

# The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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

Volume LXXXVIII

St. Louis, MO • March 10, 2026

Issue No. 3

## Welcome to the 2026 National Meeting

We are delighted to invite the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of America to the 2026 National Meeting. The annual National Meeting is a great time of homecoming and fellowship for the BMA family.

My name is Donny Parrish, and I am honored to serve as your BMA Conference Director. It is my joy to support you throughout this meeting. If you need assistance or have questions, please reach out to me at (501) 329-6891 or donny@lifeword.org. I look forward to connecting and serving alongside you.

### Event Details

*Dates:* April 21–23, 2026

*Location:* Antioch Baptist Church, Conway, Arkansas

We are deeply grateful for the Antioch Baptist Church family and their faithful service to the messengers of the BMA. Their hospitality and support are a true blessing to us all.

### Meeting Highlights

*Inspirational Messages:* Hear from Bros. Charles Johnson and Ashraf Sara.

*Uplifting Worship:* Enjoy music led by the Antioch Worship Choir and the Worship Team from First Baptist, Magnolia, Arkansas.

*Pastors Conference:* Healthy Church Solutions offers encouragement tailored to the needs of BMA pastors.

*Women's Conference:* Sponsored by the National WMA and hosted by Central Baptist College, this event promises inspiration and fellowship.

*Global Impact:* Celebrate what God is doing worldwide through BMA Global church-planters.

*Honoring Legacy Missionaries:* Join us in recognizing those who have served faithfully through the years.

### Registration & Resources

*Meeting Schedule, Registration, and Contributions:* Visit <https://bmaamerica.org/nationalmeeting/>

to preregister, contribute to the National Meeting Minute Fund, reserve a display table, and view suggested hotel accommodations.

*Women's Conference Information:* For details about the National WMA Women's Conference, visit <https://www.nationalwma.org>.

We anticipate a sweet time of fellowship and Christ-centered worship as we take care of the Lord's business together.

## To the Churches of the BMA of America

Charles Johnson, BMAA President

Greetings, fellow BMA churches! Plans are underway for the 77th annual Association meeting of the BMA of America. The dates are set for April 21-23, and we will be meeting in Conway, Arkansas, in the facilities of our gracious hosts Antioch Baptist Church and Central Baptist College.



The meeting will be built around the theme “UNTIL THEN” and centered on the commissioning verse of Acts 1:8: *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

We know by His Word of the imminent return of our Lord. “Until then,” however, we have a calling and

mission to fulfill. The first century Christians believed Jesus was coming in their lifetimes. They did not stand idle waiting for the Lord's return but were faithfully about the Master's business.

The annual national BMAA meeting will be a time of worship and fellowship as well as caring for the most important business on earth – the Lord's business. Although we may have to stay later on the first two nights, we are attempting to finish the Association's business on Wednesday night, so messengers will be free to return home early Thursday.

We are looking prayerfully forward to Bro. Ashraf Sara's annual message, an always productive WMA ladies' and men's Brotherhood meetings, and an inspiring pastors' conference scheduled by Healthy Church Solutions.

Conway is a bustling city north of Little Rock. Three colleges, including CBC, are located there. Conway is also the headquarters of BMA Global. Perhaps this will be a good time for messengers to tour and visit the offices of missions, LifeWord, and other BMA agencies located at 611 Locust Street in Conway.

Several nice hotels and eating establishments will be available for your needs. A list of available lodging may be found on the website [bmaamerica.org](http://bmaamerica.org) under the “Events” link. There is also a tentative schedule of events at the website.

I urge each local BMA church to send your three messengers and other guests to this most important meeting. Please consider giving a generous offering to help with the expenses of this gathering and other related costs during the year. I hope to see you in Conway on April 21.

Make  Disciples  
*2 Timothy 2:2*

### National WMA Ladies Conference

April 22, 2026  
Cooper Complex • Central Baptist College  
Conway, Arkansas  
Registration 8:30 • Conference 9:00

#### Keynote Speaker

Yalanda Merrell of Lifeword

#### Breakout Sessions

Making Disciples Using Lifeword's FOLLOW  
Making Disciples Using DiscipleWay  
Making Disciples Using Hospitality  
Making Disciples with Children  
Discipulo Soy

Conference attendees are also invited to a noon luncheon. Cost is \$15. However, to honor the wives and widows of ministers and missionaries the WMA will provide their meals free of charge. Those wishing to attend the luncheon should register by April 10.

Registration and money can be sent to  
National WMA • PO Box 23 • Salem, MO 65560  
or can be done online.

For more information visit [nationalwma.org](http://nationalwma.org).

## State Missions

Dear BMAMO Churches,

I hope you are doing well. We have been going through a series of articles on essentially what a Great Commission church looks like. We started with salvation, then baptism, and now the Church Covenant.

In my humble opinion, this is pretty straightforward. There may be some nuances with each church – that’s for each church to determine. One of our main doctrinal beliefs is that we are autonomous. In other words, Bethel Missionary Baptist Church can’t tell another church what to do, and vice versa. However, we associate together on certain biblical grounds, and a Church Covenant is one of them.

We’re not necessarily going to get into the potential ‘hot topics,’ as much as cover generally what I believe each church should make sure that each new disciple knows and agrees with and invests in the disciples that they make.

