

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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

Volume LXXXVIII

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Issue No. 2

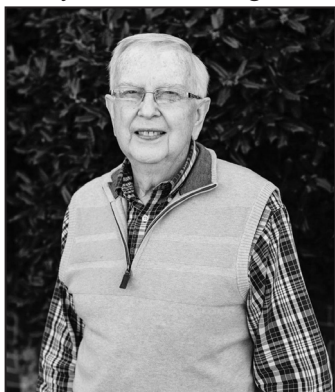
Jerry Kidd, ‘Pastor to Missionaries,’ Former BMAA Missionary and Missions Director, Dies

(via *Baptist Trumpet*)

Jerry Dwayne Kidd, 86, of Bryant, AR, passed away January 20. He faithfully served the Lord as a pastor and missionary within the Baptist Missionary Association of America.

Bro. Kidd devoted more than five decades to gospel ministry as a pastor, missionary, missionary pilot, and denominational leader within the BMA. He accepted Christ at the age of 12 at Unity Baptist Church in Hope, AR, where he later surrendered to the gospel ministry on Oct. 31, 1959.

A 1957 graduate of Hope High School, Bro. Kidd attended Southern State College (now Southern Arkansas University) in Magnolia before enrolling at Central Baptist College in Conway, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Bible in 1963. While still a student at CBC, he was



ordained to the ministry March 21, 1961, at College View Baptist Church in Magnolia and pastored Tomberlin Baptist Church at Coy and Eastside Baptist Church in Lonoke.

After graduation, Bro. Kidd served as pastor of Eastside Baptist Church in Springhill, LA. In 1967, he began serving as an interstate missionary at Westwood Baptist Church in Fort Walton Beach, FL, where he served for five years. During this period, God

burdened his heart for missionary aviation. To prepare for that calling, Bro. Kidd attended Columbia Bible School and Missionary Technical School at LeTourneau College (now LeTourneau University) in Longview, TX, receiving technical training for aviation missions while pastoring Ware Acres Baptist Church. In 1973, the Kidds were appointed as missionaries to Bolivia.

After an arduous journey, they arrived in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in 1974, where Bro. Kidd

• See KIDD page 8 •

JTC Heads to Ripley, MS

RIPLEY, Miss. — Just The Crumbs (JTC) Disaster Relief Ministry is responding to the devastation left by the winter storm Fern, deploying to Ripley, Mississippi, to provide hot meals and essential supplies to residents who remain without electrical power.

With power outages affecting daily life across the area, many households are also left without running water and without a safe way to prepare food. Officials and local reports indicate restoration could take weeks in some places – potentially up to a month.

JTC has three pallets of bottled water in route to Ripley now and will soon arrive with its mobile kitchen to begin serving hot meals to families in need.

“We’re going because people are hurting and basic necessities are suddenly hard to come by,” the ministry shared. “A warm meal and clean water can make a real difference while the community works to recover.”

How to Donate

Those who would like to support the relief effort may donate by mail to either of these addresses:

~ Just The Crumbs • 10 Wagon Trail • Sumrall, MS 39482 ~

~ BMA Disaster Relief • P.O. Box 878 • Conway, AR 72033 ~

Donations can also be made via PayPal: justthecrumbs21@gmail.com

Pray

Please keep Just The Crumbs Disaster Relief and the people of Ripley in your prayers as relief operations begin.

Taking the Gospel to Every Nation: A Year of Impact and a Vision for 2026

Lifeward

As 2025 comes to a close, our hearts overflow with gratitude – for God’s faithfulness and for you, our Lifeward Partners. Your prayers, support, and generosity have carried the gospel into homes, villages, cities, and online communities across the world. From the islands of the Philippines to the villages of Africa, from the digital spaces of the Middle East to churches across Europe and the Americas, God’s Word has gone forth in power.

A Year of Global Gospel Impact

In the Asia-Pacific region,

Regional Director Brother Pete Etabag led with faithfulness through a season of personal loss. Despite challenges, the Lifeward Installers team installed three new low-powered FM stations and maintained several others – broadcasting the gospel 17 hours a day to communities without internet access. Brother Pete also trained more than 20 pastors in social media broadcasting and continues equipping leaders online so the message of Jesus can reach even the most remote villages.

In the Middle East, Brother

• See TAKING page 7 •

2025-2026 WMA National Project

The National WMA
has partnered with
**Just the Crumbs
Ministries**
to raise needed
financial support.



Our project goal is \$90,000

Current Donations \$30,842.59 (34% of Goal)

Learn more at www.nationalwma.org/project

*Of every gift given,
80% supports the work of Just the Crumbs Ministry,
while the remaining 20% helps extend ministry to
women and girls and supports other BMAA ministries.*



Send contributions
by February 28, 2026 to:

WMA of BMAA
PO Box 23
Salem, MO 65560

State Missions

Dear BMAMO Churches,

Hopefully you have read my previous two articles, but if not, hopefully you still have them to look back on to understand why we're addressing baptism today. We are looking at the process of discipleship. It starts with salvation, of course, so we discussed that in January's article and today we are discussing baptism.

Before I dive into essentially the four characteristics of a scriptural baptism, and the three things that baptism does for you as a believer, I want to cover the idea of discipleship from the standpoint of the fact that too many times it's only the pastor and deacons that can clearly explain the ordinances of the church, the purposes of doctrine, and practices of the church.

Well, I believe that's a lack of discipleship. Every church member should have a clear understanding of church doctrine and practices as well as the Lord's expectations. As a result, more and more people could be gatekeepers for the church. More and more people could have these discussions with their sphere of influence, freeing the pastor to spend more time in the Word and prayer. Wouldn't that be awesome?!

