

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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

Volume LXXXVIII

St. Louis, MO • April 14, 2026

Issue No. 4

BMAA National Department Reports

Donny Parrish, Lifeword Executive Director

Each year, the directors of the national departments of the BMA share a detailed video report ahead of the National Meeting. These reports are prepared so that every BMA church can see how each department is serving and using the support you faithfully provide.

If you are a messenger attending the National Meeting, we encourage you to watch these reports before you arrive and to reach out directly to any department director with your questions or ideas. Every BMA department truly wants to serve your church well, and your feedback helps us do that. We're grateful for your partnership and would love to hear from you.

You can locate these reports at: <http://bmaamerica.org/2026reports>.

From the Association Clerk

Don Burke

Hello everyone. I write to present to you our current situation and offer our churches and messengers the time to consider options as we prepare for our upcoming Association meeting.

As clerk I have regularly noted over the past years that the Minute Fund has been operating in a deficit. There has at times been some special income to momentarily alter that pattern, but overall such fixes have only been a temporary reprieve.

In the course of a typical year the Minute Fund has four major expenses: Minute printing (typically around \$1,400), Minute mailing (typically about \$100), clerk hire (currently \$1,300) and lodging expense for the clerk to attend the two Associational meetings (usually up to \$100 per meeting, depending on meeting locations). This year that printing expense has been reduced by approximately \$500 (the actual invoice has not yet been received) by doing more of the work in-house using the Publications computer and software. Yet even with that reduction, the overall total annual expenses this year are around \$2,500. This outflow is set against this

year's total annual income of \$1,800. A November plea printed in the State paper asking churches to consider additional giving produced no additional income. The bottom line: For the current year the Minute Fund is left with an estimated net negative cash flow of \$700.

It seems reasonable that churches, like individuals, vote with their wallets as well as with their voiced ayes and nays. Having kept the churches informed of the needs through

• See CLERK page 3 •

Spring BMA of Missouri Meetings

Missions Symposium

Friday, May 15

Mid-Year Meeting

Saturday, May 16

Bethel Missionary Baptist Church
569 Bethel Church Road • Lonedell, MO 63060

Program includes

Friday: Bro. Chuck Tedrow, Bro. Juan Fernandez,
Missions Encouragement, Refreshments
Saturday: Associational Business, Sermon, Lunch

Lodging

Pinemark Inn
866 S. Outer Road
St. Clair, MO 63077
(636) 629-1000

Super 8 – St. Clair
1010 S. Outer Road
St. Clair, MO 63077
(636) 629-8080

Super 8 – Union
1015 E. Main Street
Union, MO 63084
(636) 487-0865

Restaurants

Gibby's
9 Paul Parks Drive
St. Clair, MO 63077

Tres Toritos
10 E. Gravois Avenue
St. Clair, MO 63077

Pasta House
101 E. Independence Drive
Union, MO 63084

A Message from Our Moderator

It is nearing time for our Annual Missions Symposium to be held at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Lonedell, MO. We will begin at 6:00 p.m. on May 15, and it promises to be a night worthy of your attendance. We welcome any and all to an evening intended to hear and support our missionaries and their work. As your Moderator, I encourage (or beg) each of you to make special effort to return at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 16, for our Mid-Year Meeting that will conclude with physical food from Bethel, Lonedell, and spiritual food from our Lord through Bro. Ben Kingston. You DO matter and your participation is needed. We look forward to seeing each and every one of you.

Bro. Matt Bolen

New Curriculum from National Brotherhood and BPH

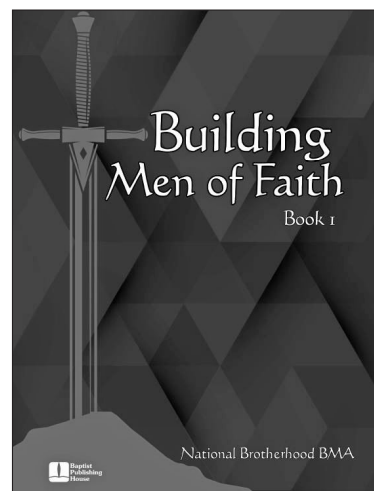
The BMA National Brotherhood is pleased to announce the release of a new curriculum. Responding to the expressed needs of BMA churches, the Brotherhood partnered with the Baptist Publishing House to develop a practical and doctrinally sound resource titled *Building Men of Faith*.

National Brotherhood President Bryan Buckley said, “One year ago, churches across the BMA voiced a clear need for a structured curriculum for Brotherhood meetings. In response, the BMA National Brotherhood reached out to Baptist Publishing House, which has now faithfully met that need.”

He went on to say, “This is a valuable tool for our churches. Our hope and prayer is to build men of faith. When we build men of faith, it strengthens marriages, families, churches,

and communities. This effort reflects a shared commitment between the BMA National Brotherhood and Baptist Publishing House to equip men with biblical truth and encourage them to live with courage and conviction as God has called them.”

Building Men of Faith includes 12 lessons, providing a full year of monthly meeting material, covering essential areas such as doctrine, the household, the church, evangelism, and outreach. The curriculum builds upon works by J.E. Cobb and D.N. Jackson and connects readers to the BMA Doctrinal Statement. Dr. Russell Threet, pastor of West Park Baptist in Ozark, AR, serves as the writer for this series. Plans are already underway to expand the series to include three years of study.



• See BROTHERHOOD page 7 •

State Missions

Dear BMAMO Churches,

Greetings in the name of the Lord. As a pastor, March has been quite the month with our Easter Walk. The Lord truly blessed.