The Church Covenant is the document that new believers and previous church members agree upon to carry out in a covenant form, not a contract form. In other words, this covenant is based on trust, not on distrust. I believe that it is important to delineate to each new member. You perhaps have heard it said from someone that is arguing against a Church Covenant or trying to weaken a church’s resolve on a particular subject within that Church Covenant that “I do not follow men’s standards or traditions,” accusing the Church Covenant of simply being man’s opinions! I lovingly challenge you to find anything within our Church Covenant that is not 100% based upon scripture. And honestly, we probably would be well served to have those scriptures delineated within our Church Covenant to take away that argument.

You most likely have a Church Covenant available to you at your church, so we will not list it here verbatim; but the first thing that the Church Covenant addresses is salvation. Of course, that is the most important part of becoming a disciple – a true relationship with Jesus Christ. Secondly, the Church Covenant talks about baptism, and as a result of baptism, you are a part now of that particular church, and you are entering into covenant with one another as one body in Christ. It’s so important that the new believer and the person that is being invested in to make disciples understand that they are responsible not only to God but also to the church that they are now a part of because of their baptism.

The second paragraph in our Church Covenant talks about walking in Christian love. Wow, have you studied the one-another commands recently? The next advice in this paragraph is to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and comfort – submitting to discipleship and advancing the church through making disciples. You are encouraged through this Covenant to promote the church’s prosperity and spirituality, to sustain its worship, so you’re going to be faithful. To its ordinances, so you’re going to attend and celebrate the ordinances. Next is discipline, each church should have mapped out a way that they discipline their church members. Doctrine – you need to understand what your church believes and faithfully follow it and teach it. We are to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry. Yes, tithing is a biblical practice. And the reason for these tithes is to cover the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations. Church members need to know where their finances go to and the biblical

basis for that expense. That is a very important part of discipleship.

The next paragraph covers probably one of the most neglected areas of our churches in today’s time, and that is to engage in family and secret devotions, to religiously educate our children, to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances, and to walk circumspectly in the world. You’re going to make disciples starting first with your own family that live within your house, and then within family outside of your house, and then with acquaintances. You’re gonna walk in such a way that points people to Christ. Then this paragraph gets specific to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger. What a wonderful place our churches would be if we would surrender to those efforts. Next, our Covenant says to abstain from the sale of and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and to be zealous in all of our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior. Yes, we are tee-totalers: we encourage all of our church members to abstain from alcoholic beverages.

The final sections encourage people to watch over one another in brotherly love, to remember one another in prayer, to aid one another in sickness and distress, to cultivate Christian sympathy and feeling, and Christian courtesy in speech, to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay. For me, our Church

Covenant pretty well lays out what every Christian should be doing on a daily basis. This is a disciple that is discipling other people to disciple other people and they’re living it in their life daily.

One last thought . . . I have begged the people that attend Bethel to refuse to be a part of a conversation when someone’s name comes up in that conversation that is not present and the conversation goes negative. If you’re faithful to your Church Covenant, you will either refuse to take part in that conversation, or you will walk away. That will stop gossip, backbiting, and dissension in our churches.

Lastly, we are encouraged when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this Covenant and the principles therein. Wherever you are planted, you need to find a local church and serve God faithfully there.

I hope and pray that this has been a good refresher of what we are asked to do in scripture to glorify our precious Lord. Just look at what He has done for us! The efforts and behaviors listed in our Church Covenant are the least we can do. May He receive all the glory as we make disciples that make disciples.

P.S. I lovingly double dog dare you to read the Church Covenant with a note pad and evaluate just how well you are doing. The Church Covenant is simply your and my Christian life on paper.

Bro. Ben



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

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6)*

### *Praises and Gratitude*

We are thankful for your continuous prayer support for our ministry. It has been a tough month for us in our family. Kids are being constantly sick with cough and sometimes fever. This past visit to the doctor they were diagnosed with Flu “B.” Would you please pray for a speedy recovery? Would you continue to pray for Hannah and me?

We would like to inform you about our new place where we moved this past month. Here is our new address: 221 East Roosevelt Dr., Moro, IL 62067. With this move we can provide a better care for my parents, Juan and

Martha. We moved them from Houston to this new home in Illinois. We are forever thankful for the Anthony family, Stan and Jeanette, for helping us big time during this short-notice long-distance trip. Continue praying for this big adjustment in our housing and family, and our traveling logistics.

In this past month we were blessed with three professions of faith – Jose, Angie, and Mauricio. We have met two times for Bible study, on Wednesday and Sunday. Currently, we have Bible studies in Florissant, Jennings, Chesterfield, Wildwood, and Kirkwood. We

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## The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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# Union Church Plant Newsletter

Dear BMA Supporting Churches,

God is doing an awesome work in Union, Missouri!

It has been an awesome start to the year so far. We have completed two community outreaches. The first outreach effort was at a gun show, and the second outreach effort was an informational event on how to vote on Amendment 3.

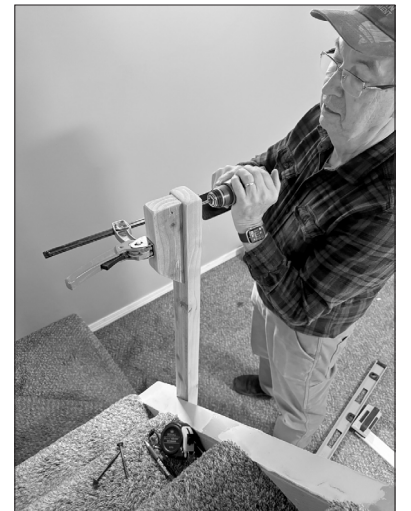
Our next scheduled effort will be to paint the trim for the 25 tiny homes which is a project here in Union for homeless veterans. I believe this will be a great community outreach.

