

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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

Volume LXXXVIII

St. Louis, MO • January 13, 2026

Issue No. 1

Happy New Year!

~ from your friends at the Missouri Missionary Baptist ~

Youth Alive 2025

Molly Kingston

The 2025 Youth Alive Conference was a success as God’s Word was preached, His holiness was worshipped and fellowship was experienced with other believers. The Alive Committee did a fantastic job putting together an event that stretched, challenged and brought us together to love one another and equip us for the work of the kingdom. Mike Strong, missionary working in Minnesota, expanded students’ understanding of truth spelled out in 1 John. The Central Collective band from Conway, Arkansas, led in worship to the Lord with psalms, hymns and songs with great reverence for His holiness.



• See ALIVE page 3 •

2025-2026 WMA National Project

The WMA of the BMAA is partnering with Just the Crumbs Ministry in an effort to raise needed financial support. Our project goal is \$90,000. That is a high amount, but we feel confident that God will bless this effort! We pray that you will see how both of these organizations minister to others not just in the United States after a natural disaster but to people around the world. As an example, here is a breakdown of what your contribution can do.

- \$30.00 contribution = funds to help JTC feed an entire family in crisis, plus provides funds to honor minister wives/widows at the annual BMAA meeting, plus provides funds to enable the National WMA to support other BMAA ministries, plus enables the National GMA to minister to young girls at their annual camp and/or go on mission trips.

• See WMA page 8 •

Seminary Offers Free Evangelism Course

Have you wanted to share your faith but did not know where to start?
Or have you started and had no idea how to continue?

BMA Seminary’s free class for Spring 2026 can help you! Through eight weeks of video instruction on step-by-step points, students will learn how to begin an evangelistic conversation, diagnose a person’s spiritual condition, share the gospel, and lead the person to make a thoughtful, personal decision to trust Christ.

No textbook is required and there will be optional 30-minute Google Meet sessions weekly on Tuesday nights. Weekly discussion with the professor, Dr. Ricky Williams, will be available via text message or live online with classmates.

The class is scheduled to begin February 9 and ends April 3. Registration is now open at www.bmats.edu/free.



THE
GOSPEL
CHANGES
EVERYTHING

WORLD MISSIONS DAY
2.22.26

bmaglobal.org/worldmissionsday

BMA GLOBAL

Partners in the Gospel

John Meriweather

When Paul wrote to the church in Philippi, he said, *I thank my God every time I remember you... because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.* His words reveal something more than appreciation for financial support. They express deep affection for a church that had joined him in heart and mission – a true partnership in the gospel.

The Gospel Is Our Motivation

A partnership is “associating together for a common purpose.” What is our common purpose in the BMA? It is not a project or a program; it is a Person. Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is the reason we go, give, pray, and serve. The gospel changes everything. It reconciles people to God and

brings hope where there was none. This is why Paul could rejoice even in hardship, because every sacrifice advanced something eternal.

In our churches, we need that same gospel-driven motivation. The gospel doesn’t just save us; it shapes us. It compels us to join hands with others who share the same vision of seeing Christ proclaimed among all peoples. When the gospel becomes our shared passion, partnership becomes the natural expression of our faith.

A Gospel-Based Partnership
Partnership in the gospel is not just affiliation – it’s a shared vision, a shared investment, and a shared burden.

• See PARTNERS page 7 •

State Missions

Dear BMAMO,

Below is the rough draft I wrote in my notes on the same day that I wrote my December article as I wanted to get my thoughts down quickly so I wouldn't forget. So let me show you what I wrote, and then I'll pick up where I left off.

What would a process for discipleship look like individually and as a church?

The process:

- Salvation
- Baptism
- Church covenant

Discipleship:

- The basics
- The disciplines
- The reproduction

If we don't see this happen, the lack of process will continue to produce the results we have seen in the recent past; we must repent and change this. Individually and as churches and associations.

The words above basically are the answer to that first article of having a process for discipleship. For my next several articles we're just going to look at this process step-by-step. Yes, this is my opinion. Yes, I have integrated certain levels of these things in my personal life and in our church life. The intention and goal is to completely and specifically integrate these practices into

my life individually and as a church. This is the Great Commission: we are to produce disciples.

Specifically, for this article, we're looking at salvation. It all begins here! Once you get a few years into this way of life, you will constantly be looking for people to share your faith with, but you will also be working with others that have received Christ as Savior in a discipleship relationship. There will be several things going on at once, but it'll be a natural outpouring of this discipline of life to produce disciples that reproduce disciples.

I realize that most everyone reading this article could probably hold a seminar on how to win someone to Christ. Even though we are going to look at the basics, I beg you not to sit back and think, "Man, I know all this." Instead, ask yourself the question, "Are there people that I am currently trying to get this godly information into? Who am I currently trying to win to Christ?"

I can very much guarantee that you may know salvation and the tenets of salvation through and through, but if you are not actively sharing these truths with someone, what is the point? It takes an approach – so what is your approach?

From here we could argue, but I would rather just encourage you to prayerfully write out your own gospel message. How did

you come to Christ? "The gospel according to you" is usually the best method of soul winning. It is something that I just rattle off when I share the gospel, but there are many other very good methods. One method is the 'Bad News, Good News.' The bad news of course, is Romans 3:23, that *all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*. The second part of the bad news is Romans 6:23a, *for the wages of sin is death* – we all deserve eternal punishment because of that sin. The good news is Romans 6:23b, *but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord* – that Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins and every man, woman, boy, and girl that will repent of their sin and accept what He did on the cross will have forgiveness of sins and live forever with Him in heaven.

