

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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

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BMA National Meeting Emphasizes Gospel Partnership and Multiplication

Jeff Herring, Executive Editor Baptist Trumpet
via *Baptist Trumpet*

The 77th annual meeting of the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) of America was held April 21-23 at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, AR. Messengers gathered under the theme “Until Then...” from Acts 1:8, focusing on the ongoing mission of the church as it faithfully proclaims the gospel until Christ’s return.

According to the final Enrollment & Finance Committee report, 164 churches were represented, with 338 messengers and 166 visitors registered, for a total registered attendance of 504. The meeting’s Minute Fund offering totaled \$4,705. Actual attendance exceeded that number, as many attended without registering.

The meeting began Tuesday evening with a Missions Celebration that highlighted the BMA’s global impact and emphasized the importance of developing indigenous leadership. Speakers noted that the goal of missions is not long-term dependency, but a lasting gospel presence through trained local leaders who can carry the work forward in their own communities — not just extending reach, but deepening impact. Testimonies from missionaries serving in various regions reinforced the importance of relational ministry, discipleship, and church planting.

Leaders emphasized that missionaries serve as catalysts rather than the final product — helping establish works that can stand on their own. Sending was also described as a shared effort, not a solo act, as churches partner together in prayer, giving, and engagement. Throughout the evening, a consistent theme emerged: the gospel advances most effectively through multiplication.

Following the Missions Celebration,

BMA of America President Charles Johnson delivered the President’s Message from Acts 1:4-11, challenging messengers to consider what believers are called to do “until then” — until Christ returns. He pointed to the example of the early church, emphasizing diligence in prayer, dependence on the Holy Spirit, and faithful proclamation of the gospel. (Video of the President’s Message can be viewed at vimeo.com/1185342546.)

During the first business session, the officers were introduced, principles of biblical conduct and cooperation were emphasized, and the 77th annual meeting was officially declared in session. Five churches petitioned for membership and were received into the association:

- Bloomer Baptist Church, Charleston, AR — Pastor Michael Sanchez
- New Hope Baptist Church, Bloomberg, TX — Pastor Dr. David Baxley
- New Mission Baptist of Hope Haitian Church, Tampa, FL — Pastor Gesper Paulte
- Harvest Acres Baptist Church, Carthage, TX — Pastor Saul Petty
- The Church at 242, Conroe, TX — Pastor Dennis Parish

The Moral Action report was also presented during the first business session. Executive Director Dr. John Adams encouraged messengers to pray for national leaders, men and women in the military, the people of Iran, Israel, the protection of the nation, and revival. He reminded messengers that God rules over the nations and is in control.

Wednesday morning included several auxiliary gatherings alongside the national meeting schedule. The National WMA Women’s Conference met at Central Baptist College, emphasizing the theme of disciple-making and encouraging women to invest in others through intentional discipleship. The BMA National Brotherhood also met, continuing its focus on equipping men with practical, biblically grounded resources to strengthen families, churches, and communities.

The Pastors’ Conference, sponsored by Healthy Church Solutions, focused

• See BMA page 5 •

Civil Air Patrol Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth Pollock Retires

Scott Carson, BMAA Chaplaincy

Dr. Pollock retired from the U.S. Navy in 2001, after 27 years of combined active and reserve service. In February 2005, while driving home from the church he was pastoring, he heard an advertisement for the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and soon joined the squadron located in Tupelo, MS.

Shortly after joining, Chaplain Pollock began his CAP career by serving in conjunction with the Mississippi State Guard during the CAP’s Hurricane Katrina recovery mission.

Chaplain Pollock stated that he enjoyed every involvement with the CAP. Interacting with cadets and senior members, with their various backgrounds and abilities. Training and real-time missions always brought him the most pleasure. Chaplain Pollock stated that even in the toughest times there was broad satisfaction because every person performed to the best of their abilities.

In his tenure with the CAP, he served three years as the Wing Chaplain where his professionalism grew the most by learning the bigger purpose and mission of the CAP. It was during this time that he felt moved to become more involved and with the pursuit of additional training offered through chaplain courses and workshops, these acquired skill sets were used to expand his ministry within both the CAP and his church.

Chaplain Pollock describes the CAP as one of our nation’s

• See CAP page 7 •

2026 Legacy Missionary Buddy Johnson

via *Baptist Trumpet*

The life and experiences of Buddy Johnson read like the script of a film, marked by hardship, faith, sacrifice, and obedience.