So, right to the chase. I have heard this all my life; I believe it and agree with it: there are four marks of a New Testament baptism.

1. *The proper candidate.* Scripture is clear that someone must know Christ as their Savior before they are a proper candidate for baptism. Why is that? Because baptism has nothing to do with salvation from the standpoint of procuring it, that is what is called baptismal regeneration, and we believe that to be heresy. So, the first mark of scriptural baptism is that the candidate already knows Jesus Christ as

their personal Savior.

2. *The proper mode.* That means how you do it. It must be done by immersion. The actual Greek word means 'fully immersed.' One of the main reasons for this is because of one of the things that baptism does for you: it identifies you as a child of God and it is a proper picture of salvation. Well, if you're not fully immersed, that is not a proper picture of what happened at your conversion because according to Ephesians 1:13, you were baptized with the Holy Spirit after you believed that word of truth. The word of truth is the gospel and after you believed the gospel, the Holy Spirit baptized you – fully immersed you – so the water baptism has to be full immersion.

3. *The proper authority.* The church has the authority to baptize. In Matthew 28:18 and following, He was talking to the church. Yes, he is talking to individuals, but he's talking to individuals that happened to be members of the first church that Jesus established in His earthly ministry. He tells them, *Baptize them in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*, so the proper authority has to be given to approve the baptism of the proper candidate.

4. *The proper administrator.* The proper administrator is whoever the Church says is going to administer baptisms. Traditionally, (yes, that can be a dangerous word) for Baptist churches, that is the pastor or any ordained brother that the church says can do the baptizing.

Finally, for this article we want to look at the things that baptism actually does for the believer.

1. Baptism identifies him or her with Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament the identifying

mark was circumcision; however, in the New Testament the identifying mark is baptism. Jesus is very clear: you are following my example and you're declaring to the world that you belong to me. At various times in history it was a death sentence to submit to baptism identifying with Christ, whom unbelievers thought to be a very controversial figure. To align yourself through baptism with the King of the Jews was to align yourself against any other earthly authority. However, you as a New Testament believer know that you are identifying with the fact that Jesus Christ is the sole Savior of your life. There is no other way to heaven but Christ, and you are identifying with that truth and with Jesus, the King.

2. Baptism is a proper picture of salvation. It is a symbol. We like to say "it is an outward show of an inward

reality." The congregation can see you standing there, dry – the old you. Then, you are buried with Christ and raised in newness of life and now you're wet all over. That is a proper picture of salvation, which is why pouring water will not work and sprinkling water will not work. You must be fully immersed.

3. Baptism places you into the church. In Acts it says as many as were baptized were added unto the church, so we believe that water baptism makes you a member of that New Testament church.

Every child of God should be able to explain what a scriptural baptism is and what a scriptural baptism does. I pray that this will bless you, and that we will add this to our process of discipleship as New Testament churches.

May the Lord richly bless you is my prayer,
Bro. Ben

Financial Report BMA Of Missouri Missions January 2026

Checking Account:

Balance Dec. 31 \$ 18,155.30

Income:

Missions \$ 4,197.75
Total Income \$ 4,197.75
Total Available \$ 22,353.05

Expenses:

Director, salary \$ 450.00
Secretary, salary 200.00
Juan Fernandez, support 2,333.33
Total Expenses \$ (2,983.33)
Balance Jan. 31 \$ 19,369.72

BMAMS Revolving Loan Investment:

Balance Dec. 31 \$ 124,239.38
Interest 1,409.18
Balance Jan. 31 \$ 125,648.56
Total in All Accounts Jan. 31 \$ 145,018.28

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Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy. (Psalm 103:2-4)

Praises and Gratitude

We are praising the Lord for you and your family that keep this ministry in your prayers. We have seen a significant increase of brothers and sisters reaching out in prayer and encouragement cards. We are so blessed to celebrate our twelfth wedding anniversary on this February 8th, 2026. God has been so good to us. Hannah and I can't count how many blessing the Lord has brought to us during these years of service to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords – to Him is the glory. We are planning to go on a date this coming

Monday and celebrate! Thank you for praying for many more years of service with health and joy for the kingdom.

Also, after a long time of praying, we are planning to have my parents, Juan and Martha Fernandez, move from Houston to Illinois. My dad suffers from dementia. He served the Lord for almost 50 years in full-time ministry in Mexico. Unfortunately, he suffered a stroke almost four years ago. A special thank you goes out to the many of you who have asked and expressed your concerns for his health

• See BELÉN page 3 •

A Needed Tool for Today

Don Burke, Editorial

“Did God *actually* does the underlying truth say...?” Even though the God housed within those first (recorded) occurrence words really match the of this question is presented point that was being wrung as a tool of doubt used in the out of them? Did God write serpent’s temptation of Eve each of these passages with in the Garden, I suggest that the intention of making the these words should also be a point that this preacher was tool for certainty kept close making? Or (as it more likely to the heart and hand of God’s sounded to me) was the faithful of today. conclusion first determined