The people currently attending Hillside Baptist Church, along with members from New Testament Baptist Church, held two workdays. We painted class rooms and trim, installed can lights and emergency lights, hung doors, and removed the kitchen cabinets.

The next phase in the renovation of the building is to finish one side of the lower level so that it is completely functional for the children's ministry by the first of April. Included in this phase is to install landscaping blocks, run electric to our sign, and add additional light poles in the parking lot. Plans also include adding flag poles, plants, and trees to improve the appearance of the grounds and make it more welcoming.

We are praying God will send us a children's ministry leader. I have submitted openings for ministry opportunities both for a summer intern and a church planter/pastor to local Baptist colleges. If you know of someone who would be interested in either of those positions, please have them contact me at [chuck.tedrow79@gmail.com](mailto:chuck.tedrow79@gmail.com) or (636) 358-3732.

Striving together, Bro. Chuck Tedrow



### • From BELÉN page 2 •

are training the men to be able to read scriptures and lead a devotional for their family. Our main goal for the next months is to gather for worship and celebration and fantastic food on the second Sunday of the month in our home/sending church at 920 Lindsay Lane, Florissant, Missouri.

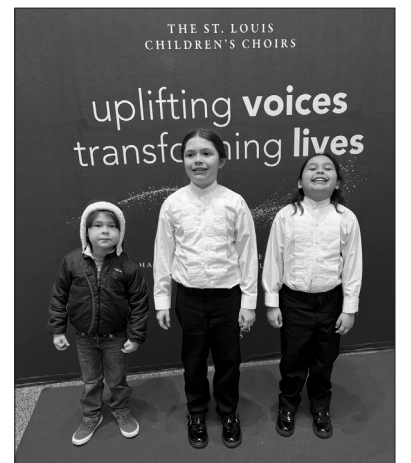
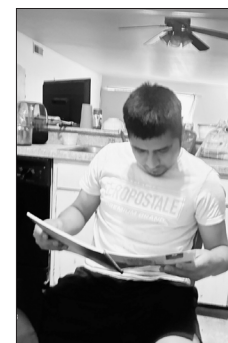
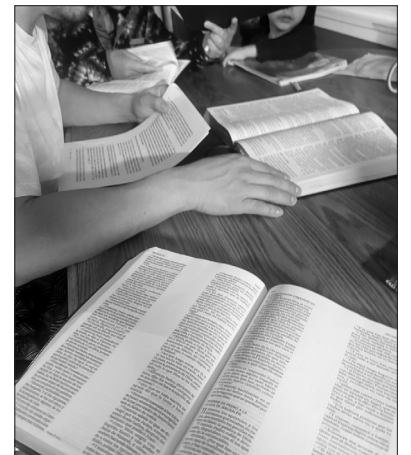
We have purchased Bibles this past month to bless these new believers! We enjoyed hearing that it was a new experience to open the book of God. We have also prepared a discipleship pathway for our new home Bible studies. We are participating with Bro. Elvis Garcia in a

special training. We have joined a new cohort with the BMA where we are gathering once a week to pray, to learn and share ministry challenges among our Hispanic families.

We are still waiting on where the Lord will gather more families to worship. Currently our ESL classes are still going, and this is the best way to connect with more families around Florissant and Chesterfield.

Please continue praying for Edwin, Jose, Nahun, Val, Roberto, Mauricio as they have joined our biblical discipleship process.

In His service, Juan Fernandez



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## Financial Report BMA of Missouri Missions February 2026

### Checking Account:

Balance Jan. 31 \$ 19,369.72

### Income:

Missions	\$ 1,660.90	
Garwood Insurance	<u>3,000.00</u>	
Total Income		\$ 4,660.90
Total Available		\$ 24,030.62

### Expenses:

Director, salary	\$ 450.00	
Secretary, salary	200.00	
Juan Fernandez, support	<u>2,333.33</u>	
Total Expenses		\$ (2,983.33)
Balance Feb. 28		\$ 21,047.29

### BMAMS Revolving Loan Investment:

Balance Jan. 31	\$ 125,648.56	
Interest	<u>0.00</u>	
Balance Feb. 28		\$ 125,648.56
Total in All Accounts Feb. 28		\$ 146,695.85

## ▪ Updates from Our Churches ▪

### **Kewanee, New Madrid**

Hello from Kewanee Missionary Baptist Church! Weather is getting milder. Spring is on the horizon. One of my favorite times of the year when God makes everything new.

Praise Report: We have welcomed three new members to Kewanee in the past two months. Thank you, Lord, for your blessings!

On February 14th, we had a Valentine's party for the youth. They had cookies, candy, and drinks. They played games, made crafts, and learned about the love of Jesus Christ. A good time was had by all!

On February 15th, the WMA ladies had a card-making fellowship event. They made customized cards to mail out inviting people to church or just to tell them we were thinking of them.

As I write this, Kewanee is beginning their revival with Bro. David Dickson. We pray that the Holy Spirit will move God's people and we will see souls saved and lives rededicated this week.

Please pray for our missionaries at home and abroad and also pray for the leaders of our nation that they will seek God's wisdom in all their decisions.

Our trust is in the Lord.

*Dan Wisely, Pastor*

*Debbie Nowell, Reporter*

### **Lower Doe Run, Ellington**

We welcome the Lion of Judah or the Lamb of God to reign this month of March! The watching is worth the wait.