There it is. It takes less than two minutes. Again, there are many other methods. I encourage you to study this, to seek it out, find the method that works for you and then ask God to put people in your path that He wants you to share this truth with.

If you go back to September's article and read about the BLESS acronym, that is a tremendous way to start a relationship with someone and ultimately get the opportunity to share the gospel with them.

I know this sounds simple. I know that it seems redundant, but again, the issue is: are we applying this? Are we sharing the gospel with our sphere of influence?

May the Lord richly bless you as you share the glorious gospel that He has called us to.

Bro. Ben Kingston
Missions Director



MISIÓN BAUTISTA BELÉN (Bethlehem Mission)

Serving Hispanic Families • St. Louis Metro East

Juan Fernandez

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

Praises!

Faith

After several visits, finally on the second week of December during my regular time of visiting I was able to hear the testimony and profession of faith of three of our neighbors' friends in Chesterfield. They asked me to explain the gospel and the difference between religions (such as Catholic, Mormons, Jehovah's Witness, etc.). After several hours explaining Bible verses, and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, these individuals were able to confess that Jesus is Lord. We are praying for them to complete our discipleship process in the next couple months and continue growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

VIP English Club

We are so excited to welcome our new English students this spring semester. Our VIP English Club is kicking off January 21.



We are teaching two groups of enthusiastic, energized and established families in the area. The VIP Club will be open Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. and Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Classes will be offered from January 21 through May 21. We opened this outreach back in October of last year in two locations, and eight out of the ten students were able to complete the course in a satisfactory manner. We have some of them joining us for our second Sunday of the month to introduce themselves and participate in our potluck.

Food: Monthly Potluck

The second Sunday of the month fellowship has been a wonderful way to gather new families, to connect, to learn about our ministry and follow up with prayer and home visitation. We are blessed in some of these potlucks to have Pastor Brian Meade and

• See BELÉN page 3 •

Financial Report BMA Of Missouri Missions December 2025

Checking Account:

Balance Nov. 30 \$ 22,036.35

Income:

Missions \$ 2,227.87
 Total Income \$ 2,227.87
 Total Available \$ 24,264.22

Expenses:

Director, salary/bonus \$ 900.00
 Secretary, salary/bonus 400.00
 Juan Fernandez, support 3,333.33
 Brad Miller (website, gift) 1,475.59
 Total Expenses \$ (6,108.92)
 Balance Dec. 31 \$ 18,155.30

BMAMS Revolving Loan Investment:

Balance Nov. 30 \$ 124,239.38
 Interest 0.00
 Balance Dec. 31 \$ 124,239.38
 Total in All Accounts Dec. 31 \$ 142,394.68

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

(USPS 355-500)

Established by the Baptist Missionary Association
of Missouri November 1937

Published monthly by the
BMA of Missouri Publications Committee
704 Valley Road, Potosi, MO 63664

Periodical postage paid at St. Louis, MO 63155

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Don Burke, Editor
Missouri Missionary Baptist
704 Valley Road, Potosi, MO 63664

Quarterly Financial Reports

Missouri Missionary Baptist Paper 4th Quarter 2025

Beginning Balance Oct. 1	\$ 18,542.18
Offerings	4,057.67
Funds Available	\$ 22,599.85
Salaries / Cmas Bonus	(3,200.00)
Printing & Mailing	(2,786.33)
Other Expenses	(107.94)
Ending Balance Dec. 31	\$ 16,505.58

Kenneth E. Gibson Grant Fund 4th Quarter 2025

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

BMA Of Missouri Minute Fund 4th Quarter 2025

Beginning Balance Sept 1	\$ 1,986.89
Offerings	1,690.00
Funds Available	\$ 3,676.89
Post Office (2024 Minute mailing)	(70.05)
Ending Balance Nov 30	\$ 3,606.84

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• From ALIVE page 1 •

Along with worship was time set aside for entertainment, including an evening spent at Kokomo Joe's in St. Peters, then a visit from comedian Bob Smiley.

As always, a huge shout-out to the group leaders and sponsors who sacrificed time to minister to their students. Thank you, to everyone who contributed monetarily or in prayer for God's Word to be taught, received and spread to and through the youth in our churches and communities.



• From BELÉN page 2 •

some of the church family who have been such support and testimony of partnership and communion to our new friends.

Fellowship: Christmas Giving Tree

We had a very special Christmas celebration this past month. Lindsay Lane Church families partnered with a local elementary school to gather special presents under our Christmas Giving Tree. Pastor Brian and Mrs. Amy were able to put together toys and special gifts such as homemade presents for our families. More than 25 children received presents during this Christmas celebration! Some of these kids participated in our summer outreach in the park, and it is such a blessing to follow up with them. Pray that we continue growing in our relationship with each one of these families and they soon join us for regular weekly worship service on Sunday.

There are other kids who were also



Camp Garwood Financial Report Oct 1, 2025 - Jan 6, 2026

General Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ 7,428.05
Received	37,984.28
Disbursements	(4,659.54)
Ending Balance	\$ 40,752.79

Food Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ 0.00
Received	0.00
Disbursements	(0.00)
Ending Balance	\$ 0.00

Insurance Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ 0.00
Received	2,989.90
Disbursements	(6,000.00)
Ending Balance	\$ (3,010.10)

Total Balance All Funds \$ 37,742.69

Money Market 12/31/25 \$ 12,590.46

blessed with presents even though they were late to register. By God's grace there were enough presents to include them. I ask for your prayer as there are two presents still in my office. These kids didn't receive a Christmas present from us due to adults' issues. Pray for this young couple that soon they will become laborers for the kingdom.