The reason this question is apart from scripture and then on my mind is earlier today the preacher went looking I heard a preacher discussing for any verse that could be a conclusion he had drawn, and in an effort to convince leveraged into supporting his others of his conclusion he foregone conclusion? he threw a handful of scripture Consider for a moment passages into the discussion. Reverend Hypothetical As I pondered each of these occasionally agenda-driven attempts to undergird his preacher most of us have run idea, my mind played and into along life’s way. Say re-played the question, “Did that within his heart he is God *actually* say that?” Of convinced that burying is the course, the actual words used in scripture were not the only proper way to handle the remains of our dearly departed in question..., but rather loved ones, thus making

cremation an unacceptable (read: "sinful") option. But as well. Therefore, Rev. Howard offers the examples of the father of our faith, of Father God and of His Son as “biblical proof” that burial is the “righteous” way set before us, then noting that to veer from righteousness obviously takes one into sin. But I ask you, did God *actually* say that? While those accounts are in fact in the scriptures, can we as discerning readers legitimately say we clearly read Rev. Howard’s interpretation as a truth God intended those scriptures to convey? The discerning reader must recognize the difference between what is written as an example to

be followed, and what is written as nothing more than a simple recounting of events that happened. So, as we strive to pattern our lives by the Word, let’s remember that our job as people of faith is first to be discerning of the God-intended truths housed within the words of the Word, then to conform our thinking and actions to those truths. It is not to draw personal conclusions then look for passages that can be maneuvered to support those conclusions. “Did God *actually* say...” should be a basic tool of discernment as we strive to “know the God-intended truth, and allow that truth to set us free.”

represented: Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador, Colombia, Venezuela and even a student born in LA that grew up in Mexico and recently moved to St. Louis to start a new life. Most of these students have their children attending the nearby elementary school in Florissant which is in walking distance for them. Would you pray with us for these souls?

• From BELÉN page 2 •

and have been praying for his recovery. We are hoping to go to Houston by the end of February. Both parents are applying for their US citizenship. Hannah has been going through the application process, so please pray that it will soon be granted.

We would like to express our gratitude for God’s provision for this new month of ministry and outreach. We are asking His direction and guidance to continue reaching out to our families. We started services in Florissant in January. We are continuing our international potlucks on the second Sunday of the month. We had two families joining us during the second Sunday of January – praise the Lord for these families. We are praying that more families join us for fellowship on Sundays. We are posting flyers around businesses in the area, and this coming month we are planning to launch a Facebook advertising campaign. There are several families in the Florissant/Hazelwood area who will be blessed with our ministry. Currently some of these families are already on our prayer contact list as they participate in the ESL program offered in the church building at Lindsay Lane.

For this spring semester we are serving five ESL students on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 9:00-10:30 p.m. Would you mind including these names in your prayers: Laura, Lucero, Gaby, Rosa and Alma? In the evenings on Tuesday and Thursday we also have Kelvin, Ana, Felix, Haidee, Ivan and Milena. This is their second semester in this group. We have invited these students to join us during the second Sunday of the month to participate with food and their presentations in English as Second Language. We will have food and fun and will share our ministry vision. We are asking for you to intercede for salvation of each one of these students and their families here in the USA and in their countries of origin. We have several countries

As I shared in our last issue, we continue to have discipleship for a family in Chesterfield. We were blessed to have three individuals professing faith in Jesus for salvation. Then on the day after Christmas, we had a gathering of 20 adults and 8-12 children in this home. It’s a trailer home that doesn’t have a heater, only space heaters. We gathered there for almost four hours connecting with these families who were there to celebrate Christmas. Our Bro. Nahum lead some Christmas carols with the kids, then we moved into sharing his testimony on how this was the second Christmas that he was celebrating alcohol free. We are praying for continuing gathering with these families as the Lord leads.

We are looking for a place to get together for a couple hours on Sunday evenings in walking distance of this trailer park. We have talked to Bro. Brian Meade and Bro. Bryan Buckley to brainstorm ideas and open doors for a place to gather with these families. I have reached out to the YMCA which is within a reasonable distance.

In closing I ask you to join in prayer for this transition in our family as we are moving my parents to our home. Also, for health and joy to continue serving, loving and reaching out to our families in Florissant and Chesterfield. The harvest is plentiful, and we have high expectations about how God is going to show up and show off in these families to help establish a healthy biblical church among Hispanic families.

In His service,
Juan Fernandez

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▪ Updates from Our Churches ▪

Ozark Heights, Potosi

Greetings to all our homebound brothers, sisters and our sister churches. We pray all are doing well. Ozark Heights continues to work to bring God's Word to our community. The church has several who have been sick but are now able to join in our services.

Our pastor, Bro. Petete, has been bringing strong sermons during Sunday worship and Bible study on Sunday evenings and Wednesday evenings. Bro. Moorman continues to work with our youth groups – with our teens Sunday evening, junior worship Sunday morning, and our younger children on Wednesday evening.

Our teens enjoyed a wonderful meeting at Youth Alive and returned excited about the services, music and other events while at the annual youth meeting.

We had a beautiful Christmas cantata with Bro. Bill Gau and our choir and a Christmas program from our youth group on December 21.

Our WMA ladies enjoyed their annual Christmas dinner in early December at Black Bird Cafe. They did a sock drive for Potosi Manor nursing home and prepared Christmas fruit baskets for those homebound and our widows. They also made hand-out bags for the youth for after our Christmas program. They also voted in December to support Bro. Michael Strong in his mission

efforts in Minneapolis. We are blessed to have a group of dedicated ladies in our WMA work that meets every third Wednesday.

Our Brotherhood meets every third Wednesday for our men. Bro. Jim Shy has been providing a study about notable men of the Old Testament, and he is doing a wonderful job with his study presentations.

The cold is really showing up in January. We had to call off services on January 25th with about 10 inches of snow falling, causing everyone to be unable to get out of their driveways. But thankfully, we were able to get out and have services on Wednesday evening.

May God bless and keep you safe. Please know you are in our prayers.

*Dwight Petete, Pastor
Gary Gilliam, Reporter*

Lower Doe Run, Ellington

February already. I read a book this week, historical fiction, about the early Christians who were looking and longing for Jesus to come back and being daily persecuted for their faith. Here we are looking and longing 2000 years later. Has our faith increased as we watch and wait? Or has our faith faltered? Jesus asked His early disciples on the boat after the winds and waves had calmed through His command, "Where is your faith?" The disciples, in awestruck wonder, asked, "Who is this

man?" We at Lower Doe Run hope and pray our waiting and watching for His return is growing our faith in Him.