The former month was full of blessings and trials, surgeries and sickness. It continues. Many members remain homebound, while others can hardly wait to be in the house of God with beloved brothers and sisters. Both our other preacher members filled the pulpit when our pastor was sick. Bro. Johnny Beardsley has had preaching appointments at other churches recently.

We have had visitors from as far away as Rogers, AR, and as close as the neighborhood. Arlyn and Benjamin, 10, visited on Arlyn's birthday and the day after he had placed first at a Ninja competition in Chesterfield. Kaylee, also 10, from the neighborhood, visited with her mother, Ashley. These two said they will be back for children's church and would bring a friend next Sunday. Also, Austin has visited three times after he introduced himself as wanting to visit the area churches to know the doctrine and practices.

Pray for sisters Helen Morris and Frieda Williams in Clark's Mountain Home, Piedmont; Alice and Martha Morris, Ellington; and Sis. Thelma Hoffman in Maud, TX. These great prayer warriors continue their fight for the Lord in prayer.

The WMA elected officers this month: Carolyn Meade, President; Carolyn Miller, Vice President; Kathleen Yates, Secretary and Treasurer; Barbara Radford, Assistant. All ladies of the church are so faithful to provide Sunday lunch every week.

The church is still waiting for a permit from MoDOT to place the sign at the junction of Highways 21 and H.

Until He comes.

*Melvin Meade, Pastor*

*Carolyn Meade, Reporter*

### **Ozark Heights, Potosi**

Greetings to all our brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. We are excited to announce our upcoming revival and homecoming. We are still in the planning stages with music. So please put these events on your calendars.

Save the dates: Revival April 29 – May 2 (more information to come). Homecoming May 3.

We hope this finds each of you well and feeling blessed. Waking up each morning and experiencing God's love should call us to "rejoice, and again I say rejoice."

The first thing the world should see when they look at us is our smile. Imagine how amazing it would be to see smiles everywhere we go and the encouragement we could provide as we go through our daily lives. We do not need to add to the gloom and worry of the world around us because we know God is always with us, promising never to leave us helpless or hopeless. Share your faith today with a smile – it costs nothing and can be rewarding.

January and February have had a combination of extreme weather, followed by many families absent because of all the sickness going around. It seems half our families are seriously sick or in the hospital. But we are beginning to

see a light at the end of the tunnel with some recent fair weather. We have been excited recently to see a few sunny warm days.

We had a great time at our Valentine's Dinner on Saturday evening, February 14. Our teens and teen leaders prepared a delicious three-course meal with a tasty salad, your choice of three amazing lasagnas to choose from, and several scrumptious desserts. After our meal, the teens had prepared some fun games to keep us entertained. The photo wall was a really excellent way to get pictorial memories. We are thankful to those who worked so hard to have this event.

The church voted to construct a new and much larger fenced-in play area for the youth to provide added protection. The work is scheduled to begin very soon.

Our pastors continue to preach strong God-inspired messages to our church and our youth.

We are thankful and appreciate the dedication they bring to the leadership and discipleship of our church family. Sunday and Wednesday evening 6:00 p.m. services have great Bible study and youth time.

A renewed effort has been directed towards building our WMA and Brotherhood in the last few months. The WMA and Brotherhood meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

May our God bless and keep you.

*Dwight Petete, Pastor*

*Gary Gilliam, Reporter*

### **Landmark, DeSoto**

Hello to all from Landmark, DeSoto! We're all looking forward to spring and watching God's world bloom again.

We had a special surprise 90th birthday party for Sis. Stella Harness on March 1st. It was actually scheduled for Feb. 22nd, but she couldn't attend that day. So we put the birthday cake in the freezer along with the ice cream and had an un-birthday fellowship luncheon that day. Kinda redid the surprise party on March 1st, and praise the Lord, she really was surprised! Everyone was blessed with the shared fellowship that day too! Plus, we finally got to have cake and ice cream!

You may remember that we had a 90th birthday party for Sis. Betty Harrison in November. She and Sis. Stella have known each other since first grade. And they're still very loyal to each other . . . they REFUSE to tell us any of their deep dark secrets! We love them both and are blessed to have them in our church family.

God continues to send visitors our way just about every week. Some are "regulars" and some are newcomers. We're still praying that God will guide them to join our church family.

Sis. Sharon Page has been blessed with another great-grandson, born March 2nd, 6 lbs and 3 oz. Baby and mother are doing well.

Once again, we ask you to remember us in prayer, for our members who are suffering a variety of medical issues (including Bro. Len), and for God's leadership in sharing His message of love and salvation and forgiving grace with all we meet. We will continue to lift all of you up in prayer also.

May our great Lord keep on blessing you, and may we all keep watching for His coming.

*Len Young, Pastor*

*Barbara Williams, Reporter*

## ~ Upcoming Events ~

**BMAA National Meeting** – Apr 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, OK

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

*Send event info to [mmbpaper@gmail.com](mailto:mmbpaper@gmail.com).*

## Chaplaincy News

Good news from the Chaplaincy Department! Chaplain Candidate Anthony Kennedy of the Arkansas Army National Guard has been promoted to First Lieutenant. Chaplain Candidate Kennedy is currently at the U.S. Army Chaplain Officer Basic Leadership Course at Fort Jackson, SC. When he finishes the course, he will be fully qualified for a branch transfer into the Chaplain Corps.

Brett Stewart serves as the Minister of Youth at Lebanon Baptist Church in Laurel, MS. Brett was recently sworn into the Mississippi State Guard as a Chaplain Candidate by Chaplain (Colonel) Carson. Brett is a student at the BMA Theological Seminary and enters the State Guard as a Second Lieutenant.