• See BELÉN page 8 •

▪ Updates from Our Churches ▪

Oak Hill, Alton

HELLO to all from Oak Hill! We thought we were having spring weather in December but the weather changed and it's cold outside.

A few months ago, we had a couple, Darrell and Lynn Richert, join Oak Hill and I forgot to mention it.

On December 14th we had a Christmas program, arranged by Sis. Merinda Crigler and Sis. Abby Casey. Sis. Abby sang "Noel," and then Sis. Stephanie Kernodle narrated and the kids acted out the play. After the Christmas program we went over to our fellowship hall and had snacks and a time of fellowship. Also, that morning we had a young lady, Hayley McClanahan, who was saved.

We hope everyone has a safe and blessed New Year! Until next month I hope I will have some more good news to tell you but until then we will be praising and honoring our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! God Bless!!

*Edward Casey, Pastor
Jennifer Williams, Reporter*

Kewanee, New Madrid

Hope everyone had a very blessed Christmas. We had a wonderful month of celebrating Jesus' birth!

Some of our Sunday School teachers took their classes to the movie theater to see "David." Everyone had a great time! Some of our ladies met one morning and shopped for gifts to take out to our shut-ins and nursing home residents. Always a blessing to get to visit them and share God's love for them. Our ladies had their Christmas dinner and fellowship on December 2nd, and our men had their Christmas dinner and

fellowship on December 4th. A lot of fun and good food was had by all!

On December 7th, the WMA had a cookie swap and shirt press. Each lady brought two dozen of their favorite cookies and the recipe along with a blank t-shirt or sweat-shirt. Sis. Gloria Houston had a variety of designs which she pressed on the shirts. Bro. Corey Houston mixed some of his favorite coffee to serve the ladies while they waited. Everyone had a wonderful time and left with cookies and a new Christmas shirt!

On December 21st our children had their Christmas program. The kids put a lot of hard work and love into this program that took us through the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ! Great job in leading the kids, Sis. Jessie Jordan!

One of our deacons, Bro. Jason Taylor, is going on a mission trip to Nicaragua in January. Please be in prayer for safe travels for everyone involved. Also, be in prayer for God's work to reach many on the mission field there.

On Christmas Eve we had a beautiful candlelight service. Bro. Dan brought a special Christmas message. We sang Christmas songs and then opened up the floor for anyone that wanted to tell what Christmas meant to them. It was such a special evening of celebrating Jesus' birth and sharing heartfelt meanings of Christmas. We also had a special New Year's Eve service where we had another special message brought by Bro. Dan. We then opened up the floor for anyone feeling led to speak about their hopes and prayers for 2026. We ended in a circle to pray in the new year. Always a special time to

spend with our church lifting up our Lord and Savior.

Praying for God's blessings to you all in this new year!

See you next month! Let's make Heaven crowded!

*Dan Wisely, Pastor
Debbie Nowell, Reporter*

Lindsey Lane, Florissant

Greetings to all our sister churches. God's richest blessings as we are one year closer to our Lord's return.

December was a month of ups and downs as we dismissed services on Dec. 7th due to the weather conditions. Dec. 21st we were blessed to have Bro. Juan and family, as well as some of the children and families from his ministry. We had adopted some of the children and were able to give them Christmas gifts. To see their faces light up was such a blessing! One of the local schools in our area had chosen to purchase toys for each child!

Bro. Brian has blessed us with messages regarding our coming King! Sis. Thelma Cornett is very excited about being able to move back to her home after her recent eye problems. She has been staying with her daughters.

We praise God for His promises! We lift those up in prayer that have recently lost loved ones.

Please continue to pray for us as we minister to the Florissant area. May God bless till we meet again.

*Brian Meade, Pastor
Kathy Chapman, Reporter*

Bethel, Sikeston

New Year's greetings to all from Bethel, Sikeston.

December was a very busy and eventful month for us. On the 14th we had about

25 of our members go to the nursing home to sing Christmas carols to the residents. They all seemed to enjoy it, and they joined in with our singing. Bro. Billy read the Christmas story to them and had prayer before leaving. What a blessing for us as well as for them. If you haven't made a New Year's resolution, why not make one? Let it be to visit some of these nursing homes. Some of these residents are lonely and don't have visitors.

In the morning service on the 21st our youth had a Christmas play. They did an awesome job. Each one did their part very well. We are so proud of them! We had lots of visitors that morning.

That same evening we had our Christmas party in the fellowship hall with lots of good fellowship and snacks. Before we started the game we play every year, Bro. Billy had a short devotional about why we celebrate Christmas. Bro. John Slayton read a story for our game where we had to move the gift that was in front of us to the right or left. It got pretty funny, and we had a lot of good laughs. Everyone took home a gift; no one was left out!

About nine of our teens went to the Youth Alive conference this year. Thanks to Bro. Matt and Sis. Keeley Bolen for taking them. They had a good time of worshipping with lots of other teens.

We pray everyone had a blessed and happy start to the new year! Praying for great things to happen in 2026!!

*Billy Davis, Pastor
Joan Wood, Reporter*

Lower Doe Run, Ellington

Greetings from the Lower Doe Run Baptist Church. We hope and trust that you all had a great Christmas and are looking forward to a blessed, prosperous year ahead as we watch and wait, longing and expecting our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to come in 2026!