All of you reading this paper know that church attendance and church health is cyclical – you have ups and downs. Hopefully as healthy churches, we have more ups than downs, and we have sharper trajectories on our ups than we do on our downs. Roughly a year and a half ago we had a little bit of a down trajectory, but we have seen the Lord heal and get things pointed back up in the past six months. In my humble opinion, He used the Easter Walk to spike that reality in our hearts and minds. This isn't me bragging on Bethel or myself certainly, but it's giving credit and glory to God! We perhaps had fewer participants this year, less time to get things ready, less volunteer labor..., but we had an amazing spirit in our people. We had some exemplary volunteer labor. And we had one of our best statistical years yet. We saw a little over 900 people come through the Walk and 30-plus professions of faith. Again, all credit and glory to God.

It is His salvation – He procured it, He offers it, He provides it, and He keeps it. You and I are just messengers, that's all we are. We are seed planters. The Lord has blessed us to have this very effective way of sowing seeds once a year, and I just wanted to share those blessings with you and thank you for your prayers and your participation. Many of you came out and saw the Walk for yourselves, and I cannot say "thank you" enough.

We have been talking in the last four articles about what a discipleship process looks like. We've talked about soul winning, baptism, doctrine, and most recently, about the church covenant. These next three articles will be getting into the weeds of individual one-on-one, one-on-two discipleship. The first bullet point in these three is simply the basics. These

are the "whatsoevers," and what I'm calling "repeatable actions." In other words, every disciple, and ultimately every church, has to help their disciples understand and know not only where these "repeatable actions/whatsoevers" are found in scripture and how to live them out, but then also teach them.

I'm going to give a general list, but again, this has to be very much a personal journey as a church, small group and/or individuals to really own this approach.

A healthy question to wrestle with is, "What do you believe are the non-negotiables in Jesus' and the New Testament's teaching that you are expected to live by and to exemplify?" If you answered that question, you have in front of you the "repeatable actions/whatsoevers" that you are to teach your disciples that God brings to you.

What do I mean when I say, "repeatable actions/whatsoevers"? I mean those things that are clearly stated in Scripture by Christ or through his Word that He expects you to live out daily and to share with those that He calls you to disciple. We're going to list those in a moment, but Matthew 28:18-20 says, *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Amen.*

In my humble opinion, every issue that an individual family and church struggles with is because of a lack of understanding of what those "whatsoevers" are and turning those into "repeatable actions" in your daily life. I lovingly challenge you to challenge that statement.

So again, we're just going to give a quick list here today and we'll go deeper in following articles. Here is a simple, off-the-

Financial Report	
BMA of Missouri Missions	
March 2026	
<u>Checking Account</u>	
Balance Feb. 28	\$ 21,047.29
<u>Income</u>	
Missions	\$ 4,361.81
BMA Foundation	756.22
Total Income	<u>\$ 5,118.03</u>
Total Available	\$ 26,165.32
<u>Expenses</u>	
Director, salary	\$ 450.00
Secretary, salary	200.00
Juan Fernandez, support	2,333.33
Hillside, support	600.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$ (3,583.33)</u>
Balance March 31	\$ 22,581.99
<u>BMAMS Revolving Loan Investment</u>	
Balance Feb. 28	\$ 125,648.56
Interest	0.00
Balance March 31	<u>\$ 125,648.56</u>
Total in All Accounts March 31	\$ 148,230.55

cuff list that hopefully no one would argue with:

- We are to be holy;
- We are to be spiritual;
- We are to be obedient;
- We are to represent the beatitudes;
- We are to spend daily time in the Word of God;
- We are to worship daily;
- We are to share our faith as we go through this world;
- We are to forgive;
- We are to be stewards of what God has given us;
- We are to put on the armor daily;
- We are to tithe to the Lord's church;
- We are to gather together weekly with the Lord's children;
- We are to publicly read the Word of God.

The list goes on, but I think you get a really good idea

of how – if these things are actively and repeatedly taught to new believers – a true transformation might take place in the lives of our new converts. Let us contemplate the greatest adventure known to man, which is discipling disciples to disciple.

In closing, I challenge you with answering this: What is a working definition of a disciple? Jesus said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." So, a true disciple of Christ follows Christ, they have been changed by Christ, and they make disciples.

May the Lord richly bless you this month. I'll see you on April 21-22 at the annual meeting in Conway, AR, or on May 15-16 at the Missions Symposium and Mid-Year Meeting at Bethel Baptist Church in Lonedell, MO.

Bro. Ben Kingston



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

As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. (Acts 13:2)

What's God's call for you? Is He calling you to do something that will get you out of your comfort zone? Yes. That's God's voice, to be a disciple that makes disciples who multiply.

We are thankful for your prayer and financial giving towards our ministry and the families that we serve. We had an amazing Easter Sunday service celebration. We had so much joy with lots of food, laughter, running around with the kids (and some wanted to play the piano), etc. The Lord brought families

together – Salazar, Antonio, Justin, Rosa, Geronimos, Fernandez Martinez, Fernandez Schmidt – for the purpose of glorifying God, loving others and celebrating the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

We continue with our ESL outreach serving five families in the morning and four families in the evening. We will have these classes through this month and will take a summer break. Our final class is the third week of May.