Buddy Johnson was born on Christmas Day, 1942, in Nacogdoches, Texas, during the uncertainty of World War II. His early years were shaped by difficulty. While his father served overseas as a merchant marine, a tornado destroyed the family’s home. Though they survived, the experience left a lasting



impression of both trauma and divine protection.

When his father returned from war, he surrendered his life fully to Christ and committed himself to ministry. That decision would shape Buddy’s entire worldview. Raised as the son of a pastor in rural East Texas, Buddy grew up traveling dirt roads to small country churches, learning early that ministry required grit, humility, and perseverance.

• See JOHNSON page 7 •

State Missions

Dear BMAMO Churches,

I certainly hope this article finds you doing well and enjoying your relationship with Jesus Christ.

We're almost done with this series of articles on discipleship on a very basic level, but I'm going to divert for this month to share with you an article that will also be in the Trumpet, as I have been asked to summarize what I shared on the panel at the BMA national meeting. Because of this opportunity as your Missouri Missions Director, Bro. Larry Barker and I have been spending more time together and I have been exposed to some tremendous training called the "Church Multiplication Workshop" (more on that at the close of this article). As a result of spending more time together, I have shared personal anecdotes and stories from my walk and relationship with the Lord, and that resulted in the opportunity to speak on this panel. Bro. Larry asked me to share two experiences that have come to the forefront of my spiritual walk since December four years ago.

I was asked by him to host a prayer retreat with Missouri leaders. If you have never had an opportunity to go through a prayer retreat, I highly recommend it. During the retreat, Bro. Larry very simply breaks down the word PRAY as an acrostic. He speaks for 45 minutes on each letter and then asks you to go out, either in a room (if it's inclement weather) or outside (if it's good weather) and spend 45 minutes to an hour with the Lord participating in that specific element of prayer.

- P stands for praise
- R stands for repent
- A stands for ask
- Y stands for yield.

I have always been trained and taught starting in Central Baptist College to have a quiet time with the Lord. A few years into my job as a youth director at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, a man named Keith Ragsdale took me through a book with

two or three others called "In His Presence." This was a life-changing experience, and I have used this format of seeking the Lord's face ever since. The problem, however, is this particular season of my life four years ago in that December at this retreat, in our first 45 minute session after Bro. Larry talked about praise, I was supposed to be praising the Lord. However, the Lord was taking me to the woodshed. It was quite obvious that I was in no condition to praise the Lord because I had made a mockery out of this quiet time. I had reduced it to a two-minute spiel, that I no longer meant or allowed to usher me into His presence. So, my first session was repentance instead of praise. In a very practical sense, the retreat that year is still paying dividends, because when I broke in my spirit to the One who had broken Himself on the cross for my sins, I realized that He was worthy of a sincere seeking of His presence, of a sincere accounting of my life before Him each day, of a sincere pursuit of His presence by a child that did not just mail it in or fake a quiet time.

Instead, I was to mimic what King David said: *O God, thou art My God; early will I seek thee: My soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is.* (Psalm 63:1)

Well, to keep this article as brief as possible, that resulted in a very vibrant quiet time from that day forward that turned into a conviction to pray for every child that attended Bethel Baptist Church, that resulted in adding all of the parents' names, that turned into me enlisting my wife, that resulted in us spending 45 minutes a day in prayer to our King, that turned into a stronger marriage.

The other topic that I spoke about on the panel was journaling. The funny thing along those lines is that my experience has been that most men recoil at journaling and do not believe it to be necessary. I'm not here to tell you that journaling is like prayer in that God expects us to do it as much as it has become

Financial Report BMA of Missouri Missions April 2026

<u>Checking Account</u>	
Balance March 31	\$ 22,581.99
<u>Income</u>	
Missions	\$ 3,042.92
Insurance, Garwood	<u>4,648.34</u>
Total Income	\$ <u>7,691.26</u>
Total Available	\$ 30,273.25
<u>Expenses</u>	
Director, salary	\$ 450.00
Secretary, salary	200.00
Juan Fernandez, support	2,333.33
Brad Miller, website	39.95
BMA Annual Meeting	<u>216.54</u>
Total Expenses	\$ <u>(3,239.82)</u>
Balance April 30	\$ 27,033.43
<u>BMAMS Revolving Loan Investment</u>	
Balance March 31	\$ 125,648.56
Interest	<u>1,394.18</u>
Balance April 30	\$ <u>127,042.74</u>
Total in All Accounts April 30	\$ 154,076.17

an amazing tool and dumping of notating the Spirit's station for me to get hurts, feelings, hopes, expectations and ideas on paper so that I don't lose them. The simple truth is that I was given a journaling book in 2003 and I made an entry the very next day and my next entry was made in 2017. Yes, you heard that right – 14 years had passed! But if you look at my journal today, very few days pass before a new entry is made, and many times I make daily entries.