God blessed us last month

as Bro. Ron and Sis. Quanah Fears united with our church with a letter from Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Judsonia, AR. Also, at the close of the morning service, January 4, Sis. Carolyn Miller presented for membership on promise of a letter from Charity Missionary Baptist Church, Bismarck, MO.

We were blessed with a powerful message from Bro. Fears on December 28 and one from Bro. Beardsley on January 4. I really appreciated these two as I was under the weather. God is using these men of God in His vineyard and we recommend them to you as well.

We have a nice new sign to put at the junction of highways 21 and H just south of Ellington that will direct people to our church. Pray that we can contact the land owner and all will be done right. Until we meet again.

*Melvin Meade, Pastor
Carolyn Meade, Reporter*

Landmark, DeSoto

Happy January to all of our brothers and sisters in Christ! Hope everyone had a blessed and joyous Christmas and New Year.

We did have our Christmas program on Dec. 21st during the morning service. Attendance was down a little due to a lot of illness, but I'm happy to report that several of our members are currently on the mend.

On December 28th, my family and the church threw me a surprise 70th birthday party! Never knew people would be so happy about me getting old(er)! All of my five siblings attended, along with two nieces and my best friend and her husband. SO MANY BLESSINGS! Too bad I can't have a 70th birthday every week – it was great for attendance! Sending out a HUGE thank you to my personal family (especially Carol, who was the driving force behind this event) AND my church family for this wonderful day and all the love you showered

~ Upcoming Events ~

World Missions Day – Feb. 22; "The Gospel Changes Everything"

CBC Scholarship Gala – March 6; Antioch, Conway, AR

MO State WMA and Brotherhood Annual Meeting – March 7; Stony Point, Mineral Point

BMAA National Meeting – April 21-22; Antioch, Conway, AR

Send event info to mmbpaper@gmail.com.

on me. I'm kinda ornery, and know I don't deserve it, but appreciate it more than you'll ever know.

We're glad that Sis. Terry Smith, Bro. Bill Smith and Sis. Sharon Page are all recovering from their respiratory infections. Sure have missed them at church. There are several in our congregation that are still dealing with some serious health issues, and we ask that you lift us all up in prayer. We will keep all of you in our prayers as well.

God is still blessing us with visitors every week. We pray they will officially decide to join our church family.

No other big news right

now, just counting God's blessings during this first month of the new year. May God keep filling you up with His Holy Spirit and joy

*Len Young, Pastor
Barb Williams, Reporter*

Ohlman, Buckner

November and December were busy for Ohlman, including a revival with evangelist Bro. Scotty Rayburn.

Also in November the church provided Thanksgiving meal fixings for 14 of our Wednesday night kids' families. The church voted a specified amount to purchase the items, then an anonymous donation doubled that amount.

Additionally when we met to box up the items for distribution, we found even more donated items from church members and from employees of Fletcher Mine and Mill. Volunteers met on the 24th to put the boxes together for distribution later that day. This enabled us to invite several to church on Sundays.

For Christmas this year a lady wanted to donate gifts for the Wednesday night kids. And, boy, did she donate! We had a Christmas program on December 17th. The best part about the program was that several of the families attended. We had a full house. Several stayed

for refreshments and fellowship after the program. It was a great opportunity for these parents to hear the gospel and see how we show the love of Jesus to their children.

Normally our WMA, with help from the Brotherhood, gives fruit baskets to the community seniors/shut-ins. Three ladies met to put together 24 bags with fruit, snack crackers, hats and gloves. These were taken to Tabernacle Church where the senior lunches are cooked and distributed on Thursdays.

Each month the Reynolds County Sheltered Workshop selects a male and female "employee of the month."

In December Juanita May, representing our WMA, recognized those two employees with a monetary gift.

As we start a new year, our Wednesday night student ministry starts back. Pray for all our workers, and pray that our bigger bus will be finally repaired and usable. Pray that we can reach the families of our "Wednesday night kids," and that they will come to know Jesus.

Last but not least: In 2026, Ohlman will be celebrating 75 years of ministry. Watch for more information as plans are made.

*Terry Sharp, Pastor
Janet Widger, Reporter*

Michel Poirier Mission Newsletter

Quebec

It is always a blessing to report what the Lord has done in the field with French people. It is exciting to see more people coming to know Christ, especially when we have a part in it. We see so many immigrants coming to Canada, it is a good opportunity to present the Lord. We just have to say, "Next Sunday there is a meal after church," and wow the place is packed. Amazing what food will do to people. If that's what it takes to get people to church, so be it. If only people had a similar mind to give their tithes and offerings, it would be great. That's one principle the foreigners lack in their service to the Lord. But praise the Lord for faithful Christians who give beyond what the Lord requires of them. We had two young ladies who came to know Christ in the last two months, and one young boy age 12 asked in prayer for his salvation.

Mr. Andre Bernier goes back and forth into the hospital. Some days I get him home and some days he is in hospital. I have explained before how he loves to come to church. I hired a taxi driver to pick him up every Sunday, but the first Sunday he was in the hospital. At nearly 89 his health is fragile. I went to visit him in the hospital and could not get past the emergency station because of so many sick people. Because I was not family they said I must go home. Pray for Mr. Bernier – he was saved in 1978 and he loves the Lord and His people.

Haiti

Below is a letter I received from our pastor who lives in Haiti (translated from French). This will give you firsthand what it's like to live in Haiti:

May the God of our salvation fill you with joy, peace, and happiness for the New Year. It is my pleasure to share with you words of encouragement found in Isaiah 40:10, for the ministerial work you are undertaking as ministers of the gospel and servants of the living God. I know that your reward will be great in God's eyes. I am taking this opportunity in December to share my news with you, as well as information about the ministry in Haiti, specifically in Croix-des-Bouquets, Zone Ceaseless.