1LT and Mrs. Anthony Kennedy



2LT Brett Stewart and Chaplain (Colonel) Carson

## Michel Poirier Newsletter

### Quebec, Canada

Praise the Lord for the work He is doing among the French-speaking people. We have seen many things happening in the last two months, especially with new converts and with new discipleship one on one. For example, on a Wednesday night after prayer time a visitor came to see me and told me she needed to be saved. After talking with her and sharing Bible verses, she was convinced of her destiny in hell. She received Christ that night. The following Sunday an 18-year-old young lady also came and asked for Christ to save her soul. They both came into the church lost and left saved and adopted into the family of God.

In the past month, we have had five new students in the discipleship program, and we see them growing in the Lord. New people have asked to get involved serving in the church as nursery workers and helpers in Sunday school classes. We now have over 50 in attendance for the last three months. Our attendance went up last month into the 60s. I purchased 10 chairs and now it looks like I will have to get more. The building was



big when we first started but now it is getting smaller! Praise the Lord. We have a monthly dinner where people bring food, and now the dining room is so small with only room for 40 people. So we use parts of the sanctuary for dinner, too. Two weeks ago there were 66 hungry people ready to eat. Amen! By the time to eat, the food was cold. I think the preaching service was a bit longer that Sunday, too. But hey, they had a good fellowship!

### Dominican Republic

Working with Haitians during our two weeks (15 days), Ruth and I had a great time to teach and preach in French and Spanish. Praise the Lord for Google translation. The Haitian group we work with in the Dominican Republic are very poor because the government tries to ship them back to Haiti. While doing that, they arrest the Haitians, rape the women, and beat them up. Some died before being dropped at the Haitian border. When we got to the house where we spoke, our host looked weak and tired, and so did the children. We spoke and taught from the book of Ephesians and prayed and went on our way. The next day I gave them a few dollars for juice and water for our visitors. The third day we found that there was no food for a few days. The rent was due, no food, and things were getting worse. One young lady doing housework for a Dominican family who lives in the capital 45 minutes away,

## BMA Pastor Writes Autism Ministry Book

*Ministry Across the Spectrum: Autism, Faith, and the Local Church* by W. Russell Threet (Pastor of West Park Baptist in Ozark, AR) offers practical, biblically-grounded guidance for inclusive ministry.

Baptist Publishing House is pleased to announce the release of *Ministry Across the Spectrum: Autism, Faith, and the Local Church* by pastor and biblical counselor W. Russell Threet. This timely resource addresses one of the most overlooked mission fields in the church today: individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and the families who love and care for them.

Drawing from personal experience as both a pastor and a parent of an autistic child, Threet writes with clarity, compassion, and theological depth. The book explores autism from a biblical worldview and provides churches with practical tools to better welcome, disciple, and support ASD families within the life of the local congregation.

“Many churches genuinely want to help but feel unsure or unprepared,” Threet explains. “This book is meant to be a starting point – offering simple, faithful steps so that families affected by autism can truly feel at home in the body of Christ.”

*Ministry Across the Spectrum* walks readers through real-life church scenarios involving three fictional families who represent different points on the autism spectrum. Through these stories, pastors, church members, and parents gain insight into common challenges surrounding Sunday School, worship services, church events, evangelism, counseling, membership, and more. Each chapter concludes with practical applications tailored to pastors, people in the pew, and autism families.

Endorsements from church leaders highlight the book’s impact:

“Bold, convicting, and clear... After reading this book, the church will no longer have an excuse for neglecting this part of the community.” – Dr. Clif Johnson, Pastor, Garrett Memorial Baptist Church

“This book will help churches to love, evangelize, and disciple autism families in a way they never thought possible.” – Jordan M. Tew, Executive Director, Baptist Publishing House

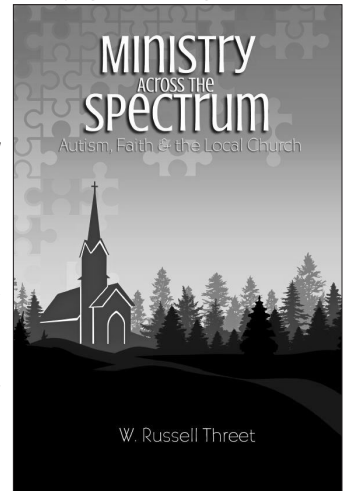
“This book is an excellent resource for believers seeking to minister effectively to those impacted by autism.” – Bart Herrington, Pastor, South Main Missionary Baptist Church

The book also includes helpful appendices with basic training material, communication tips, sensory considerations, and sample checklists for churches, teachers, greeters, and parents – making it a hands-on guide for immediate use. Every church needs a copy of this ministry manual.

Order at [baptistpublishinghouse.com](http://baptistpublishinghouse.com) | (888) 727-8715

she takes the bus on Sunday night and comes back home on Friday with a salary of \$80.00 a week. That Dominican family does not feed her, but treats her like a slave. So, you understand the situation now in that family of six. After all was done, when we left, Ruth and I told the Lord whatever comes in as support gift for this family we will send it every month, as long as the Lord provides.

• See POIRIER page 6 •



## Our Best Answer

Robin Tyler

Three-one-three-nine, her number; two-two-six-two, my number. My best friend and I knew each other's phone number by heart. Can you go? Will you come? What are you doing? Where are we going? When will you be here? What time does it start? Who's driving? How long can you stay? Who can we tell? The number of plans made and questions asked were in the thousands. Fourth grade we met. Twelfth grade we graduated. If our phone minutes were crossties, we could likely lay train tracks across the state.