So to sum it all up: prayer is extremely biblical and a commanded thing to do. It is a very good barometer of where you're at in your relationship with the Lord and how powerful you are in His presence and with His presence. Journaling is more of an exhilarating exercise

movement and influence upon your life. What a blessing it's going to be to those that you leave behind someday.

In closing, I'm going to announce at our Missions Symposium that we will be hosting at the Meramec Retreat Center a "Church Multiplication Workshop" led by Bro. Larry Barker that will give each person in our Missouri association the same opportunity I had in August 2025 – to be trained in this excellent material on how to help established churches to make disciples that make disciples. Dates: September 17, 18 and 19 – more details to follow. Please make plans to attend.

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



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

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying: "Who should I send? Who will go for us?" I said: "Here I am. Send me." (Isaiah 6:8)

PRAISES!

My parents moved from Houston the last part of February, so we praise the Lord for sending us two new faithful laborers for the kingdom.

Our prayer network has increased in number and frequency. We continue seeking the Lord for meaningful and spiritual connections among our contacts. We have been able to build rapport with some new families in areas of Hazelwood, Chesterfield and now Kirkwood. If you would like to join us simply text, "LetsPray," to (618) 581-8056.

Sunday Morning

We have been gathering at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday at 920 Lindsay Lane, Florissant, to establish

• See BELÉN page 3 •

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Camp Garwood



Greetings from Camp Garwood!

We have been very busy this spring at camp, which included a few water line repairs.

The Men's Retreat was a great weekend. Great food and fellowship, but even better were the spiritual challenges issued and the breakout sessions. Next year's retreat is already set for April 23-24. Men, please mark your calendar now and set aside that weekend to join us!

The Master's Builders are currently at camp building a Noah's ark play area. The ark is across the road from the basketball court, and we expect it to be a busy place during camp week.

The Builders are also building a gaga pit and carpet ball tables to add to our recreation activities.

These men and their wives built the new nurse building last year and are such a blessing to be around. My schedule is too busy to stay at camp while they are here like last year. It's Abby's senior year and we are busy getting through her final school days.

Abby has designed our camp shirt again this year. Be sure to check it out on our Facebook group and be sure to get your church registered by June 21. There will also be a list there showing who needs to complete the adult screening this year. Background checks are due every third year for anyone 18 or older planning to spend the night at camp.

Please notice, churches are required to send one adult male and one adult female to camp to sponsor her campers. Per the camp rules sponsors must be 20 years old.

Camp is July 27-31, and our theme this year is "Perilous Times." It is taken from 2 Tim 3:1: *This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.* This is a fitting theme for the day. Praise God, our confidence doesn't depend on elected officials or the latest news. Our confidence, our hope is in Christ and Christ alone. I'm looking forward to hearing Bro. Larry Barker present the gospel.

Bro. Chris Polk



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• From BELÉN page 2 •

a time, place and purpose for our contacts to gather. We had 16 in attendance during our Easter service!

Sunday Afternoon 3:00 p.m.

The Lord has brought Jose and Angie to start a new Bible study called First Principles. We praise the Lord for them. Every Sunday they make time in their schedule to go over the lesson, ask questions, pray for each other and plan an outreach for their children and grandchildren to hear the gospel. Jose is interested in participating in our leadership training with BMA cohort, and the Lord has touched him to share the gospel with his family members and his customers in the restaurant.

Every time we get together for Bible study there is a strong sense of commitment and expectation on how God is going to lead this relationship. This is the first time we have among our contacts a family which is established and has a strong understanding of their need of the gospel for the whole family.

Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.

Another First Principles Bible study is carried out in Chesterfield at Nahun and Ermelinda's home. Pray for Nahun as he starts the leadership training. I hope soon he can lead a new mission in this area.

Before and after our Bible study at Jeronimo's home, I do prayer walk around this trailer park. I met with an older gentleman who is planning to move back to his country of origin. He offered to sell us his trailer home to be used for our missionary work in the area. He is asking \$8,000. Obviously, there is going to be a large amount of time and finances to be invested in this project. At this point we are depending on God's leading during our coaching session with Bro. Elvis and Jake Norman will be discussed more in detail.