I would like to tell you a little about my family and the ministry. Time flies, the challenges are amplified, but the experience of leading God's work is marked, from a spiritual perspective, by extraordinary moments, very significant lessons, and continuous victories. And for all of this, I am infinitely grateful to God because He cares for us and His work. And we continually mention you in our prayers because your support, advice, prayers, teachings, and encouragement were good news in times of sadness, and are gifts in times of joy.

As for my family, we are well by the grace of God. We are happy to have the privilege of being ambassadors for Christ in Haiti. We are under God's protection. My wife and I are well, and the children are also well; they are already finishing the first term of school. Despite the difficult security situation, some schools are forced to close because gangs have demanded exorbitant ransoms that would allow them to operate. Some have agreed to pay, while others have preferred to close. In the end, it is the parents who will pay the price, because educating children has become very expensive. Despite the many problems facing the country, some schools still manage to function.

Thanks be to God for His protection and providence, which open doors for His children in the most difficult times. My family and I give glory to God for you because of your willingness to facilitate God's support for us. We are very grateful to God and to you.

Let's talk a little about the Missionary Baptist Church, "All Hands Together, Cesse Lesse." We began the year with the church feast day on January 16. Then we held the Sunday school celebration on the last Sunday of February. We started the summer holidays with a 40-day evangelistic campaign. We only had nine conversions, and as I've already mentioned it's becoming increasingly difficult for people to give their lives to the Lord. We had eight people baptized, and more than a dozen of our members have taken refuge in provincial towns for fear of insecurity. However, there are also others who have come to live in the area and participate

in our services. We have around 75 to 90 people attending each meeting.

In conclusion, we have no reason to complain because God is in control of everything. May God keep you and bless you abundantly.

Ivory Coast, Africa

The Lord is at work in the country of Gonaé Ivory Coast, with pastor Paul Yetondji Gbebioho. He mentioned the health issues of some of his members and the difficulty they encountered witnessing in the village by some Muslims who oppose the message of Christ. Souls have been saved and baptized under the preaching of the Word of God.

Cameroon, Africa

There was an election in the country and things got out of hand. Many were shot and killed; others were severely hurt. The people could not go to church for fear of being targeted and killed. Now things seem to be normal, people have started to attend the meeting and getting involved in witnessing. Things are not like they should be yet, but it is coming.

Benin, Africa

The work is doing well even in the midst of retaliation from Muslim activists. A number of young men are students of the Word of God who answered the call to the ministry and are under the guidance of missionary Prince. Prince is a member of our church in Quebec and is sent to Benin, Africa, to plant churches. These young men gathered every week to study and to encourage each other. And of course they have church services with the church people. Pray for them as they try to reach souls for Christ in a Muslim area.

Thank you for your prayers for the mission work in these countries. These workers have given their lives to the Lord, building a work that will bring souls to the Lord. These countries have differing needs, of course, but they all need our prayers. Remember them as we enter the new year 2026.

For the cause of Christ,
The Poiriers (Jeremiah 33:3)
pasteur.poirier56@gmail.com

Together, Planting Disciple-Making Churches Around the World

Dr. Clif Johnson • Chairman, Coordinating Council

On Nov. 13, 2025, the Coordinating Council held meetings with each National Department/Ministry that was able to attend. It was energizing to hear each ministry share its mission, goals and day-to-day efforts. Across the board, the Lord has entrusted the BMA with important work – and it is clear that each of these ministries is pursuing that work with conviction.

Global Missions continues to do more than deploy church planters – it is shaping change-making leaders who will sustain a global church-planting movement for generations to come.

Daniel Springs Camp is intentionally pivoting from a strong evangelistic summer to a renewed emphasis on discipleship, leaning on the BMA Seminary for curriculum development and leader training.

Lifeword stands on the leading edge of biblical engagement in the digital age, navigating new technologies and new people groups with innovative programs for all ages, including a discipleship pathway for those exploring the Christian faith.

BMA Financial remains a stabilizing force, ensuring pastors, missionaries and ministry leaders can steward their future with confidence and peace.

The Seminary continues to offer rigorous theological training – distinctively rooted in discipleship – to prepare men and women to lead faithfully in local churches.

And Baptist Publishing House continues producing solid biblical resources while also taking meaningful steps into book publishing.

BMA family, as with any ministry, we all face areas needing improvement, weaknesses that must be strengthened and financial needs that must be addressed. These challenges are not insignificant, but they are part of the Lord's sanctifying work among us. The last several years have required recovery and recalibration – from the ripple effects of 2020 to local church challenges we all must navigate. What we must not lose sight of is our shared mission. Over the past two years, the Coordinating Council has worked diligently to identify a phrase that captures our shared identity and mission – one that rallies us together and propels us forward in these times.

I believe we've found it: **Together, planting disciple-making churches around the world.** This is more than a slogan. It is a shared conviction. First, every national ministry represented desires to see people from every tribe and tongue repent, believe and follow King Jesus. Second, we all long to see disciples multiplied through healthy, convictional, mission-anchored local churches. Third, we want to labor together – in ways that are God-honoring, Christ-exalting and Spirit-empowered – to see that mission fulfilled. Every department contributes meaningfully to this unified purpose:

- Global Missions trains and sends missionaries and church planters – some already equipped through the Seminary, others who will pursue theological education before being sent.
- Lifeword breaks new ground by reaching demographics, regions and interest groups that open doors for evangelism, discipleship and church plants.
- BMA Seminary educates and equips men and women for the theological and practical work of the ministry.
- BMA Financial strengthens ministry leaders with wise stewardship and financial security, freeing them to focus wholly on their call.
- Baptist Publishing House equips churches – domestically and globally – with doctrinally sound discipleship resources, strengthening new and established congregations.
- Daniel Springs Camp shapes young hearts toward lifelong discipleship and fuels a generation ready to engage in the mission of God.