• See BELÉN page 3 •

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Quarterly Financial Reports

Missouri Missionary Baptist Paper 1st Quarter 2026

Beginning Balance Jan. 1	\$ 16,505.58
Offerings	4,961.87
Funds Available	\$ 21,467.45
Salaries	(2,400.00)
Printing & Mailing	(2,793.55)
Other Expenses	(307.92)
Ending Balance March 31	\$ 15,965.98

Kenneth E. Gibson Grant Fund 1st Quarter 2026

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

BMA Of Missouri Minute Fund 1st Quarter 2026

Beginning Balance Dec. 1	\$ 3,606.84
Offerings	75.00
Funds Available	\$ 3,681.84
Expenses	0.00
Ending Balance Feb. 28	\$ 3,681.84

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• **From CLERK page 1** •
routine reports as well as special pleas, I'm left to conclude that the churches have voted for the Minute Fund to adjust to operate within present income levels since needed income has regularly gone unreached. In order to reduce those expenses, the Association could ask the clerk to absorb his lodging expenses for meetings (although that amount would make no meaningful reduction in overall expenses). Or the clerk could be asked to do his job for free (which I hope you won't do). Minutes could go unmailed, but here again that small amount of savings would not begin to offset the annual deficit. So, we're left with only one option: making changes to the printing costs for the annual Minute Book.

But even so, sadly options here are few. Small changes (e.g., requesting shorter departmental reports or removing standard sections in our book repeated year after year) provide only small results. In fact, it would seem the only change substantial enough to address our financial deficit would be to discontinue printing the annual Minutes altogether.

I'm not saying I am in favor of such a measure. But it is the only option I see whereby we can get spending within current income levels.

This is not to say that we would have to be without an annual Minute Book, but just that we would no longer print it. Instead of distributing printed Minutes at the Associational meetings and via postal delivery, *digital* Minutes could be emailed to a point of contact in each church which requests a copy, then further distribution within each church would be made from there.

Again, I'm not saying that I'm comfortable with this option – but it does look to be the only option that meets the needs.

If churches do not feel this is the best option and wish to increase Minute Fund income to meet expense levels (both in the current year and in

• **From BELÉN page 2** •

We have seen the Lord leading us to continue a daily prayer walk and going door to door in the Florissant area and Chesterfield RV Park. In this RV park there are three families interested in

gathering for Bible study. Unfortunately for us, we don't have a place to get together in that area. We are asking for wisdom on how to reach out to these families during weekdays. I believe we have a solution in mind – it just needs to be taken to God in prayer for wisdom on how to keep in touch with these families so they can soon start our discipleship process.

Also, we are excited for our contacts and the desire they have to connect with our ministry here in Florissant. We ask you to pray for wisdom and for volunteers to carry out our summer activities. We are planning a week of VBS, two weeks of soccer league, as well as a prayer tent in the parking lot of our friends in the local restaurant.

These past four weeks I have been having a Bible study with Jose and Angie as they learn the first principles of Jesus and his disciples. They each have made a profession of faith. Jose asked me last Sunday if we could invite his children to study the Bible with them, and he offered a space in the

long-term commitments to increased giving) we may be able to delay such a drastic change. But short of that, I'm left with the conclusion that churches have expressed themselves and we must adjust our expenses accordingly – with the only workable option being to discontinue printing the annual Minute Book.

back of his restaurant for that purpose. This restaurant is in Hazelwood, and we have a community outreach in their place on Wednesday nights. We are using their place to make new contacts for evangelism and invitation to



our worship services at Linda's Lane on Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

Continue praying for our family, as we have been sharing our living space with my parents. Both have

been such blessings and support as they join us for Sunday worship time. The challenge is that they both get their insurance approved. There are many doctor appointments for my parents. My kids are more willing to learn Spanish words because they want to connect with them. Thank you for praying that we don't neglect our care for my parents. They have so much to teach us and our kids in the context of faith and walk with the Lord.

Prayer Requests

- Protection while traveling to the BMA National meeting and our daily commute.
- Healthy lifestyles for each one in our family and families we serve.
- Peace and salvation for each one on our contact list.
- Faithful men to begin the discipleship process.
- Bible studies in the following towns: Kirkwood, Florissant, Hazelwood, Chesterfield, and Clarkson Valley.
- New outreach during summer months and volunteers for the summer family outreach.
- Committed families to become our core team for our church plant.

Until He comes or calls His children home, we will continue serving, reaching, growing, establishing His kingdom.

In His service,
Juan Fernandez

▪ Updates from Our Churches ▪

Ohlman, Bunker

Our Sunday morning worship attendance is still doing great. Sunday evening not so good. Due to that, we voted to suspend Sunday evening services for now. It was a hard decision but one we felt was needed at this time.

Now for good news!

On March 15th, Owen and Mandy Wedding joined our church by statement. They had been attending for several months, and we have enjoyed having them in our church family.

On March 22nd, two sisters, Keira and Hailey Turnbough, both accepted Christ as Savior during the invitation. They then presented themselves as candidates for baptism. This was scheduled for Easter Sunday. Then the week before Easter, two other sisters, Raelee and Hailey Bennett, expressed their desire to be baptized. Raelee had been saved at Camp Garwood in 2024 and Hailey at Camp Garwood in 2025.

So, with these four baptisms and of course it being Easter Sunday, the church was packed. It was a great service!

Our Wednesday night student ministry is about the same. Sometimes we have bus mechanical issues and sometimes it's school activities that affect the attendance. Even with those "problems," the seed is being sown – especially to the younger kids. We hear reports about a change in their behavior from some of the school teachers, and this always blesses our hearts.

We are planning to celebrate 75 years of ministry on October 4, 2026. We will post

more information about that through our Facebook pages.

*Terry Sharpe, Pastor
Janet Widger, Reporter*

Ozark Heights, Potosi

Greetings to all our brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus.