Our enemy has tried to discourage us as we experience sickness and trials. We have had to cancel two Sundays and two Wednesday Bible studies and two Children's Church evenings due to the weather and sickness. We do not have all the technology as larger congregations to access, but we thank God for the simple telephone.

Another church member has decided to sponsor a student in Haiti. That makes three of us.

Pray for one another and watch diligently for Christ's coming.

*Melvin Meade, Pastor
Carolyn Meade, Reporter*

Kewanee, New Madrid

A chilly hello from Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church. If you love cold weather, you should be enjoying the new year!! The groundhog saw his shadow, so six more weeks of winter (if you believe a groundhog can predict the weather)!!

Youth Alive 2025 was a great experience for our youth and our sponsor. This year Gloria Houston was blessed to take three girls to Alive. The students who attended were Addelyn Faulkner, Harper Stacey, and Charlie Grace Faulkner. On night one, the girls had a breakout session and learned the importance of being a virtuous

woman. They were all given a challenge to come back to our local church and find a mentor. The students learned so much from the guest speaker, Mike Strong, who is lead church planter and pastor at Freedom Missionary Baptist Church. Their studies included 1 John chapters 1 and 2, and John chapter 1. They enjoyed great praise and worship music from the Central Collective from Central Baptist Church in Conway, AR, as well as a little down time fellowshiping with other students, bowling, playing arcade games and a pizza party. After they came back, we have seen such growth in our youth that attended. Adelyn, who is a sophomore, was the first to volunteer to study scripture and give a summary to a ladies group. Harper came back and used her gift to sing a special during Sunday morning worship services. God is moving and Youth Alive gives students a glimpse into how people their age are serving. This encourages them to get in their church and get busy serving, no matter what age!

Sis. Pam Wisely has started another ladies' Bible study on Sunday nights. They will be studying the book of Ephesians. So thankful for Sis. Pam and her willingness to lead these studies. We have been having good attendance with great discussions!

Bro. Jason Taylor had an amazing experience on his mission trip to Nicaragua.

World Missions Day is February 22. The Gospel Changes Everything!

*Dan Wisely, Pastor
Debbie Nowell, Reporter*

Landmark, DeSoto

Hello to all our brothers and sisters in Christ. Well, here we are on February 2... finally got past January 91st. (You can't fool me! I KNOW there were at least 60 extra days in this past month!) Hope and pray all of you are surviving and thriving as we get past this Arctic weather.

We had to cancel both services on January 25th due to the snow and super cold temps. Can you believe it? No one in our congregation owns a snowmobile! Bro. Len was still able to send out a sermon via Facebook from his home office, which was a real blessing. God has continued to inspire him with hard-hitting messages, emphasizing that God's Word is true and living, and that we need to stay watchful for Christ's coming, 'cause it looks like His return is going to be REALLY soon. Hallelujah!

We're glad to have Sis. Rebecca back with us. She went a couple of weeks ago to Salem area (I think) to help take care of her mother (98 years old!) who had contracted Covid and fell due to weakness from it. Praise the Lord, no bones were broken. Sis. Rebecca stayed with her for five to six days, making sure she was successfully moved to a rehab center in order to gain enough strength to return to her assisted living home. Another praise: Sis. Rebecca did NOT contract Covid herself. At the same time, Bro. David Burch, our adult Sunday school teacher and song leader, was out due to a respiratory infection. We were sure glad Sis. Diana Price was able to fill in as pianist and Sis. Sharon Page took over the song leading during their absences. Thank you, Sis. Diana and Sis. Sharon!

We've been blessed with several new visitors as well as our regular visitors. We hope they will all soon join our church family.

Bro. Len has been having some gastric problems, which finally got diagnosed properly and is now on a treatment plan that should get everything cleared up. So praise the Lord and keep lifting him up in prayer. We ask for prayer for many other members and loved ones who are facing serious medical and other problems. We will continue to remember all of you in our prayers also.

~ 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

Men's Retreat – Apr 24-25; Camp Garwood

Master's Builders – Apr 26-May 9; Camp Garwood

Missions Symposium / Mid-Year Meeting – May 15-16; Bethel, Lonedell

MO GMA Retreat – June 5-6; Camp Garwood

SOAR '26 – July 1-3; Embassy Suites Hotel, Norman, Oklahoma

BMA of Missouri Camp – July 28-31; Camp Garwood

Send event info to mmbpaper@gmail.com.

On a fun note, we are having a "just because" Sunday dinner after the morning services this coming Sunday, February 8th – "just because" we want to chase away the winter blahs, and have a great time of food for the soul (fellowship) and food for the body (yummy eats).

That's all the news I can remember right now. May God continue to bless all of you in a mighty way!

Len Young, Pastor
Barb Williams, Reporter

Bethel, Sikeston

Hello from Bethel.

The snow is beautiful, but we are so ready for it to leave, ready for some spring weather. We had to cancel Sunday services only once since we got the snow, and we praise God that we didn't have to cancel more.

We appreciate Bro. Matt Bolen for cleaning off our parking lot so we would not have anyone slipping and falling. Despite the bitter cold temps, we have had good attendance for each service.

Bro. Jack Britt, one of our dear members, went home to be with Jesus and his wife. Oh, how he missed his wife as she has been gone a few years already. We will truly miss Bro. Jack. Another dear member, Bro. Ray King, is recovering from heart surgery. Please pray for him.