Many of you could articulate these connections better than I have, but the point is clear: we are already aligned more than we may realize. What our churches need now is a unified message they can carry with them – one that reflects the heartbeat of the entire BMA family.

I am not suggesting that we formalize this phrase through a vote. However, I do encourage every ministry and every church to embrace it, use it and clearly communicate how each department's work contributes to its fulfillment. When you promote this shared purpose, you not only highlight your own ministry – you strengthen the collective witness of the entire BMA.

Brothers, may the Lord unify our efforts, sharpen our vision, and multiply our fruit. **Together, planting disciple-making churches around the world.**



Practice Makes Perfect

Cindy Allen

2025 is wrapping up. Something else wrapping up is my goal to read the Bible through this year. I finished the book of Hebrews today, and only have eight days left. Tonight, I decided to listen to my Bible app while walking on the treadmill. As the narrator read through the Faith Hall of Fame in Hebrews 11, I reflected on my year. What could be written in my Faith Hall of Fame for 2025? Two specific things came to mind.

(1) I signed up to go on a mission trip. That is a HUGE step of faith for me. You see, I have NEVER flown. I am flying on a short trip in just a few days, but in July, I will board a plane and fly to South Africa. SCARY, right?? I have done many things to support missions over the years, but I have never actually wanted to go on a trip. However, from the very beginning, I knew I wanted to do this. At first, I prayed really hard my husband would want to go. I can do anything with that guy by my side. Then one morning, during my quiet time, I felt God ask, "Are you trusting me or are you trusting Greg?" And honestly, I was putting my trust in Greg. So, I signed up and he did not. Am I excited? Yes. Am I worried? Yes. Am I afraid I am going to throw up and embarrass myself? YES! Am I trusting God? YES!

(2) Our family is having some issues. I won't go into details, but the situations make my momma heart sad. I have prayed. I have asked friends to pray. If you think about me, I would love for you to pray. But God has granted me peace. I do get sad, I do hope the issue will be resolved, but I am OK.

Are these things as big as the steps of faith that Abraham or Noah or Moses took? No way. But they are big deals to me. I am putting my faith in God and trusting him for the outcome, and that is a big deal, no matter who you are.

Hebrews 11:1, *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.* That is where I am at. I am being confident even though I don't know the outcome. I feel at peace when I think about my family. I want things to be better but I am OK until that happens. I am moving ahead with prayers and plans about my mission trip, even though I am not sure what 20 hours on a plane will look like. God knows, and if He wants me to minister to souls on the other side of the world, He will help me get there.

The heading in my Bible for chapter 11 is "Living by Faith" and chapter 12 is "The Call to Endurance." When we are living by faith, we have to endure. My Tony Evans Study Bible made a great point when explaining 12:2-3, "The Son of God made it through Friday by keeping his eyes on Sunday..." That is how faith works. The assurance of things not seen leads me to forge ahead because I know God is working in my family and I know the mission trip is going to be awesome.

What a blessing faith in God is. He is in control of it all anyway so why wouldn't I trust him? Good question, Cindy, because I don't always trust. I many times am like the man in Mark 9, *I believe Lord, help thou my unbelief.* But just as these people in Hebrews 11 were commended for their faith, I think God commends us for our faith, even if it is in small portions. And the more I have faith, the more my faith will grow. Remember, we used to tell our kids, "Practice makes perfect." God tells us the same thing. Practice your faith and watch it grow – and where it will take you, only God knows!

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11-12, Psalm 37

Response: Ask God to help your faith grow, knowing that growth often comes from stretching situations. Share your testimony with someone and encourage their faith.

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for a year of stretching and growing and learning. May 2026 be the year I trust you wholeheartedly. And even if I fall short of that goal, may my faith grow. I love you Lord, please continue to give me opportunities to watch you work and grow in trust. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Partners in the Gospel

(continued from page 1)

- A shared vision: We long to see God's glory among all nations. Our aim is not to build one church's name or one organization's brand, but to see Jesus exalted among every nation, tribe, and tongue.

- A shared investment: Partnership involves bringing what God has given us – our prayers, people, and resources – to advance His mission. We do this not out of duty or obligation but as Paul said in Philippians 4, as *a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God*.

- A shared burden: True partnership carries the weight of the mission together. The Philippians shared in Paul's suffering and struggle for the gospel. We, too, are called to stand with others in the work, even when it costs us.

Paul's gratitude to the Philippians was not only for their support – it was for their shared heart in the mission.

The Gospel is Costly but Worth It

A gospel partnership is costly. It requires a sacrifice of serving and a sacrifice of giving. We don't go or give purely based on duty or guilt, but out of a burden and love for Christ and the people to whom He willingly sacrificed

Blessed Beyond the Drought

Josephine's Story (Simondo Village, Zambia)

When I first heard about the Bible studies happening in our area, I was curious. I had heard people whisper that the Makuwa—the white missionaries—were teaching about a God who forgives sins and gives eternal life. I had spent my whole life fearing spirits, offering sacrifices, and doing what our traditions demanded. But inside, I always felt empty and afraid. So one day, I decided to go.