We have been working diligently in preparation for our upcoming Spring Revival at Ozark Heights Missionary Baptist Church, and we are excited to cordially invite you to join us. The revival services are scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, through Saturday, May 2, with each evening service beginning at 7:00 p.m. We are already expectant of the work God is doing and look forward to our revival and hearing a different singing group leading us in praise each night. We are also honored to announce that Bro. Scott Welty will be our guest evangelist, sharing God's Word with us throughout the week. As we look around, it is apparent that we need revival. Please come join us if you can. If not, please pray that the revival will spring up in us and spread throughout the community.

Our church is located at 15698 S. State Hwy 21, Potosi, MO, approximately six miles south of Potosi. You will easily find us by the large blue sign out front.

In addition to the revival services, we invite you to join us on Sunday, May 3, for our 64th annual Homecoming. The schedule for the day is as follows:

- Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
- Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.
- Fellowship Meal: Immedi-

ately following the morning service

- Afternoon Praise Service: 1:30 p.m., featuring the singing group RIVENS

We would be truly blessed to have you join us for these special events as we seek spiritual renewal and fellowship.

On March 22nd the WMA ladies hosted a pie auction, followed by a time of sharing the pies that were purchased. Our ladies are constantly working on a new project throughout the year. Our pie auction is always a great way to raise funds and have fun. We had quite a crowd that came out and enjoyed the evening and in doing so raised a nice amount to fund projects that glorify God.

Bro. Jim Shy has been leading our Brotherhood on 3rd Wednesdays, studying the Old Testament characters and finding the only reason they were great was that letting God lead made them great leaders. We have been studying the book of Daniel. I thought I knew a lot about Daniel, but to revisit and dig into many of the events taking place is great. Brotherhood is 3rd Wednesday each month at 6:00 p.m.

Our playground is currently being expanded and protected by a chain link fence to provide a safer play area and protect our younger children. We had a workday on Saturday, March 28th, and several, including some of our youth, worked hard and are hoping to have it completed by VBS.

Youth Sunday was March 29th where our youth served not only as our choir and song leader, but also ushers

collecting our offering, singing specials, and ministering to us from God's Word. The message from Bro. Hunter Moorman was "Forgiveness," and he did an exceptional job.

We are blessed to have youth willing to stand up and work for the Lord. On that evening our church was excited to go to Bethel and take a tour of their great presentation of Jerusalem and the week leading up to our Savior's crucifixion, His resurrection and the empty tomb. Our thanks to Bethel Baptist for their moving presentation.

Until next month we ask your prayers for our revival and homecoming.

Our prayers are that God will bless each of you.

Yours in Christ Jesus.

*Dwight Petete, Pastor
Gary Gilliam, Reporter*

Westview, Jefferson City

Greetings from the BMA church in Missouri's capital city! We recently finished a several-months-long Wednesday evening Bible study on King Saul, the first king of Israel. King Saul started with so many privileges and opportunities, but his life and reign ended in tragic failure. The main lesson for us from King Saul's life is this: *Let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall* (1 Corinthians 10:2).

In March and April we have been collecting diapers, baby lotions, baby oils, etc. for our local Jefferson City Pregnancy Help Center.

We continue to have visitors for our Sunday morning worship service for which we are thankful.

What a blessing it is to

continue to bask here in the mercy and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Benjamin Kingston, Pastor
Rae Lynn Hearst, Reporter*

Oak Hill, Alton

HELLO to all from Oak Hill! Thank the Lord the Lord's family is growing and we are getting new members to Oak Hill. On March 22 Hayley McClanahan was baptized and joined Oak Hill. CeJay Cook was saved on March 29. April 12 is when CeJay and his wife Madison will be baptized and join Oak Hill. Also on March 29 we had our fifth Sunday dinner which is always a great meal.

We hope and pray that everyone had an awesome Easter remembering what our Lord went through being the first fruits of resurrecting to Heaven to be with the Father.

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

God Bless!!

*Edward Casey, Pastor
Jennifer Williams, Reporter*

Bethel, Sikeston

Hello from Bethel, Sikeston. We are thankful that the March winds have come and gone!

Bro. Billy has been teaching on amazing stories of the Bible at Wednesday night Bible study, and it has been a real blessing. Church members were able to choose the ones we wanted to hear about.

Some of our members went to Matthews Missionary Baptist Church for trivia night and came in first place! Our teens have been working on a skit for Easter Sunday. I'm sure it will be a good one as they always do a great job!

Bro. Jimmy Walker, a missionary to the Philippines, and his family were here on the 22nd for our evening service. He informed us of how the mission work he is doing there is progressing and showed us slides of how the

~ Upcoming Events ~

BMAA National Meeting – Apr 21-23; Antioch, Conway, AR

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

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

Revival – Apr 29-May 2; 7:00 each evening; Ozark Heights, Potosi; Scott Welty, evangelist

Homecoming – May 3; Ozark Heights, Potosi

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.

Filipinos live. We should be so thankful that we live here in the good old USA!! He also blessed us with the Word of God. We look forward to seeing him and his family again someday!

Bro. Poirier, our missionary in Canada, and his wife, Sis. Ruth, will be here on the 12th of April. We look forward to seeing them and hearing about their work in various places.

Please keep our pastor in your prayers as he is recovering from surgery on his foot. He can't put any weight on it for three weeks. Bro. Les Cantrell is filling in for him and is doing a great job. We

are so thankful for him always being willing to fill the pulpit when needed.

Hope everyone had a blessed and happy Resurrection Day remembering and celebrating the resurrection

of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Oh, what love He has for us!! We should celebrate Him every day, not just on special days

*Billy Davis, Pastor
Joan Wood, Reporter*

Mission Trip by Jason Taylor

Debbie Nowell

We would like to share with you about a mission trip Jason Taylor took in January. Jason is a deacon at Kewanee and many of you know him from his work as a Camp Garwood committeeman. He took the trip to Nicaragua with John David Smith, our BMA National Mission Director.