One of our visitors that had been visiting for a few weeks, Bro. Tony O'Connell, came forward Wednesday night and requested to join the church. Of course, he was accepted and given the hands and hugs of welcome. He was baptized the following Sunday morning and welcomed

again with handshakes and hugs. We are so thankful that the Lord led Bro. Tony to our Bethel family!

The ladies have started early on this year's Christmas shoeboxes and already have lots of items.

Please keep us in your prayers as we keep you in ours.

Billy Davis, Pastor
Joan Wood, Reporter

Abundant Life in Christ, Charleston

Going way back to September we have had attendance struggles as wave after wave of sickness has swept through our congregation.

In October we enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship and a joint evening service with Bethesda in Park Hills. In January the two congregations had a joint Zoom

Sunday School on a Sunday when both churches had to cancel their normal services. Our Sunday night Zoom Bible study covering the histories and doctrinal distinctives of the various church groups has been well-received with us having at least three congregations besides ourselves represented most nights.

Rodney Dunlap, Pastor

Oak Hill, Alton

Hello to all from Oak Hill!

On January 11th Bro. Ed baptized three members. There were two women, Gertrude Jett and Abby Casey, and a young man, Jordan Smith. The Lord saved a soul, Amanda Sisco, on the same day. Many Springs Baptist Church used our baptistry on the same day. Bro. Bob Wiggs baptized his youngest granddaughter, Jessie Stubbs.

January 25th, we did not have services because of the snow and ice. That day Bro. Edward's granddaughter, Emalyn Casey, turned seven years old.

Carstyn had to go to St. Jude's in Memphis, Tennessee, for surgery to remove the lymph nodes in his neck and start taking chemo for the tumor behind his ear. Bro. Chad had said that he was looking at four times taking his chemo treatments. We would like to ask that you join us in praying for Carstyn and his treatments to be successful in treating his tumor.

Until next month I hope I will have more good news to tell you. Until then we will be praising and honoring our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! God Bless!!

Edward Casey, Pastor
Jennifer Williams, Reporter

A Story of Faith: Timothy's Journey

Mickeal and Sharon Quillman

We want to take a moment to share the story of Timothy, simply known to many of us as "Grandfather," whose life and faith has deeply impacted our community.

Timothy was one of the very first people we had the joy of baptizing, and his story is one marked by sincerity, courage, and a lifelong pursuit of God. He grew up in the Catholic tradition, where he developed a deep respect for scripture, theology, and the discipline of faith. His commitment was so strong that he even entered seminary, discerning a calling to the priesthood and dedicating himself to learning and studying God's Word. Along the way, Timothy encountered a turning point in his life when he met the woman he would one day marry, and he realized that the priesthood was not the path God had for him.

When we met Grandfather, he had been a widower for many years. Every Sunday, he faithfully walked two hours to attend the Catholic church, and during the week, he joined our Bible studies on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the village. We grew to love Grandfather, and he grew to love us. During this

time, his faith journey continued to unfold in new and personal ways. What he already knew so well in his mind began to take deeper root in his heart. The scriptures he had studied for years became more than something he understood; they became something he experienced.

One of our favorite memories of Timothy was when Sharon's parents came to visit us. Though he was in his seventies, Grandfather sang a song entirely from memory in Latin, a song he had learned during his seminary days. Sharon's mom could tell you exactly which song it was. This moment was a beautiful reminder that Timothy's baptism

was not a rejection of his past but a continuation of it. It represented a fresh expression of a faith that had been forming throughout his entire life, now lived

out with renewed intimacy, joy, devotion, and understanding.

Timothy joined our church family and was a faithful member for the past three years, up until he became ill. We are deeply grateful for Timothy, for his example, and for the way his story reminds us that faith is a journey, one that God faithfully walks with us throughout our lives.

He will be greatly missed, but we rejoice in his reunion with Christ. We take comfort in knowing that he is now enjoying a new heavenly body and is free from pain and suffering.

We want to sincerely thank you for the many prayers lifted up while Sharon has been back in the U.S. helping our family through a difficult season. Your prayers have truly been felt. They have brought peace, strength, and comfort in moments when they were deeply needed. We are grateful for a church family that not only says they will pray, but

faithfully does so with love and consistency.

Thank you for standing with us from near and far. Your prayers are a gift, and we are reminded once again how God uses His people to carry one another through every season.

Prayer Requests:

- Our family in the U.S.
- Mickeal and Sharon as they are separated in body but not in spirit.
- Our villages as they mourn this loss.

Prayer Praises:

- The rains have been good. The small lake in Makunka is overflowing, as are the rivers.
- Our truck is almost here.



Why Participate in the Association?

Dr. Philip Attebery, BMA Seminary President

Why should I participate in the work of an association? Although there are pragmatic reasons, the most essential reasons are biblical. First, the Lord has a desire to receive “glory in the church by Christ Jesus” throughout all generations (Ephesians 3:21). So, until Christ returns, believers should be faithfully involved in a biblical church. Second, the Bible records how early churches worked together in matters of missions, theology, benevolence, and shared literature.

Acts 13:1-3 records how “the church that was at Antioch” heeded the Holy Spirit’s calling to send away Barnabas and Saul “for the work unto which I have called them.” Later, Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch, their sending church, and reported all that God had done (Acts 14:27). Other churches later gathered to hear the missionaries’ report (Acts 14:27; 15:3-4). Titus and others had been “chosen of the churches” to travel and minister with Paul’s missionary team and serve as “messengers of the churches” (2 Corinthians 9:19; 23). Here, we see churches associating to further the initial mission work of the Antioch church.