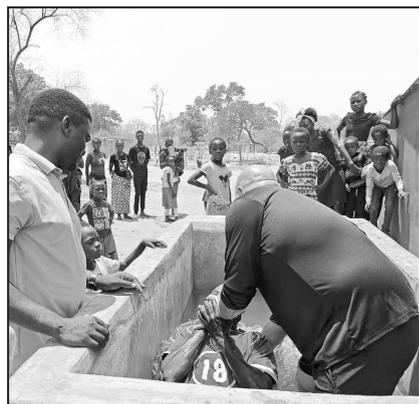
The first time I heard about Jesus Christ, something inside me stirred. The missionaries spoke of a God who loved us so much that He sent His Son to die for our sins. They said we could know peace – not through charms or sacrifices, but through faith. That night, I could hardly sleep. I kept thinking about that love. A few days later, I accepted Christ as my Savior.

I started attending every Bible study and church service I could. It felt like I was finally alive. But soon, my joy brought anger into my home. My husband, Michael, is the headman of our village. He is respected and powerful – and deeply involved in the traditional ways. He works with the witch doctor to divine spirits and remove curses. When he learned that I had turned away from those practices, he was furious.

He called my faith “the white man's religion” and forbade me to attend the Makuwa's church. When I refused, he began to punish me. Some nights, he locked me outside our home, leaving me to sleep under the stars with the sound of lions in the distance. Other times, he refused to let me eat. Still, I couldn't turn back. I had found the truth, and I would rather suffer than return to the darkness I once knew.

As the planting season came, my husband prepared his seed to take to the witch doctor for blessings. He demanded I do the same. I told him quietly, “The only blessing I want is from the One True God.” He laughed and said I would regret it.

When he left, I gathered my small bag of seed and carried it to the church. I



sat with Sharon, the missionary's wife, and said, “I think I made a mistake. I told my husband that the One True God would bless my seed. Does He really do that?” She smiled and showed me verses from Deuteronomy 28, where God promises to bless those who obey Him. The church prayed for me – for my seed, my husband, and my faith to remain strong.

That year, a terrible drought came. The ground cracked, and the crops withered. The school's field yielded only half its usual harvest. My husband's field was almost completely lost. But my little plot flourished. Green and full. When people asked how it was possible, I told them, “The One True God blessed my field.”

Still, life at home was difficult. My husband's anger grew, even as he saw what had happened. I kept praying that God would touch his heart. Then one Tuesday morning, during Bible study, I saw Michael walking toward us through the bush. My heart pounded. I feared what he might do. But he said nothing. He just sat down at the back and

listened.

That day, the missionary spoke about Jesus and Nicodemus in John chapter 3, how a man must be born again. When the lesson ended, the missionary went to my husband and asked, “What can I do for you?” Tears filled Michael's eyes. “I want what my wife has,” he said.

Right there, he prayed and gave his life to Jesus Christ. I cried as

Himself. We share in the cost knowing that our sacrifice is an investment in eternity. And as Paul told the church in Philippians 4, our giving then becomes as *a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God*.

The gospel is costly, but it is worth it. Nothing else, and no one else, has the power to truly transform a life or redeem a soul. When a church chooses to engage in gospel partnership, it declares: “We believe this good news is the hope of the world.” Every prayer, every gift, every act of faith becomes an act of worship and a part of God's unfolding story of redemption.

World Missions Day – Partners in the Gospel

This same invitation is open to us: to become true partners in the gospel. This is our request for World Missions Day, that we would be churches motivated by the gospel – praying and giving for the advancement of the gospel and the glory of God.

World Missions Day – February 22, 2026 – Let's link arms for the sake of Christ and the world He loves. The gospel has changed us..., now let it change the world through us.

Guided by Grace

Juan Carlos Rivera's Story (Costa Rica)

We live in a very remote place, and for many years our lives felt marked by limitation. I, Juan Carlos, cannot walk and depend on a wheelchair. My wife Martha can walk, but because she is visually impaired, she cannot see the path ahead. Each day, we faced our challenges together: I would guide the way, and she would push my chair. It was our simple rhythm of survival.

One day, Bro. Cristian Hernández arrived at our home. He didn't rush past us or treat our situation as too difficult to enter into. Instead, he listened, prayed with us, and immediately shared our needs with his church. For the first time in a long time, we felt seen. Their help met our physical needs, but something even deeper began to change inside us.

Bro. Cristian began discipling each of us, teaching us the Scriptures and

helping us understand God's love. Through this journey, we realized that God had a purpose for our lives—not despite our limitations, but even within them. We began waking each morning with gratitude instead of despair.

Today our health has improved, our home feels more stable, and something we once only dreamed of has become real: a Bible study now meets in our living room. We have surrendered our lives to Jesus, completed discipleship, and recently became members of the church.

We are still growing, still learning, and still being transformed. But now we face each day not only with each other's help, but with the strength and hope that come from God. And we rejoice knowing that, through His people, the gospel truly changes everything.

I watched the man who once cursed my faith now bow before my Savior.

Afterward, we walked the long road home. When we arrived, Michael gathered all his idols, charms, and divination tools and burned them. He called our children together and told them about Jesus. They accepted Him that same day. Then he brought his mother, and she too believed.

Now, nearly two years later, my husband is a changed man. He helps prepare for services, leads others in prayer, and shares the gospel boldly. Many in our village have believed because of his testimony, and one man has even accepted the call to become a pastor. Soon, a new church will be planted in Simondo...on the very land Michael is donating from his own farm.