Phone calls, at that time, were made on a handheld device plugged into the wall with twisted cords coming from it. The cords would be stretched across the room to a comfortable chair or sofa, and our conversation could be heard all over the house since one phone was all that was in the house. Sometimes the preferred position for those conversations was lying in the middle of the floor with feet propped up on a wall. We would talk about our plans, scheduling times, dates, and how the event would hopefully unfold. The planning and scheduling would be the highlight of our week. Our conversations, at times, lasted into the late hours of the night. Listening intently, it was as if I could feel the breath of my friend coming through the phone.

In 1980, God called. I answered, as well as other youth attending the youth rally. He had my number. Who knew? He asked, "Will you come?" On my knees, I said, "Yes Lord, but I need you. I cannot do this on my own." Kneeling beside my pastor, a man who was like a second daddy and my best friend's dad, I answered the most important call of my life. All He asks of anyone is, "Will you come?" Our best answer is, "Yes Lord, but I need you. I cannot do this on my own."

After the initial call "to come," it's highly probable God will make other calls. Can you drive? Will you teach? How long will you stay? Will you pray? Can you cut, color, and



glue? Can you sing? Can you read? Will you forgive? What dish can you prepare? Will you write? Can you staple, tape, and copy? Will you rock a baby? Can you be patient? Will you love? How far will you travel? Can you go? Will you tell? Answering these calls will be the highlight of your life. You will never be the same. The plans made and the questions asked will be in the thousands. Answering His calls can last into the late hours of the night, or the wee hours of the morning. Listen intently; it's almost as if God's breath can be felt as He whispers each call. Our best answer will be, "Yes Lord, but I need you. I cannot do this on my own."

*Verses: For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16) – God's call.*

*I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore (Psalm 121:1-8) – God's help.*

*'My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.' Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me (2 Cor. 12:9) – God's sufficiency.*

*Prayer: Yes Lord, but I need you. I cannot do this on my own.*

### • From POIRIER page 5 •

Ruth had an opportunity to speak at a ladies' conference in the Dominican Republic on a Sunday morning. There were over 150 ladies present at the conference. They asked her to return next year. We met new people while we were in the Dominican Republic, witnessed to many and made a new



Ruth speaking at the women's conference in the Dominican Republic

contact with our cleaning lady. The people we led to the Lord last year are all involved in the work of the Lord.

### Haiti

I don't need to explain the situation. Some of our church families are being asked to pay their rent or they will be evicted. Children want to go to school but there is a fee to pay to the gangs for going to school. There is always a shortage of food, and this causes bad nutrition. Water accessibility is another problem. One of our wells has been robbed of its solar pump, therefore there is no water for the community. I could go on and on, and it breaks my heart knowing the situation and wondering how can I help. The pastor who is taking care of the work at the church in Cess Less tells me that some nights they hear the

## BMAA Meeting Schedule

Conway, AR

### April 21, 2026

5:00 p.m. .... Registration Open  
6:00 p.m. .... Missions Celebration  
7:00 p.m. .... Break  
7:15 p.m. .... Worship ..... Antioch Worship Team  
President's Message..... Bro. Charles Johnson  
8:15 p.m. .... First Business Session  
After session.... Registration Open

### April 22, 2026

7:15 a.m..... New BMA Pastors Orientation ..... Antioch  
7:30 a.m..... Pastors Breakfast ..... CBC  
8:00 a.m..... WMA Meeting ..... CBC  
Brotherhood Meeting ..... Antioch  
Committee Meetings ..... Antioch  
8:30 a.m..... Registration Open  
9:00 a.m..... Pastors Conference ..... Antioch  
11:30 a.m..... Lunch Break  
12:30 p.m. .... Registration Open  
1:00 p.m. .... Second Business Session .... Department Rpts  
3:15 p.m. .... Break  
3:30 p.m. .... Legacy Missionary Celebration &  
Missionary Commissioning ..... Antioch  
After session.... Registration Open  
4:45 p.m. .... Break for Dinner  
6:00 p.m. .... Registration Open  
6:30 p.m. .... Worship & Annual Message ..... Ashraf Sara  
7:30 p.m. .... Break  
7:45 p.m. .... Third Business Session ..... Final Enroll. Rpt

### April 23, 2026

..... Fourth Business Session (if needed)

*You're invited to the  
BMA Seminary Dinner!  
April 22, 2026 @ 5:00 p.m.*

*Location:  
Central Baptist College  
Cost: \$25 per person  
Guest Speaker:  
Dr. Jeremy Langley,  
President of Central Baptist  
College – BMA Seminary Graduate  
Contact Keri Southern for tickets:  
president@bmats.edu or 800-259-5673*

cries of hungry children.

### Benin, Africa

Our missionary is doing a wonderful job with the group he has. New candidates are ready to be baptized and others are involved in reaching souls for Christ on the street. Yes, there is difficulty in spreading the gospel because of Muslim adversity, but they are relying on the Lord.

### Cameroon, Africa

The past two months two ladies came to know

• See POIRIER page 8 •

## Walking with Pastors in Bolivia

Gerson Orellana, ChangeMaker in Panama

My name is Gerson Orellana, and I have served in church planting and pastoral accompaniment across different contexts in Latin America, including Costa Rica, the Peruvian Andean highlands, and Panama. Within this ministerial framework, during the month of December, I undertook a pastoral accompaniment visit to Bolivia, with the purpose of listening and walking alongside pastors and leaders from our association, creating spaces for dialogue and support amid the everyday challenges of ministry.