The first day they were there they got to attend Nicaragua Mission Day. Bro. David Marroquin, BMA Global Central America Regional Coordinator, spoke from 2 Timothy 3 and Acts 4:29. He encouraged everyone that no matter the circumstances of life, we need to be faithful and continue to spread the gospel. When Bro. David finished speaking, Bro. Oscar Gaitan, BMA Global Coordinator for Nicaragua, recognized churches, heard testimonies from church planters, and had singing from various church worship groups. There were 40 churches, totaling around 850 people, in attendance. Some had to travel for three days to make the service. A few traveled six hours by boat, rode a mule for ten hours, and then rode a bus. A lot of dedication, sacrifice and faithfulness.

Bro. John David gave the afternoon message from Philippians chapter 1. The theme for this Mission

Day was connection. The Apostle Paul didn't lead by his position, but by his identity in Christ. True connection begins when selfishness ends. We as Christians need not focus on circumstances, but must stay faithful. The Apostle Paul truly had joy by serving and being faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ.

They visited Mission La Flores where Bro. Evertz is doing a great job. They have forty-one baptized believers, four small groups, and sixty children (seven clubs) for children's ministry. They are in the process of constructing a building for worship. All concrete blocks are laid for the walls, with the next step being the roof. They also visited Mission San Marcos where Bro. Juan Carlos Carballo is being used in a mighty way and doing great. They have ten baptized believers, twelve children, seven young people, and one small group.

They went to Messiah Church on Sunday morning where Bro. Oscar Gaitan pastors. They have started eight missions and one church in Cuba. Their goal is to plant at least one church per year. It was a privilege that morning to witness four professions of faith, one rededication, three baptisms, and a

baby dedication. Sunday evening they worshipped with Bro. Lester where he pastors a church at Diria. Bro. John David spoke on discipleship.

Bro. Jason stated that Bro. Oscar and his wife Tamy took them in like family. That's what is amazing about being a child of God. We are connected no matter the language, diversity, or geography. We are connected in Christ Jesus. Jason stated that he had never been more proud or excited to be a part of the BMA. Consider what our support to the Association accomplishes: BMA Global is in 75 countries; 2,000 churches organized around the world; support of over 500 missionaries; and planting over 500 churches now (just counting the ones BMA is planting financially).

Please pray for our missionaries and leaders for discernment. Lots of doors are opening for spreading the gospel. Paul and Silas had doors opened to go into parts of Asia, but the Holy Spirit said NO. They were led to go to Macedonia and landed at Philippi. And we all know the amazing things God accomplished through Paul at Philippi. When God says no, it's because He has something better in store for you.

Volunteer Student Missionaries 2026

Angela Rice, BMA Global Short-Term Missions Director

This summer, more than 80 students are stepping out in faith to serve around the world through Volunteer Student Missions. Each one carries the hope of the gospel to different places and people who need to hear the name of Jesus.

Recently, these students gathered at Cold Springs Camp for a time of training, preparation, and encouragement. It was more than just learning logistics, it was a time of spiritual growth, surrender, and calling. As they sat around tables, listening and learning, seeds were being planted that could shape the rest of their lives.

Training sessions covered essential areas like security, logistics, team dynamics, and evangelism – all vital for serving effectively alongside missionaries on the field. Preparing for what God has called them to do is not just important – it is part of their obedience. Every lesson, every conversation, and every moment was equipping these students to go with confidence and purpose.

We were also honored to have our missions host from Costa Rica, Luis Ortega, and his family join us for the weekend. They poured into our students, teaching mission strategies and helping them think deeply about how to share the gospel in different cultural contexts. Each team spent intentional time studying the culture they will be serving in, prayerfully developing the best ways to minister with love, respect, and effectiveness.

Throughout the weekend, students spent time in prayer, planning, training, and team

building – growing not only in knowledge, but in unity and dependence on the Lord. It was a powerful reminder that God is already at work, preparing hearts both in those who are going and those who will receive them.

During the weekend, Dr. John David Smith shared a compelling message on the importance of missions, challenging students to look beyond this summer and consider a lifetime of service. His words stirred hearts and opened eyes to what God might be calling them into long-term. We are praying that among those seated at the tables, God is raising up lifelong missionaries, men and women who will boldly say “yes” to His call.

I am so thankful that God gives our young people these opportunities to serve alongside our BMA missionaries. He is shaping their hearts, strengthening their faith, and using them in ways that will have eternal impact. We are also incredibly grateful for the faithful leaders who have dedicated their time to pour into these students – guiding them, encouraging them, and walking with them as they prepare to go.

Would you join us in prayer?

Pray for these students and leaders as they prepare to go – that they would walk in boldness, humility, and deep dependence on the Lord. Pray for the people they will encounter, that hearts would be ready to receive the gospel. And pray that God would continue to call and send workers into His harvest, perhaps even from this very group.

Let's go VSM!





Can You Hear Me Now?

Kelly Williams

Do you remember that commercial on TV from a few years ago? The guy was in different places asking, "Can you hear me now?" I find myself saying that sometimes on phone calls when the connection is bad.

Over the past few years, I have been convicted about really listening to people when they talk. I've watched videos about things not to do in a conversation with someone. Like, don't interrupt, don't try to draw the conversation back to you, and don't walk away in the middle of a conversation with someone without a polite goodbye. I will add another one: don't pick up your phone and start scrolling while they are talking! Do you have the gift of listening?