Third, John 3-8 records that unnamed ministers of the gospel testified to the apostle John about how Gaius and his church had faithfully welcomed and treated them during a visit. John declared that believers in a church are obligated to provide charitable support to those who minister truthfully for the sake of Christ’s name. By doing so, they become fellow participants in those persons’ ministries! Here, again, we see churches associated with one church supporting another church’s missionaries.

Acts 14-15 records that the church at Antioch sent Paul and Barnabas to meet

with the church in Jerusalem to discuss a theological matter regarding salvation. After hearing various points of view, it pleased “the apostles and elders, with the whole church to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas” to deliver a written message clarifying that they had never required circumcision for salvation (Acts 15:22-24). Here, we see two churches associating together to address theological error and inaccurate communication between them. Remember that the New Testament is composed of letters (i.e., literature) that were often shared among churches.

Paul wrote to “the church of God which is at Corinth” about how the churches of Macedonia had responded with sacrificial giving to help the Jerusalem church (2 Corinthians 1:1; 8:1-4). Paul encouraged the Corinthians to finish their commitment to the benevolence project by joining with the Macedonian churches. By doing so, according to 2 Corinthians 9:5, 11-15, the Corinthians would fulfill their initial pledge to help, both givers and receivers would be blessed, believers in Jerusalem would pray for those in Corinth, and God would be glorified through much giving of thanks! Here, we see multiple churches associating together to address the benevolent needs of another church.

Would you encourage your church to follow the example of New Testament churches by associating with others? Would you participate in the association by sending messengers to represent your church at local, state, and national meetings? Would you encourage your church to follow through with fulfilling its commitment and obligation to provide support to the ministries of the Baptist Missionary Association?

Jacksonville College Music Department

Greetings! My name is Holly Blaylock, Music Director at Jacksonville College in Jacksonville, Texas. I would love to come and visit with seniors, choir, band, theater or other interested groups. Jacksonville College has a unique opportunity for students who are interested in completing a Junior College Diploma, an Associate Degree or the newly-developed Bachelor's Degree. The Associate Degree program offers studies in science or in liberal arts. JC launched the Bachelor of Science Degree in Christian Ministry this past fall and will be offering a Bachelor of Business Degree beginning in August of this year.

Jacksonville College offers small classes, approachable instructors and great student development opportunities. One of those opportunities is to join the JC Singers and Chapel Worship groups. These groups offer both auditioned, scholarship positions or non-auditioned Chapel Worship positions. Both the JC Singers and Chapel Worship groups have opportunities to travel with the president, Dr. David Erickson, throughout the state of Texas and beyond. We sing and lead worship for our weekly chapel services. We are also seeking instrumentalists for these groups. Scholarships are also available for electric guitar, bass guitar, acoustic guitar, accompanist, percussion player, and brass and woodwind positions.

Jacksonville College has so much to offer, and I would love to have your students join us for the Fall semester of 2026. Please contact me at:

Holly Blaylock • hblaylock@jacksonville-college.edu
105 B.J. Albritton Dr. • Jacksonville, TX 75766
(903) 315-6757



Recalibrate

Judy Wallace

Recalibrate: To adjust or correct in accordance with an exact or precise instrument.

The lovely voice on my vehicle’s GPS does her best to keep me on the straight and narrow road that is set to my desired destination. She takes me around traffic problems which is nice, but she gets rather huffy if I try to take off and get gas or pull into a Cracker Barrel! Although she has never used the term ‘recalibrate,’ she is very insistent that I make a U-turn or turn right or left at the next street to point me back in the right direction.

Thankfully, God has given His own GPS – Guiding Presence of the Spirit – to do the same for us spiritually. After setting our destination to be conformed to the image of His Son, He uses the Bible to ‘recalibrate’ our journey through doctrine, reproof, correction, [and] instruction in righteousness.

In the Old Testament, we see examples of God reminding His people to ...set your heart and your soul to seek the Lord your God... (1 Chr. 22:19) This has always been the key to our life’s destination. Unlike the car helper, the Spirit doesn’t always take us around heavy “traffic” or snarled standstills, but instead straight through them in order to strengthen our resolve and dependence on Him as our guide.

Isaiah 30 tells of the Lord’s rebuke for choosing to look to Egypt and pay them gifts so they would care for and defend them. Needless to say, that didn’t quite work out. Yet God in His mercy promised to be their defender and guide when He tells them in verses 20-21, *Though the Lord gave you adversity for food and suffering for drink, He will*

still be with you to teach you... Your own ears will hear Him. Right behind you a voice will say, “This is the way you should go” whether to the right or the left.

The book of Joshua begins with God’s promise: *Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper withersoever thou goest.* Joshua repeated this principle to the people, showing that his obedience to God’s direction toward his own destination had brought blessings they could enjoy as well: *Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, that ye turn not aside to the right hand or to the left.*

It seems that Isaiah and Joshua are saying two different things. Not so! The key is that we commune so intimately with our Lord, whether He says turn to the left or right or don’t turn either way, we are responding to the GPS’ voice and recalibrating accordingly. Doing so gives us joy, courage, confidence, and consistency as we GO AND TELL.

Response: Father, help me key-in to the direction you have for my life each day. Help me stay aware of opportunities and the lives that intersect mine so I might share your light and life to those in darkness. Help me be willing to recalibrate when you give instructions to do so, and not stubbornly go my own way. Your Word IS the precise tool for a blessed life. Thank you for protecting it through the ages.

Scriptures: Luke 9:62; Phil. 3:13, 14; Heb. 12:1, 2.