Also, Lindsay Lane (our mother/sending church) is about to have their church van for sale. We are planning to get together to discuss different matters, such as insurance, price, etc. We could use this transportation for summer activities with children and families who can't be here in the area due to the lack of transportation.

Home Bible Study

Florissant, Hazelwood, Kirkwood, Jennings, St. Ann, and Clarkson Valley. We are blessed to have open door in these cities where we get to connect with families to share the gospel. By

• See BELÉN page 8 •



▪ Updates from Our Churches ▪

Abundant Life in Christ, Charleston

We rejoice in the baptism of Amanda Sherrell during April. She had made a profession one Sunday afternoon following services several months ago. We also rejoice in the baptisms of Mary and Trace Pemberton, and in the profession of faith of Tyler Bankhead.

Rodney Dunlap, Pastor

Lower Doe Run, Ellington

Blessed reminder! Christ arose! He's alive! We saw 11 visitors for Easter service last month.

God is so good to allow us this great freedom in Christ to celebrate in the greatest nation in the world. Our hearts are burdened for countless souls who struggle today, especially in war-torn countries where they cannot worship Christ freely.

We (pastor and reporter) were privileged recently to experience a worship service with our missionaries in Zambia. We met the believers in three services. What a blessing. It was a little difficult to get there on their rock 'n roll roads that at times were only wide enough to get the vehicle (the Beast) through. Prayers for Mickeal and Sharon as they spread the gospel of Jesus throughout that part of the world. Meanwhile, we have the same responsibility to tell our neighbors and friends.

Until we meet.

*Melvin Meade, Pastor
Carolyn Meade, Reporter*

Bethel, Sikeston

Greetings to all from Bethel, Sikeston.

Our teenagers put on a skit

Easter morning, simple but very informative and to the point about our Savior's resurrection! They did an excellent job. We pray you all had a very blessed Easter (Resurrection Day)! We had a good turnout that Sunday morning with lots of visitors. We are praying they let the message soak in and will give their lives to Jesus if they are lost.

Bro. Les Cantrell filled the pulpit with a wonderful message as Bro. Billy is still recovering from surgery on his foot and can't put any weight on it for another week or so. Please keep him in your prayers.

During our evening service, Bro. Mike and Sis. Ruth Poirier were with us. Bro. Mike told us a little about the work they are doing in various places in Africa and showed some slides of their church services where people were being saved and baptized. Then he preached the gospel. We are always thankful to see and hear from them and all of our missionaries.

Bro. Joe McElroy has been teaching us on the Wednesday nights that Bro. Billy is unable to be with us. He has had a great Bible study each Wednesday night.

A few of our members went to the Men's Retreat at Camp Garwood and reported a great weekend and good fellowship.

On the 26th during the morning service, Brett Whitlock came forward, gave his testimony and requested to join the church by statement and be baptized. He was baptized the following week during Sunday evening service. He was welcomed as always with hugs and handshakes.

By the time you get this news, Mother's Day will be over. Hope all you mothers had a blessed and happy day!

*Billy Davis, Pastor
Joan Wood, Reporter*

Kewanee, New Madrid

Hello from KMBC!

We had a great revival in March with Bro. David Dickson. A lot of hearts were stirred by God through his messages. On March 22nd, Bro. Jimmy Walker, missionary to the Philippines, shared his ministry and preached our morning message at Kewanee.

We had our annual Easter egg hunt on April 4th. Although it was interrupted by rain, the kids still had a great time making crafts, reading, eating snacks and cookies and most importantly, learning about the love of Jesus Christ.

We had great attendance on Easter Sunday. We pray that seeds were sown through Sunday School, our song service, and the wonderful message brought by Bro. Dan that morning.

On April 25th, Kewanee held a ladies conference with around 170 in attendance. Sis. Cherie Nettles was our speaker. She is a Christian comedienne, author, and very gifted speaker. MTC Worship provided our special music. A lot of hearts were touched that day. We also had a silent auction for benefit of Camp Garwood during the conference.

Bro. Dan gave the church a special message last month. Our average Sunday School attendance increased from 33 to 76. We definitely feel the Lord working in our midst.

We have also had six new members join the church these past couple of months. We thank God for His blessings on our church and give Him all the honor and glory!

Until next month,
Let go and let God!

*Dan Wisely, Pastor
Debbie Nowell, Reporter*

Landmark, DeSoto

Hello to all from Landmark Baptist Church, DeSoto. Hope God is blessing you during this temperamental spring.