Is it a gift or is it something we can all learn and do better? If we want to build relationships with people so that we can tell them about Jesus, we have to be better listeners. How valued I feel when someone really listens to what I'm saying. Wouldn't people we are building relationships with be more apt to listen to you tell about your relationship with Jesus if they know you have listened to them in the past?

Wouldn't a person to whom no one listens feel invisible and unimportant? To Jesus, they are not invisible or unimportant, so they should not be those things to us. In my last blog post, I wrote about how to love others better. I don't think there is a better way to show Christ's love than by truly listening to others as Christ listens to us.

One of the greatest attributes of God to me is that He is always there and always listening when we call on His name. He knows our name and He knows our voice. Isn't that wonderful? I can pick out Ken's voice in a group of thousands, I believe, because I've listened to him for over 50 years. Do you recognize the voice of God when He speaks to you? If you struggle with that, perhaps spending more time with Him in Bible study and prayer will help you discern His voice from your own thoughts.

In John 10, the Scriptures tell us about the Good Shepherd. It says, *Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.*

So, are you listening? I encourage you to really listen to people when they are talking. Don't do so just to jump in with your own stories, but to really hear where their heart is and what they may need from you. And I encourage you to know your Father's voice and obey His commands.

Prayer: Father, please help me to be present when having a conversation with others. Help me to listen with the love of Jesus, readily available to pray for that person and tell them about Jesus when the Holy Spirit prompts me to do so. Help me to spend more time with you so that I can discern your voice and leading.

Master's Builders at Daniel Springs Camp

On March 2nd, The Master's Builders were finally able to come together again to begin work for the 2026 season. Because of the January ice storm, they were unable to come together for their Annual Retreat, usually scheduled for the last week of January. Heavy ice accumulation on trees and electric lines caused loss of electricity for more than a week to Daniel Springs Camp, and most of the area south and east of Carthage. The Builders usually enjoy having a few days of fun and relaxation together before jumping headlong into the building season, but this year they had to "jump right in"! It was so good to finally be together and catch up with dear friends in The Master's Builders "family."

There were many work projects needed at Daniel Springs Camp, not only because of the storm damage but also because of new state regulations that each camp must have in place before the 2026 camp season starts. The Master's Builders continue to praise God for being blessed with the ability to come together and serve in this ministry. This camp typically serves over 1,850 kids, students, and adults during the summer camp season, and The Master's Builders consider it a privilege to work at the camp each year in preparation for the busy camp season.

The first day or two of work involved demolition work in one of the small cabins that has not been used in many, many years. The Builders began tearing out all the sheetrock, shower stalls, commodes, and old wiring in the cabin and then went back in and began framing the walls and putting in new wiring so that the power could be restored. Insulation will have to be put in before the work can continue in the cabin, but The Builders got it as far as they could for this visit. Doors for stalls were also made and will be installed later. The men then separated into three crews, some continuing to work on several buildings that lost electrical wiring during the storm, some that began cutting 2x6" boards to add extensions to approximately 300 bunk beds across the camp that must be raised 3½" to 5½". These bunks must be raised to meet new state height requirements to enable storage under the bunks instead of next to the bunks or in the aisles. Walkways must remain clear in the cabins. While one crew cut the boards, another crew attached the extensions to the legs of each bed. There are still several cabins that will need these improvements to be implemented later this year.

There are still lots of limbs and trees down across the camp that will need to be moved and cleaned up before the camp season starts. Camp Director, Jason Prewitt, could surely use some help from church groups, youth groups,

and anyone who has a workday to spare. If your church or youth group needs a project, or if the Lord leads you to volunteer to help in this way, please contact Jason Prewitt at the camp.

The Master's Builders had 13 builders helping with this job. These included the



group's newest and youngest members, John and Kelsey Gradberg, of Kilgore, TX. This young couple took a week of vacation from their jobs

to join in on this work. The Master's Builders love and appreciate this young couple who love the Lord and love serving Him in this ministry. Kelsey is a strong "retired" Marine (because we understand once a Marine always a Marine) and John is tall! The men call John "519" (because he is 6'7") or "Ladder" (because he doesn't need one!). What a great help they are to the group and a huge blessing to all they meet! They bring fun and fellowship and certainly "liven up" the group of mostly "old folks"! Thank you, Lord, for sending them to The Master's Builders!

The Builders would like to thank the churches that supplied three of the evening meals during the two-week stay: Bethel Baptist Church, Clayton, TX; Ramah Baptist Church of Tenaha; and Old Center Baptist of Tenaha. The food was delicious, and the fellowship was sweet. Thank you! Thank you!

The Master's Builders' currently scheduled 2026 jobs are:

- April 7-21 – Stoneridge Baptist Camp, Smithville, AR
- May 4-15 – Camp Garwood, Van Buren, MO
- June 1-12 – Jacksonville College, Jacksonville, TX (This job will be job #200, if the Lord tarries, and they are planning to celebrate! More to come on that.)
- Sept. 14-25 – Daniel Springs Camp, Gary, TX

October is still open and can be switched with the next visit to Daniel Springs Camp if another need arises.

If you are near any of these jobs or live close, come by and visit or even work with this group for the day. You will enjoy it! Information and pictures will be available on Facebook during each of the jobs, so be sure to follow The Master's Builders (arbor logo) and "Like" them on Facebook. That way you can pray for the group and keep up with the day-to-day antics.

If you have questions about The Master's Builders ministry, or if your church has building needs, contact Mike Green at (972) 935-3877, David Axe at (903) 918-0702, or Eddie Sikes at (479) 462-1675.

