bass Pro Shops in the Pyramid, lots of shopping, and more! Tuesday at 7 p.m, we'll

meet at Central Church, South Haven, MS, for session two with Sam Rainer and reconvene there again on Wednesday morning to finish out strong and fully recharged with session three. Worship will be led by Kent Wiles, of First Baptist, Rogers, who led us last year with tremendous passion and energy.

With the summer going fast and the school season and holidays right around the corner, make plans now to get some respite and soul care. September 29 - October 1 is a time set aside for you. We want to recognize your efforts, pour into you and your family, and help encourage you, so you and your ministry can thrive. Churches, would you consider blessing your pastor and spouse with registration and hotel as an appreciation gift? You might even come as a church staff, or send your youth pastor and his wife. We believe healthier leaders equal a healthier church.



Speaker
Sam Rainer



Artist
Michael O'Brien



Worship
Kent Wiles

Locations:

Calvary Baptist Church in Horn Lake, MS
Mosaic Church in Memphis, TN
Central Church in South Haven, MS

Men's Breakout: Ministry Leader Panel

Women's Breakout: Lori Cline

Registration:
\$150 per person

Go to bmaamerica.org/recharge for more info and to register.

So don't wait! Be part of this leadership retreat and be recharged for the journey ahead!

Visit bmaamerica.org/reccharge for registration and additional information.

Deaths

James Sidney (Sid) Rasnic, 75, of Potosi, passed away on August 27. Sid served several years as a deputy for the Washington County Sheriff's Department and as a Transport Officer with the U.S. Marshall Service. He attended Stony Point Baptist Church in Mineral Point. Among Sid's survivors are his daughter Sara Buckley (former MO WMA president) and son-in-law Bryan Buckley (current MO Brotherhood president).

Celebration 2025

The Baptist Missionary Association Celebration conference is a worship celebration created for adults! Held at the beautiful Chateau On The Lake in Branson, MO, it's a time to come together and enjoy fellowship, Bible teaching, music and entertainment. Coming November 18-20, 2025!

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
\$175 per person / \$200 after October 19
\$250 per person if staying off-site

HOTEL RESERVATIONS
\$132 per night (plus taxes/fees) until October 19

SPECIAL ADD-ON SHOW
Sight & Sound's *David* add \$70 per person

For registration, room reservation or other information visit bmaamerica.org/celebration/

2025 Celebration
November 18-20, 2025
Chateau On The Lake, Branson, MO
BMAAMERICA.ORG/CELEBRATION

 DAVID DICKSON CONFERENCE PASTOR	 DAVID ATTEBERY WORSHIP	 NEIL DUMAS WORSHIP
 MICHAEL BOOTH CONCERT	 THE PRESLEYS BRANSON SHOW	 SIGHT & SOUND SPECIAL ADD-ON SHOW

Celebration Schedule

November 18

4:00 p.m. Registration
6:00 p.m. Concert - Michael Booth
7:00 p.m. Break
8:00 p.m. Session One: Neil Dumas, David Attebery, and David Dickson

November 19

7:00 - 8:45 a.m. Buffet Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Special Guest - Dennis Swanberg
9:50 a.m. Break
10:00 a.m. CBC Choir
10:45 a.m. Break
11:00 a.m. Session Two: Neil Dumas, David Attebery, and David Dickson
Noon - 7:00 p.m. Free Time! Shop till you drop!
3:00 p.m. Special Add-On Show: Sight & Sound's *David*
8:00 p.m. Branson Show – The Presleys

November 20

7:00 - 8:45 a.m. Buffet Breakfast
9:00 - 10:15 a.m. Session Three: Neil Dumas, David Attebery, and David Dickson