We had our 5th Sunday potluck dinner on March 29th, and everyone had a good time of fellowship and chowing down. That Sunday evening we observed the Lord's Supper, which for me is always a time of reflection on God's eternal forgiveness and a reminder of the necessity of forgiving others as He has forgiven us.

The very next Sunday was Easter! Another great day of celebrating Christ's triumph over sin and death! We had a good number of visitors (including some of my family). Bro. Len presented a very stirring message on God's great gift of salvation. It was a real blessing!

Please keep Bro. Len in your prayers as he faces some aggravating health issues and is trying to take care of them one at a time. He's working at staying well enough for gallbladder surgery in June. He and Sis. Rebecca have been with us for two years now, and they continue to heap us with blessings. God bless them for putting up with all of us!

Sis. Lorrie Causey is going through another battle with cancer. She is very upbeat and knows God is with her for every step of this journey. Please remember her in your prayers, along with several other members who are facing tough trials and tribulations.

In spite of troubles, we remain filled up with joy and love just by being God's chil-

dren. We sure do have a great Daddy!

Until next time, may God continue to fill you up with joy and love too!

*Len Young, Pastor
Barbara Williams, Reporter*

Ozark Heights, Potosi

Greetings to our brothers and sisters in Christ. We hope this message finds you healthy and spiritually strong.

It has been a busy season as we recently completed our revival and homecoming services. Bro. Scott Welty preached during our revival from Wednesday, April 29th, through Saturday, May 2nd. We were blessed by powerful messages and the presence of the Holy Spirit, accompanied by wonderful music each evening. We are grateful to the many churches represented and to those who provided such uplifting music. We were blessed to see decisions made each night at the altar. Please pray for those renewing their walk with the Lord.

I would be remiss if I didn't tell you that I believe Bro. Scott preached one of the best revivals that I have been blessed to attend. Strong Biblical truths in his messages were preached with power and challenged us to stand strong against Satan's lies and dangerous ideas of the world today.

On Sunday, May 3rd, we celebrated our 64th annual homecoming. Bro. Dwight Petete delivered the message, which was followed by a testimony service and a fellowship meal. We concluded the afternoon with music provided by Riven.

We are now preparing for Vacation Bible School (VBS), scheduled for the evenings of June 15th through June 17th. We will conclude the week on June 18th at the Desloge Pool. We hope you will join us.

May God bless and keep you.

Yours in Christ Jesus.
*Dwight Petete, Pastor
Gary Gilliam, Reporter*

~ Upcoming Events ~

Revival – May 17-20; 7:00 p.m.; Mt. Olive, Salem; Lee Miller, evangelist

GMA Retreat – June 5-6; Camp Garwood

VBS – June 15-18; Ozark Heights, Potosi

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

Jesus Camp – July 19-22 kiddie camp; July 22-25 teen camp; Meramec Retreat Center

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

Send event info to mmbpaper@gmail.com.

Oak Hill, Alton

HELLO to all from Oak Hill!

Last month I made an error by reporting the wrong date when Bro. Ed baptized Hay-

ley McClanhan. The correct date was February 22.

Erica Smith joined Oak Hill on April 26 by statement. She will soon have a son – on or around June 30. Kristi

Williams and Haley Roberts are in charge of giving Erica a baby shower in our fellowship hall on June 7 after our morning worship.

On May 3 Bro. Tom Foster,

Sr., turned 88 years old. He is one of the oldest members of our church.

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*

• From BMA page 1 •

on strengthening ministry leaders through an emphasis on Healthy Souls, Healthy Men, and Healthy Rhythms, encouraging pastors and ministry leaders toward long-term faithfulness and effectiveness. (Videos of the Pastors' Conference sessions — Healthy Souls, Healthy Men, and Healthy Rhythms — are available at vimeo.com/1186970867, vimeo.com/1186970866, and vimeo.com/1186970868.)

The Hispanic Baptist Missionary Association also gathered on Wednesday morning for a time of training and encouragement. Elvis Garcia, Hispanic Director of Church Planting and Ministry Coordinator for Hispanic People in the United States, along with other leaders, shared on developing indigenous leadership, strengthening theological formation within the local church, and equipping pastors for the unique realities of Hispanic ministry. Teaching also emphasized a stewardship approach to leadership, focusing on faithfulness, character, and multiplication.