Nelda Malone, Reporter

Join Us for Seminary Scholarship Sunday May 17, 2026

Philip Attebery, BMA Seminary President

The Lord has been especially good to BMA Seminary during the current academic year. Part of that goodness has been a 40% increase in enrollment over the previous year. With such increase, the need for scholarship funding to help students has also increased. We are grateful to those who have been faithful to support our scholarship programs.

The BMA Seminary Board of Trustees has designated Sunday, May 17, 2026, as Seminary Scholarship Sunday. We ask you to consider joining us by praying and giving on this Sunday, or another Sunday of your choice.

Please join us in prayer for our 2026 class of graduates. Our commencement exercises are scheduled for May 16. Please pray that our graduates, their families, and future ministries will clearly follow God's leading. Thank the Lord for how He has provided for each student's needs

during their time of studies.

Please join us on Seminary Scholarship Sunday by giving to support the financial needs of future graduating classes. As you well know, it seems like costs have risen for everything. This is true even for our students, who need funds for both daily living and educational expenses. Well-equipped seminary graduates should be prepared to serve well as pastors, missionaries, disciple makers, lay leaders, and faithful followers of Christ.

Donations collected in recognition of Seminary Scholarship Sunday are designated for helping meet students' educational expenses. Consider these expressions of gratitude from a few of our students. "I am beyond thankful for the generous contributions that each of the BMA churches have made to the Seminary Sunday collection ... it reduced the financial burden both on my family

and on our church at this time." Another recently shared, "I cannot express how much of a blessing this scholarship has been.... You are taking part in a great work, which is equipping pastors to faithfully proclaim the Word and shepherd God's people.... I pray that God will use your support and my training to further His kingdom, edify His people, and see many souls come to Him. I thank God for your help and support." Also, "Thank you for your investment in my preparation for ministry. This scholarship greatly eases the financial burden of seminary and allows me to focus more fully on my studies, spiritual formation, and service to the church."

For more information about the 2026 Seminary Scholarship Sunday, please contact the President's Office by phone at (903) 586-2501 or email to president@bmats.edu.

See the Difference at CBC

Jeremy Langley, CBC President

Choosing a college is one of the most important decisions a student will make, and I believe there is no substitute for experiencing a campus in person. At Central Baptist College, a campus visit is more than just a tour. It is a personalized opportunity to see firsthand what makes our community so special.

When prospective students and their families visit CBC, they are not simply walking through buildings. They are stepping into a place where lives are being transformed. Our campus tours are designed to provide a meaningful and individualized look at campus life, academics, and the Christ-centered mission that guides everything we do. Each visit allows students to ask questions, meet faculty and staff, and begin to envision what their future could look like at CBC.

One of my favorite parts of a campus visit is the opportunity to personally meet many of our prospective students. Whenever possible, I enjoy welcoming visitors into my office, hearing their stories, and learning about their goals. These conversations are a reminder of why we do what we do. At CBC, our students are not just numbers. They are individuals with a calling, and we are committed to helping them pursue it.

A visit to campus also provides a glimpse into the relationships that define the CBC experience. From the interaction between students and faculty to the sense of community felt across campus, there is something unique about being here in person that cannot be fully captured online.

I encourage any student considering Central Baptist College to schedule a visit. Come walk our campus, meet our people, and experience the difference for yourself. I believe you will quickly see that CBC is more than a place to earn a degree. It is a place to grow, to belong, and to prepare for what God has called you to do.

Visit cbc.edu/visit to schedule your tour today. We also welcome group visits. To arrange a group tour, please contact our Admissions team at (501) 329-6873.

Baptist Medical Missions International

Angela Rice, BMA Global Short-Term Missions Director

Baptist Medical Missions International will be serving alongside BMA Changemaker missionary, Bro. David Marroquin, in Guatemala, March 23-30. Brother David has strategically planned for our medical team to follow the Everlasting Smiles Shoebox Ministry, focusing our efforts in the Petén region.

In this area, Brother David is leading a revitalization effort among local churches. BMMI will partner with these churches by setting up medical clinics to serve their communities, offering hope through free healthcare.

Each person who attends the clinics will not only receive medical care, but will also be personally introduced to the local pastor and church, and hear about the love of Jesus.

Our team is committed to providing free healthcare, medications, and eyeglasses – helping open doors for pastors to build relationships and become a trusted presence in their communities.

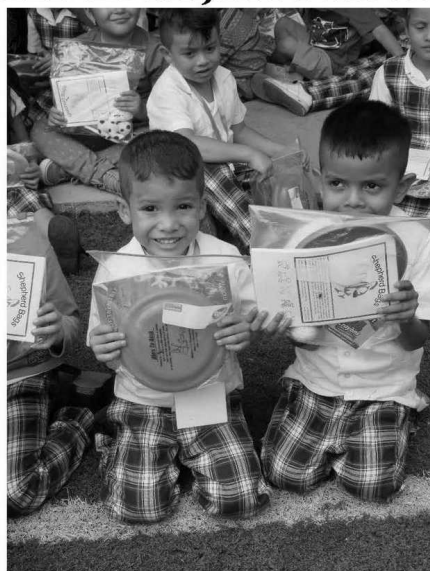
We invite you to be part of what God is doing through BMMI. Would you prayerfully consider partnering with us – through prayer, financial support, or by helping send

needed supplies: such as artificial tears eye drops, sunglasses, and reading glasses. Every gift and every prayer helps bring both physical healing and eternal hope to those who need it most. Together, we can make an impact that reaches far beyond a single clinic.

Learn more about BMMI and how to give online at bmaglobal.org/bmmi. Or send your donation to BMMI, PO Box 878, Conway, AR 72034.