This experience in Bolivia serves as an example of a type of pastoral accompaniment that I believe is necessary and valuable not only for one specific country, but also across other contexts in South America, where many pastors serve faithfully and sacrificially, often with limited opportunities to be intentionally heard and pastorally supported in a close and relational way.

### **From Fear to Faith in El Salvador**

Emily Brantley, Lifeword

In El Salvador, there was a time when the streets Josue Yair Guzman called home echoed with the sounds of fear. Gang violence ruled the neighborhood, turf wars drew invisible lines through city blocks, and families learned to live cautiously – always aware that danger could erupt without warning. For many young people growing up in that environment, the future felt limited, even predetermined. Survival was the goal. Hope felt fragile.

But God was quietly at work, writing a different story.

Josue was one of those young men shaped by his surroundings, yet protected by a growing sense that his life held more than what he saw around him. In the midst of chaos, he found himself drawn to service – starting with a humble role at a Lifeword community radio station. At first, his work was simple: helping where needed, learning equipment, supporting programming behind the scenes. It didn't feel glamorous, but it mattered.

What Josue didn't realize at the time was that God was using those small, faithful steps to prepare him for something greater.

As the years passed, Josue's life continued to change. He married, began raising a family, and stayed committed to the work God had placed before him. Through Lifeword, he began producing short radio programs called *Learning from Jesus*. These messages – clear, Scripture-centered, and filled with grace – were broadcast into homes and neighborhoods just like the one he grew up in. The same streets once dominated by fear were now hearing words of truth, hope, and redemption.

The voice that once quietly assisted in the background became a voice that spoke directly into the hearts of listeners.

Today, Josue's role has expanded far beyond what he first imagined. He now leads the community radio station, overseeing programming that reaches both local listeners and audiences online. Through social media and digital platforms, his encouragement and teaching continue to point people to Christ – far beyond the limits of a single neighborhood.

But the transformation didn't stop with the airwaves.

God also called Josue to shepherd people face to face. In a community once marked by gang control, a mission church was planted. Where fear used to dictate daily life, children now gather to sing songs about Jesus, learn scripture, and experience safety within the walls of a faith-filled community. Adults who once felt trapped by hopelessness are now hearing the gospel, professing faith in Christ, being discipled, and learning what it means to belong to the body of Christ.

Josue's story is not just about personal success or leadership – it is a testimony to what God can do when one person says yes. Through obedience, perseverance, and faith, God transformed a young man's willingness to serve into a ministry that is reshaping an entire community.

From radio waves to church pews, from fear to faith, Josue's life stands as a living reminder: God specializes in redemption. He takes ordinary people, places them exactly where they are, and uses them to accomplish extraordinary things.

If God could take a young man like Josue – raised in a neighborhood defined by violence – and use him to lead a local radio station, impact lives through online programming, and plant a church in a once-frightened community, what might He do with your life if you fully surrendered it to Him?

The focus of this visit was not programmatic or structural, but relational. The goal was to foster safe and open spaces for honest conversation, where pastors could freely express their burdens, concerns, and ministry realities. Through attentive and respectful listening, conversations naturally moved beyond public ministry matters to include personal, family, and emotional aspects that are frequently carried quietly by those in pastoral leadership.

During one of these pastoral conversations, a local leader was able to open his heart with deep transparency, even reaching an emotional breaking point as he shared situations he had carried in silence for an extended time. Moments like these serve as a reminder that pastors are also human beings ... called to serve, yet equally in need of care, understanding, and companionship along the journey. Scripture exhorts us clearly: *Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ* (Galatians 6:2).

Rather than offering quick solutions, the emphasis was placed on being present, listening with empathy, and walking alongside one another in the process. This kind of pastoral accompaniment highlights the importance of clear, close, and healthy communication, where active listening not only brings understanding, but also strengthens trust, connection, and shared responsibility within the body of Christ.

Time spent together also allowed for a broader understanding of the ministerial context in which the work is taking place in Bolivia. There is a

• See WALKING page 8 •

### **From Fear to Faith in a Nicaraguan Village**

Around the world, Christians witness lives and communities transformed in ways no one expected, especially in places where hope once seemed distant.

In Nicaragua, Oscar and Tamy Gaitán have devoted their lives to sharing that message. As ChangeMakers, they have seen firsthand what happens when the good news of Jesus takes root.

Perhaps the most striking picture of transformation in their ministry is found in the story of Herman González, a man whose name once inspired fear across the region. Herman lived in a village called El Griego. Everyone knew to avoid him ... especially when he had been drinking. He was violent, unpredictable, and territorial.

"People said he had killed at least seven men with a machete," Tamy recalled. "No one went onto his land. No one visited without an invitation, and most people didn't want one."

One day, to everyone's surprise, the local pastor of a nearby BMA church received a message: Herman wanted to talk.

Fearing what might happen, the pastor asked the church to pray. He also asked another pastor to accompany him. Together, and with great caution, they climbed the hill to Herman's house.

When they arrived, Herman said, "I want you to share what you've been preaching." So they did. They shared the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"I want to know more," Herman said. "Come back later."

They did.

Week after week, they returned, sharing scripture with the man many believed was beyond hope. And then, one day, Herman surrendered his life to Jesus.

What happened next astonished the community.



The man once feared for his violence became a man marked by peace. The man known for keeping everyone away opened his home to worship. The land others would not step foot on became a gathering place for believers. A church began meeting in Herman's house, then later built a small church building that stands to this day.