Wednesday's schedule continued with departmental reports, followed by the Legacy Missionary Celebration and commissioning service. During the commissioning service, all BMA Global missionaries and staff gathered on stage as BMA Global Vice President Larry Barker led in a prayer of commissioning, asking God to continue using them as they carry the gospel around the world.

This year's Legacy Missionary Celebration honored Buddy Johnson and also included the recognition of Harold Morris, who was scheduled to be honored as a 2025 Legacy Missionary. Last year's Legacy service was canceled after Morris' son, John Morris, suffered a medical emergency as the service was beginning. Though no members of the Morris family were able to attend this year, BMA Global President Dr. John David Smith shared that John Morris is doing well. Harold Morris' legacy was celebrated for its lasting impact, particularly among Portuguese-speaking peoples in Brazil, and for his role in founding Harvest Gleaner Hour, now known as Lifeword, which proclaims the gospel daily in 175 languages around the world.

Buddy and Taffy Johnson were recognized as 2026 Legacy Missionaries for their decades of faithful missionary service and their commitment to training national leaders and planting churches in Mexico. Dr. Philip Attebery also shared that BMA Theological Seminary is establishing the Buddy Johnson Chair of Great Commission Studies in honor of Johnson's faithful service. (Videos honoring Buddy and Taffy Johnson and Harold and Lois Morris as Legacy missionaries can be viewed at vimeo.com/1185914833 and vimeo.com/1088169895, respectively, and the full Legacy service can be viewed at vimeo.com/1185357960.)

The Chaplaincy ministry was also highlighted during the commissioning service. BMA Global Chaplaincy Coordinator Dr. Scott Carson reported that the BMA currently has 17 endorsed chaplains serving in civic, corporate, institutional, and military roles. Chaplain Jeremy Miller, senior command chaplain for the Arkansas National Guard, emphasized that ministry often takes place outside the walls of churches, describing chaplaincy as an extension of the church into everyday life. He noted that the BMA may soon have no active chaplain serving in an active military component for the first time in its history and encouraged churches to consider sending men into this important area of service. Chaplaincy continues to provide opportunities for gospel ministry in hospitals, prisons, corporate settings, and among first responders.

Department reports reflected a unified emphasis on strengthening churches and expanding gospel reach. BMA Global highlighted ongoing efforts to develop leaders, plant churches, and expand ministry worldwide, reporting 1,952 churches, 560 church plants, and ministry presence in 76 countries,

The Meades Visit Zambia

Carolyn Meade

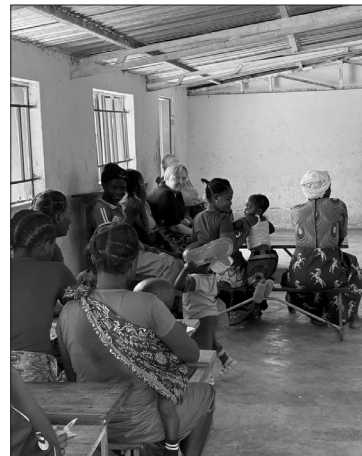
Ever since our daughter, Valarie, and her husband, Dale, returned from their trip last August, Melvin has felt a calling to visit and encourage Mickeal and Sharon Quillman. That vision came to fruition this April when Valarie helped us coordinate the trip and joined us as our "caregiver" for the journey.

While the long flights and travel were physically demanding, seeing Mickeal and Sharon at customs made it all worthwhile. After arriving on Saturday, we enjoyed a brief excursion on the Zambian River to see the sunset before resting for the busy days ahead.

On Sunday, we traveled to a village church. The landscape has changed significantly from drought to rain since last August, and the community is now praying for the rain to stop so they can harvest their corn. During the service, the worship was beautiful, featuring hymns in the Tango language and a choir. Melvin had the opportunity to preach with Bro. Dan



writing the teaching points on the wall with sidewalk chalk. On Thursday, Sis. Sharon continued the women's study with an application of Genesis 30.



interpreting, while I enjoyed holding the babies in the congregation.

The following days were filled with fellowship and ministry. On Tuesday, we returned to the village for Bible studies. Melvin and Mickeal led the men in outdoor classrooms, while Valarie led a session for the women on "How to Study the Bible," with Genny interpreting. I assisted by

Following the session we were able to distribute many of the baby clothes that had been donated through Caring Hearts. We made the return trip safely and were able to attend services at Lower Doe Run Baptist Church on Sunday, the 25th of April.