NEED A PROJECT FOR VBS?



"EIM – Shepherd's Bag Ministry"

By giving to EIM's Shepherd's Bag Ministry™ we can reach children around the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For more information contact Fonda Norris, EIM Shepherd's Bag Coordinator at: 870-226-3626 or fnorris@eimworldwide.org and visit our website at www.eimworldwide.org/ourministries

• From BROTHERHOOD page 1 •

Baptist Publishing House Executive Director Jordan Tew shared, "This is a great example of how our association can work together to support the teaching ministries of local churches worldwide."

A free downloadable version of *Building Men of Faith* is now available at baptistpublishinghouse.com/churchresources. Printed copies will debut at the upcoming BMA National

Meeting in Conway, AR, and they will be available for purchase following the meeting.

Churches are encouraged to establish a Brotherhood auxiliary as part of their men's ministry and utilize this resource to disciple and strengthen men in their congregations.

To learn more about the BMA National Brotherhood and its ministry, visit bmabrotherhood.org.

BMA Pastors Conference

Join us for the BMA Pastors Conference at the BMAA Annual Meeting. Sponsored by Healthy Church Solutions, the conference will convene on Wednesday, April 22, at 9:00 a.m.

The focus:

- Healthy Souls
- Healthy Men
- Healthy Rhythms

You'll hear from an incredible panel covering topics of healthy spirituality, healthy bodies, healthy relationships, and how to

weather discouragement. Panel participants include Ben Kingston, Bryan Atwood, Angelyn McMurray, and Benjamin Barker.

There will also be:

- A session on healthy men with PJ Noland.
- A BMA Brotherhood update on new men's discipleship resource.
- A powerful testimony on sabbath and sabbatical from Richard Smith.

Pastoral ministry requires more than strategy. It

requires health. We believe healthy leaders build healthy churches, and this conference is designed to encourage, equip, and strengthen you for the long haul.

We hope to see you there!



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.

Poirier Newsletter

We want to say thanks to all of you who pray continually for the French language ministry in Quebec, Haiti, Africa and Dominican Republic.

Quebec

The work is growing way more than we expected. For Levis Quebec, the work has been growing with four new souls who trusted Christ for their salvation. We have six candidates for baptism. We also have many who are involved in our discipleship program. We get new people almost every Sunday – sometimes three or four. Most of our visitors are immigrants from Africa. We have been running over sixty in attendance for the past few months. We are expanding the church monthly meal into the sanctuary with tables and chairs. We are glad the Lord allows us to have all those who come to hear the message of Jesus. We don't have all the programs that many churches have, but we have the message of salvation every time we meet.

Praise the Lord for all His blessings to those who are obedient to his commands to evangelize the place where God has called them. Our winter has been hard on our soul-winning visitation outreach. Temperatures of -20 °C to -50 °C make it very hard for getting people to come out, even if I offer free hot chocolate. But hey, the Lord did not say it was going to be easy. One Friday morning I was out with a brother and as I knocked and the lady came to the door I could hardly speak it was so cold. It was time to stop and report to church. Can't wait for summer.

Dominican Republic

Praise the Lord that our Haitian family who needed help to survive each day are blessed by the generosity of a certain donor and are spiritually lifted by the sermons they get every week. On one occasion with our Dominican ministry, a lady from our motel was in contact with me and Ruth and showed much interest in the Lord Jesus Christ. She is not saved but she always says when we come next time she wants us to explain the new birth that all Christians talked about. Pray for the salvation of Iris Batista Rodriguez. In another group ministry in Spanish, our first candidate who was saved a year ago just got baptized and is now serving in a good Baptist church in Saint Pedro de Marcoris. Another,



who was saved a year and a half ago, is serving faithfully in Santo Domingo with Pastor John Rivera. A few months ago Ruth spoke to about 150 ladies at a meeting in Boca Chica. More than half were not saved, and there was a good report. They all want Ruth to be back next year. The Lord has used us tremendously in reaching

souls to Christ in the Dominican Republic. We pray that we will be able to go again and see the Lord's work progress.

Benin Africa

Our missionary Prince is looking for a place to have church meetings which is more proper for the congregation. At this time he is under a type of over-hang of a building. There are around 40 who meet every Sunday morning and the Lord has been blessing the missionary with good dependable people.

Ivory Coast

The Lord blessed the church in number and in spiritual progression in the service of the Lord. They had five baptisms last month and many are enrolled in discipleship program.

Haiti

Life as you know is not easy. Every day is a challenge, especially for those going to the hospital or even walking to church. Many are staying home for fear of being beaten or killed. One young man of our church in Segur got beaten badly and after a week, he is still in the hospital with serious head injuries. The church is strong and still preaching and trying to reach souls for the Lord.

Prayer Request

Thank you for all the prayers and sacrifice you do for us. We have been blessed by the Lord in this capacity to serve Him. I have a personal request and it is about a tooth. I have a broken tooth and it is an important one for chewing food. We don't have insurance and it will cost \$6,400 U.S. for the treatment. I have no choice in the matter, the infection has already set in and on Wednesday they will operate and take what's left of the tooth and begin the process of implanting a replacement. I did not know it would cost so much. I trust the Lord to provide.

God bless you and keep you safe as you serve Him.



Deaths

Claudia Jean Lea, 74, went to be with her Lord and Savior on March 10 at her home in Orange, Texas. She was married to Dr. James "Jim" Lea for 55 years. Together they faithfully served as pastor and pastor's wife in churches across Missouri, Texas, Arkansas, and Kansas for over 50 years of ministry. Claudia's strong and beautiful singing voice greatly enriched worship services throughout the years.