"The gospel changed everything for him and his family," Tamy said. "That's how the gospel can change a man's life."

Stories like Herman's are not stories of human effort or self-improvement; they are stories of lasting transformation through Christ. They remind us that God is still at work, calling people to go, to preach, and to disciple, and drawing lives to Himself in places where hope once seemed impossible.

## Soar 2026!

Hello Youth Leaders!

SOAR Registration is officially open!

SOAR is a three-day youth conference for your students to come together for powerful worship, Biblical teaching, and intentional time to grow in their personal relationships with Christ. We would love for your group to join us!

Our theme this year is “Transformed!” We’ll be talking about how God isn’t interested in simple behavior modification, but in genuine life transformation through Jesus.

You can register your group and book hotel rooms now at [soarconference.com](http://soarconference.com).

As you likely know by now, due to the United States hosting the FIFA World Cup this summer, SOAR is heading to Oklahoma! Let’s be honest – Norman, Oklahoma, isn’t the DFW Metroplex. We



get it. When you think “SOAR Student Conference,” Norman isn’t the first place that comes to mind. Dallas has kind of spoiled us over the years. But here’s the good news: there’s still plenty of fun to be found in Norman, and we’ve done the legwork to help you plan a great experience for your students.

We’ve put together a quick guide to help your

group make the most of the trip – whether you want to stay close to the hotel or head to nearby Oklahoma City for an adventure.

Let’s make SOAR in Norman a fun experience for your students.

### SOAR Exclusive: Main Event – Norman

The first 750 student registrations will receive:

- 2 hours of bowling
- \$40 arcade game credit
- 2 VR experiences

### Main Event – Norman

Wednesday, July 1st, from 10:00 p.m. – midnight. This will take the place of the SOAR Village on Wednesday night. Main Event is located right across the street from the Embassy Suites Conference Center.

### Affordable Dining Options

Fast food and budget-friendly restaurants near the Embassy Suites include:

Chick-fil-A, Raising Cane’s, Whataburger, Five Guys, Jimmy John’s, Taco Bell, McDonald’s, Braum’s, Chipotle, and Panda Express.

Most are walkable or a short drive away.

The Embassy Suites and each overflow hotel also have complimentary breakfast.

### Things to Do in Norman

- Young Family Athletic Center – indoor recreation and sports
- Get Air – trampoline park

### Oklahoma City Entertainment (25 minutes away)

- Riversport OKC – outdoor adventures like whitewater rafting, zip lines, and ropes courses



- Frontier City / Wild West Water Works – rides, games, and water attractions

Also, we’re currently accepting applications for: SOAR Staffers – If you know college-aged students who would love to serve during the conference, have them apply online! Go to [soarconference.com](http://soarconference.com) and click on the "Be A SOAR Staffer" tab in the top right corner.

Color Leaders – Each year at SOAR we host Color Wars, where grades compete all week to earn points for their team. If you have a 7th-12th grade student who would be a great Color Leader, encourage them to apply! Go to [soarconference.com](http://soarconference.com) and click on the "Be A Color Leader" tab in the top right corner.

If you have any questions, you can reach out to me at [emily@lifeword.org](mailto:emily@lifeword.org).

We are praying for you and your students and can’t wait to see how God moves at SOAR this year!

Emily Brantley, BMAA Conference Coordinator

• **From POIRIER page 6** • the Lord. They were assisting at the church for some time. One Sunday one of them walked forward and confessed that she thought she was a good person and it was sufficient to go to heaven, but the Lord grabbed her heart and convicted her of sin and she came forward for salvation. The other lady came forward a few minutes later and also gave her life to Christ. Praise the Lord. The two ladies walk 45 minutes one way to come to church. Hmmm! And there are people who

live only 15 minutes from church and find it’s too far to go in cars.

### *Ivory Coast, Africa*

Pastor Paul is doing a good work training his people on the ABCs of Christian growth. Not every week people come to the Lord for salvation like he said, but all must grow in the Lord each week. Of course, sickness is in the village, but the pastor said God is in control and will help them to pull through.

### *Blessings*

Thank you for your prayers for the work with the French-speaking

people we are involved with – we know how important your prayers are to us and the people of these countries.

### *Requests*

- Liberty to share the gospel and the freedom to speak freely the gospel in Canada; the doors are closing rapidly.

- Provision to help the one Haitian family in the Dominican Republic, and also food for the family of Port au Prince, school situation with the tariff imposed by the gangs.

For the cause of Christ, Michel & Ruth Poirier

### • **From WALKING page 7** •

genuine love for the gospel and a sincere commitment to serving God’s people, alongside the various challenges that are commonly faced by pastoral leadership throughout our region. This reality is not unique to Bolivia, but reflects a broader South American context, reinforcing the need for intentional pastoral visits focused on encouragement, presence, and long-term support.

The Word of God reminds us: *The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit* (Psalm 34:18). This truth became evident throughout the visit, affirming

that pastoral care extends beyond teaching and leadership, and includes the simple but powerful act of walking alongside one another, especially in seasons of weariness and strain.

This journey reaffirmed that close and consistent pastoral accompaniment is not a secondary element of ministry, but a real and necessary component for the spiritual and emotional health of those who serve. Investing time in listening, supporting, and strengthening pastors contributes not only to individual well-being, but also to the long-term stability and faithfulness of the work across the region.



## 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)

**Aaron Maxwell** is available for any pulpit needs. He can be reached at (870) 834-0100. (0326)

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](mailto:mmbpaper@gmail.com).