It has been a blessing to reconnect with the Quillmans and serve their community. Thank you for your continued thoughts and prayers.

along with more than 800 leaders currently being trained and more than 1,500 baptisms in the past year. Messengers were also encouraged to remain connected through the Association in order to strengthen and multiply these efforts, with additional details available in the full Global Impact Report at bmaglobal.org.

Messengers also approved BMA Global recommendations involving new missionaries and church planters. Mario Monroy was appointed as a ChangeMaker missionary to Spain; Jimmy and Julie Walker were elected as missionaries to the Philippines; Derrick and Michelle Bremer were elected as missionaries to France; and Morteza Amiri was appointed as a ChangeMaker missionary to Germany. In North America, Andrew Mineev was elected as a church planter to Atlanta, GA; Adreme Badru to Athens, GA; and Chase Roberts to Hazen, ND.

Lifeword reported continued growth in digital outreach, now sharing the gospel in 175 languages while expanding efforts to meet people where they are. With individuals spending an average of 2.5 hours per day on social media — and many turning to online platforms for answers to spiritual questions, including a significant number through TikTok — Lifeword emphasized its commitment to providing biblically grounded truth in those spaces. New initiatives include "Lifeword's Little Learners," a children's program, and "Awake My Soul" with Yalanda Merrell, a 3-5 minute morning devotional launching May 12 and airing Tuesday and Friday mornings. Viewers will also be able to sign up to go deeper through text-message study questions, a feature also being provided through the ongoing "Day by Day" devotional with Dr. Clif Johnson.

• See BMA page 7 •



Just Perhaps

Robin Tyler

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. (John 15:13) Shortly after Jesus gave these instructions to His disciples He laid down His life for those He loved. His heart was broken by the effects of sin. In the aftermath of Jesus's death and resurrection, and the gifting of the Holy Spirit, the gospel took off like wildfire. Jesus's disciples wanted the world to know about the great love He offered.

Who can fathom a love so deep? How do we wrap our head around it? We cannot. The obedience and sacrifice Jesus showed, leaving heaven to subject Himself to brutal cruelty and death for rebellious sinners such as ourselves, is more than we can comprehend. Try as we may to understand, we fall short in truly understanding His love.

Getting a glimpse of the magnitude and depth of God's love, in the timing and portions He reveals to us, we stand in awe. It should create a strong desire within us to return that love to Him and share that love with others. We are imperfect created beings. Try as we may, we will fall short of reciprocating His perfect love. In spite of our imperfections, God graciously gives us opportunities to do for Him what He has done for us. *This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.* (1 John 3:16) His love was put on full display on the cross. And we, broken as we are, are called to love as He so loved us.

Laying down our lives, accepting what was done on the cross for us, we are transformed. As a transformed being, we no longer live for ourselves but for the One who lives in us. By faith we grow into His likeness, sometimes slow and sometimes fast. Jesus laid down all of who He was in exchange for us to have an opportunity to be more than we could ever possibly be on our own. It's a gift and an opportunity to experience and know things otherwise impossible. *What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived – the things God has prepared for those who love him.* (1 Corinthians 2:9)

Because of our love for Him, there is joy in laying down things in our life that do not look like Him. We lay down things like pride, selfishness, bitterness, stealing, addictions, anger, anxiety, hate, lying, idols, excessiveness, fear, jealousy, cursing, immoral thoughts, an unforgiving heart, and other things that keep us in bondage to the evil one.

Because of His great love for us, we get to choose to take up things such as the belt of truth, time with family, love, the helmet of salvation, patience, the breastplate of righteousness, peace, humility, the shield of faith, a forgiving heart, the sword of the Spirit, time with God, feet ready to go and tell the gospel, feet ready to make disciples, and others.

Laying down and taking up things is not always easy. We are given the freedom to choose because we have a God who loves us that much. Great love and a broken heart for people is why Jesus died. 'Just Perhaps' a great love for God, with great love and a broken heart for people, became our 'Why' we choose to lay some things down and take some things up. What might happen?

Johnson Chair of Great Commission Studies

Philip Attebery, BMA Seminary President

The BMA Theological Seminary announced during the 2026 national meeting of the Baptist Missionary Association of America that the institution plans to create an academic chair in honor of long-time missionary, pastor, and BMA Seminary graduate Aubrey "Buddy" Johnson.

According to Dr. Philip Attebery, BMA Seminary President, institutions of higher education often use such "chairs" to provide perpetual financial income for a distinguished faculty member's salary. This is done by using interest generated from an endowment,

established at the requests of financial donors, to pay the chair's salary.