When I look back, I remember the nights I slept outside and the days I went hungry. But I also remember God's faithfulness. He never left me. He heard my prayers. He blessed my seed, softened my husband's heart, and brought life to our village. Truly, the One True God answers prayers and transforms lives.

• From BELÉN page 3 •

We are so thankful for each family from Lindsay Lane as they blessed these families and supported our ministry to show Jesus to these families. Also, thanks goes to a local restaurant in Hazelwood – Dos Lokos, represented by Mr. Jose Avalos and Joe Pflederer – that donated candies and a pinata for this very special Christmas celebration. This restaurant also has allowed me to come and serve our Hispanic friends with English classes since April. Continue to pray that this business is blessed with the gospel of Jesus and we have more opportunities and open doors for the gospel in the hearts of their owners and customers.

Prayer

For an open place to gather on Sunday evenings in the city of Chesterfield. We have been gathering in a trailer for the last four years. Two weeks ago, we gathered there to celebrate Christmas and the birthday of

Abraham. We were almost 20 adults and 8-12 children in that trailer home. Praise the Lord that no one was hurt, and we were warm for sure. The family asked me to lead some Christmas worship songs, Happy Birthday, etc. We had a blessed time of singing and a meal. Then I was able to share the gospel with the friends and neighbors who were there, and afterwards some questions were raised about the gospel. We are meeting again this coming Sunday to connect with one of the friends who is interested in learning more about joining us for worship. We are praying to seek God's guidance and provision for a place that will allow us to minister to the kids better. The Lord willing, we will continue with our timeline to serve two gatherings for worship and fellowship on Sunday morning at Lindsay Lane and in the evening at Chesterfield. Faithful is the One who calls!

In His service, Juan Fernandez
Habakkuk 2:14

• From WMA page 1 •

• \$120.00 contribution = funds to JTC to equip a volunteer team for a full day of service, plus provides funds to honor minister wives/widows at the annual BMAA meeting, plus provides funds to enable the National WMA to support other BMAA ministries, plus enables the National GMA to minister to young girls at their annual camp and/or go on mission trips.

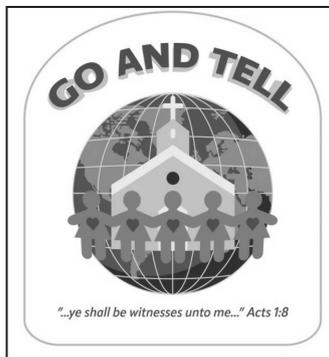
• \$300.00 contribution = funds to JTC to provide fuel and maintenance for the mobile kitchen, keeping them on the road and ready to serve, plus provides funds to honor minister wives/widows at the annual BMAA meeting, plus provides funds to enable the National WMA to support other BMAA ministries, plus enables the National GMA to minister to young girls at their annual camp and/or go on mission trips.

So, you see, whatever amount you give to the National WMA project, 80% will go to Just the Crumbs and the remaining 20% is stretched to do much more in an effort to minister to ladies and girls as well as support several other BMAA ministries. We thank you for your support!

Send contributions by February 28, 2026 to:

WMA of BMAA
PO Box 23 • Salem, MO 65560

Current Donations:
\$26,869.59 of \$90,000 Goal



Ministers & Ministry Opportunities

Entries are published at the request of the individual or entity listed and should not be considered as an endorsement by the Missouri Missionary Baptist or the BMA of Missouri.

Johnny Beardsley, Jr. has recently been licensed to preach by Lower Doe Run Baptist Church of Ellington and is available for pulpit supply. He can be reached at (573) 300-8460. (1225)

Ron Fears, is available for preaching. 768 CR 608, Ellington, MO 63638. (501) 206-6574. (1225)

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

Former BMAA Missions Director, Pastor Passes Away

(via Baptist Trumpet and New Hope Funeral Home website)



Bro. James Vestal Schoenrock of Little Rock, Arkansas, went home to be with the Lord on December 21, 2025, shortly after celebrating his 88th birthday. Called to preach at the young age of 11, James devoted his entire life to Christian ministry.

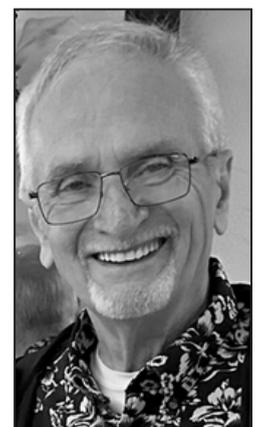
Bro. Schoenrock was a longtime BMA pastor and leader who faithfully served the Lord and the Baptist Missionary Association in many ways. Over the course of 60 years, he pastored 11 churches across Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. Among other roles, he served as Missions Director for the BMA of America, and as president of both the BMA of Texas and the BMA of America. His life and ministry left a lasting impact on churches, missionaries, and countless individuals across the BMA family.

Former Missouri Pastor, Interstate Missionary Called Home

(via Walker Funeral Home website)

Jimmie Lee "Jim" Tollison, 75, went home to be with Jesus on December 13, 2025. A beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and pastor, "Brother Jim" will forever be remembered for his genuine smile, love of people, and gift for turning every interaction with someone into a story worth retelling.

During his 48 years of ministry he pastored three churches in Missouri – Breton Creek and Ozark Heights in Potosi and Bethel in Sikeston – and five churches in Arkansas, including one through his work as an interstate missionary.



Deaths

James "Jimmy" Edward Brown, 51, passed away on December 26, 2025. James was a member of the Black River Missionary Baptist Church of Qulin, MO. He loved spending time with his family, hunting, fishing, and playing pool.

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