Taking the Gospel to Every Nation

(continued from page 1)

Joe Costa reports significant growth in digital ministry. Lifeword now manages six specialized social media pages designed for Muslims, seekers, atheists, and young adults exploring Christian apologetics. Weekly Bible studies, a growing book club, and The Feast Project—an outreach to LGBTQ youth—are drawing people into scripture and meaningful conversations. A new website is also underway, offering free access to years of gospel teaching across the Arab world.

Across Africa, Brother Hayford Jackson and regional teams in Ghana, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Liberia, and Mali rejoice over new believers and strengthened churches. Lifeword Cloud and community information centers continue to share the gospel where internet access remains limited. Through evangelism, discipleship, and leadership development, the gospel continues to take root and flourish.

In Europe, Brother Bogdan Bilav celebrates five new believers baptized in local Gypsy churches and the growing reach of Lifeword Romania. Their Facebook page surpassed 10,000 followers, and a new weekly TikTok program – Encouragements, produced by team member Tamas Dana – is offering biblical inspiration to younger audiences.

In the Americas, Brother Rigoberto Jiménez reports that new Spanish-language programs – Whispers of the Bible, Breaking Point, and Pearls of Great Price – are blessing listeners with hope and truth. Looking toward 2026, the team plans to launch worship-focused and student-led content to help young believers grow in their faith.

When Light Knocked on My Door

A story from Joshua and Meagan Phiri's ministry in Zambia

They used to come to me with fear in their eyes.

They called me N'kayi – the one who speaks with spirits. I held the charms, the chants, the power. Or so it seemed. Mothers brought sick children to my doorstep. Men asked me to curse their enemies. I wore fear like a crown. But no one ever asked how I slept at night.

They didn't see the shadows that crept in when the fire died out. They didn't hear the whispers that tormented me when I was alone. They didn't feel the weight – the constant burden of pleasing spirits who were never truly satisfied.

Then one day they came. Not with offerings. Not with fear. But with something I had forgotten: kindness.

They asked to hold a meeting in my home. They called it "Bible study." I should have said no. But something in their eyes ... something different. So, I let them in.

The words they read sounded strange. Like wind rustling leaves I'd never noticed before. They spoke of a God who knew my name. A Son who carried my shame. A Spirit who brought peace, not terror.

At first, I watched in silence. I clutched my charms under my robe.

But week after week, their words cut deep.

I cried one night after they left. Not because I was afraid – but because, for the first time in my life, I had hope.

One morning, the words slipped from my lips before I could stop them: "I want to follow Jesus."

I felt something shift inside. Something uncoiled. But not everything broke.

Because the charms are still hidden. The bones. The oils. The carved stones.

They're not gone. Just out of sight. I can't seem to destroy them. I'm terrified of what will happen if I do.

I told them, "The spirits will kill me." And I believe it. That fear is real. It is the prison I've lived in for years. Not stone or iron – but terror disguised as tradition.

And yet ... there's a new voice now. Quieter, gentler, but strong.

It says, "You are mine. Do not be afraid."

I want to believe it.

I want to be free.

If you read this, will you pray for me? Not just for courage, but for deliverance? That the lie of fear would crumble, and the village that once feared my name would one day hear His through me?

Jesus has entered my house.

Now the battle begins.

Across every region, the story is the same: God is moving, lives are being changed, and the gospel is being proclaimed. Every baptism, broadcast, and digital interaction stands as a testament to His power and the faithfulness of partners like you.

Looking Ahead: Lifeword's Vision for 2026

As Lifeword steps into a new year, Executive Director Donny Parrish has outlined bold goals that will expand the ministry's reach and deepen its global impact.

1. Growing to 185 Broadcast Languages

Lifeword plans to increase its broadcast languages from 175 to 185, bringing the gospel to even more people in their heart language.

2. Advancing FOLLOW Translations Worldwide

FOLLOW, Lifeword's online discipleship platform, will expand as Arabic and Romanian translations are completed and implementation begins throughout the Philippines.

3. Building a New Missionary Training Facility in the Philippines

A new training center and studio will equip pastors, missionaries, and leaders with tools for media ministry and traditional missions across Southeast Asia.

4. Releasing an English-Language Children's Program

Lifeword will launch its first English children's program – designed to help young kids understand and love God's Word.

5. Expanding Giving Pathways for Churches and Global Listeners

New funding opportunities will

provide streamlined tools for BMA churches, simplified giving options for international listeners, and ways to support specific global projects.

Moving Forward – Together

As we enter 2026, we do so with joy and confidence in God's continued work. Thank you for standing with Lifeword as we take the gospel to the nations – one broadcast, one message, and one heart at a time.

The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. (Psalm 126:3)

Meeting God on the Front Lines of War

A Ukrainian Soldier's Story of Transformation

I had been at my position for ninety-two days. Ninety-two days of holding the line, waiting, and wondering if any of us would make it out alive. I'm an infantryman from the Donetsk direction. Our unit was defending a school building shaped like the Ukrainian letter "II." It was supposed to be a strong position – but soon we were completely surrounded.

Food came once a day by drone. That was all. There was a well in the schoolyard, so we could still get water, and before the city's logistics broke down, we had managed to store a good supply of weapons and ammunition. For a while, it felt like that would be enough. But as the days dragged on, one by one, my brothers fell. When it was finally over, only three of us made it out alive.

Before the war, I didn't believe in God. I used to think faith was for the weak, for people who needed something to hold onto. But there, surrounded and starving, I started to pray – first out of desperation, then out of something deeper. I didn't even

know if anyone was listening, but I couldn't stop crying out to heaven.

One time, for three days straight, the drones couldn't reach us because of the visibility. No food, no medicine. Many of the men were sick. On the third day, I couldn't take it anymore. I looked up at the gray sky and said, "God, if You really exist, please, close the sky so our drone can come safely."

That day, a thick fog rolled in ... so dense you could barely see ten meters ahead. And through that fog, the drone came. It brought everything we needed. I can't explain it. All I know is that it was impossible, and yet it happened. God literally closed the enemy's eyes.

When I finally made it back and met the chaplains, I told them this story. I told them how I came to the front as an atheist, but somewhere in those ninety-two days, I met God. Not in a church, not through a sermon, but in the middle of fear, hunger, and fog.

Now I know He was with me all along.



BMA Pastors Conference

Healthy Church Solutions is honored to sponsor the BMA Pastors Conference at the National Meeting on April 22, from 9:00–11:30 a.m. at Antioch Baptist Church, Conway, AR. We invite you to make plans to attend this gathering designed to intentionally invest in pastors and church ministry leaders.

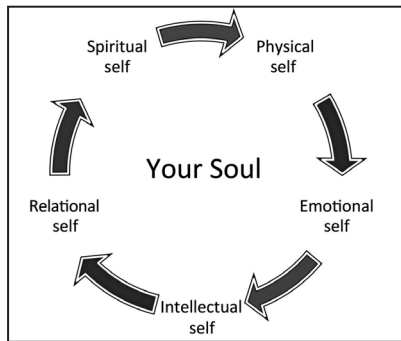
The conference will focus on three critical areas: leadership

health, equipping you to lead your teams and congregations toward deeper spiritual growth, and long-term vitality.

The first session, *Healthy Souls*, will feature a panel discussion centered on soul care, addressing spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual, and relational health. Larry Barker, Vice President of Church Strategy and Training at BMA Global, will moderate a conversation with experts in each area, offering practical insight on how to assess your current health and identify simple, obedient next steps the Lord

may be calling you to take.

The second session, *Healthy Men*, will explore the biblical calling for men to serve as spiritual leaders



and how the local church can more effectively equip and support men in fulfilling this God-given responsibility.

Finally, *Healthy Rhythms* will highlight the importance of rest, Sabbath, and intentional planning for sustained ministry. This session will include a personal testimony underscoring the value of sabbaticals and healthy pacing for long-term faithfulness and effectiveness.

We look forward to this meaningful time of encouragement, reflection, and challenge, and hope you'll join us!

Why a Campus Visit Matters at Central Baptist College

Dr. Jeremy Langley, President

One of the greatest joys of my role as president of Central Baptist College is welcoming prospective students and families to our campus. There is something special about Central Baptist College that simply cannot be fully captured on a website, in a brochure, or even through social media. You have to experience it in person.

A campus visit allows students to see more than buildings and classrooms. It gives them the opportunity to meet faculty and staff who genuinely care about their success, walk the campus where they may soon live and learn, and begin to envision themselves as part of the CBC family. For many, stepping onto campus is the moment when college becomes real.

I want to remind you that our final Stampede Preview Day of the semester will take place on Wednesday, March 4. Preview Day is a wonderful opportunity for students to experience CBC in a meaningful way. From meeting faculty and current students to learning more about academic programs,

financial aid, and campus life, Preview Day offers a comprehensive look at what it means to be a Mustang.

For those who cannot attend Preview Day, individual campus tours are available throughout the year and can be scheduled at a time that works best for each student and family. Our admissions team would be delighted to help coordinate a visit and answer any questions along the way.

If you know a student who would benefit from visiting campus, registering is simple. To register for an upcoming Preview Day or to schedule a personal campus tour, please visit cbc.edu/visit. Our Admissions Office is always happy to help and can answer any questions along the way. You may contact them by email at admissions@cbc.edu or by phone at (501) 329-6873.

Thank you for your continued support of Central Baptist College and for helping us encourage the next generation of students to take that important first step.

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.

Gary Gilliam is available for preaching. (314) 550-7260. (0226)

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.

• From KIDD page 1 •

served for eight years as a missionary pilot. Flying his Cessna 206, Wings of the Wind, he supported missionaries working among indigenous tribes, delivered supplies, assisted medical evacuations, and carried the gospel – including the “Jesus” film and electric generators – to remote villages throughout the country, while also preaching and supporting local churches.

While on furlough in 1982, Bro. Kidd was asked to serve in the Department of Missions of the Baptist Missionary Association of America (now BMA Global). He served for many years in missions leadership, including as director of Foreign Missions (later known as director of International Missions), and in regional leadership overseeing missions work in Asia, Africa, and Europe.

While continuing his service with BMA Global, Bro. Kidd accepted the pastorate of Temple Baptist Church in Little Rock in November 2012. He later played a key role in leading the replant of Temple Baptist Church as South City Church, guiding the congregation through a season of transition. Bro. Kidd served for many years as a co-

pastor and, later, as a legacy elder, remaining actively involved in discipleship, missions engagement, and small-group leadership.

In 2013, Bro. Kidd transitioned into a new role as part-time director of Missionary Care, becoming the first within the BMA to give full, dedicated attention to the spiritual and practical care of missionaries. In this role, he continued ministering to missionaries on the field, and many came to know him as a steady shepherd and trusted counselor – a true pastor to missionaries.

In May 2019, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary in recognition of his decades of faithful missionary service.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Sue Kidd; daughter Juli Ellis; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and a wide circle of pastors, missionaries, and friends whose lives were shaped by his faithful ministry.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to South City Church, 317 Shackelford Rd., Little Rock, AR 72211, or to the Baptist Missionary Association, P.O. Box 878, Conway, AR. 72033.

Save the date – October 3, 2026

75th Homecoming!

Ohlman Missionary Baptist Church

Join us in celebrating 75 years
”One Foundation, Many Generations”

Watch for more information soon!

Bethel
Know Your Name, Live Your Name

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