Creation of the Buddy Johnson Chair of Great Commission Studies will bless BMA Seminary by providing a consistent and dependable source of income to meet the financial needs of maintaining a professor to serve in the field of Christian Ministry.

Johnson's ministry philosophy has focused upon 2 Tim. 2:2, committing what he had learned to faithful men who can then teach others. That biblical philosophy is at the forefront of BMA

Seminary's focus to equip faithful believers in fulfilling the Great Commission of making disciple makers.

This will be one of the largest fund-raising efforts ever performed by BMA Seminary. Please be prayerful as we hope the Lord will lead donors to provide the estimated \$2,000,000 needed to establish the chair. If you or someone you know may be interested in assisting with this project, please feel free to contact President Philip Attebery or Dr. Charley Holmes, Director of Development, at (800) 259-5673.

Going Deeper

David G. Hellwig, BMA Seminary Dean

When I enrolled in Bible college, like many young college freshmen, I had no clear direction on a future career choice. My time in college would give me time to think it through. God, however, had a plan for my life. In my second year at Central Baptist College, God laid on my heart the gospel ministry. I recall the moment clearly when God first brought this to my attention. While sitting in a worship service listening to the pastor preach, a thought entered my mind seemingly out of nowhere, "David, can't you see yourself doing that someday?" Of course, this thought did not come out of nowhere, but from the Holy Spirit. I knew what "that" meant. This was the initial moment God was calling me to preach. In a matter of months, after that initial encounter, I accepted the call of God upon my life.

Acceptance of the call to the ministry during the second year of college changed my major and trajectory of my course work. After earning my associate degree at CBC, I stayed at Bible college and earned a bachelor's degree in Bible with a pastoral minor. As I continued in my studies, God laid upon my heart specifically the pastoral ministry. Bible college offered many great courses in Bible, theology, and pastoral ministry. These courses provided a good foundation for my first pastorate at Calvary Baptist Church in Marvell, AR. The Lord allowed me to serve 14-plus years in that first pastorate.

About five years into pastoring my first church, a pastor friend of mine, who pastored in the same local association, kept encouraging me to go to seminary. At first, I was resistant, thinking, "No, I do not need seminary, I received a good foundation for what I needed in my bachelor's degree." Even at CBC, one of our professors encouraged us young preachers to attend seminary. I remember thinking then, "I will never pursue that." But, little did I know, God was using my friend to speak to me about furthering my theological education. Just like my call to ministry, I accepted God's leading to pursue a seminary education.

Earlier I mentioned that Bible college gave me a good foundation for serving in a pastoral ministry position. And indeed, it did. I was grateful for all the courses I took and the professors who taught me. But I came to realize that foundations are meant to be built upon. A house needs a firm foundation, but on that foundation one needs to build walls and a roof. The house is not complete until a structure is added to the foundation. Bible college gave me a good foundation for the ministry, but seminary would allow me to build on that foundation.

In seminary, one will take similar courses to those in Bible college. However, seminary allows one to "go deeper" in his or her knowledge in fields such as Bible, theology, church history, Christian education, and pastoral ministry. You will be introduced to new concepts and ideas that were either not offered or just not fleshed out in an undergraduate Bible degree. Just recently, a current student of mine at the BMA Seminary shared his own experience of going deeper. In his undergraduate work he took Greek grammar, but taking the same course at the seminary level has allowed him to learn so much more about the Greek language.

Maybe you are a minister reading this article and had the same initial thoughts I had about seminary – thinking it was not needed. Seminary greatly expanded my knowledge of God's Word, theology, and preaching. It can do the same for you. Beyond my first seminary degree, God encouraged me to keep going. Earning my PhD allowed me to teach at BMA Seminary and now even to serve as the Seminary's dean. If you are interested in going deeper, give us a call at (903) 586-2501 or email us at bmats@bmats.edu.

• *From JOHNSON page 1* •

As a teenager, Buddy trusted Christ as his Savior during a revival service. That moment set him on a path that would eventually take him far beyond East Texas. He later attended Jacksonville Baptist College, where he fully surrendered to God's call to ministry in 1964. Soon after, he married Martha Lucas, the woman who would stand beside him through some of the most formative and sacrificial years of his life.

Buddy and Martha began their married life serving in small-town Texas churches. Resources were limited, but their purpose was clear. One Christmas, Buddy gave Martha a puppy because it was all he could afford. She gave him five dollars for gasoline so they could visit family. Their life was simple, but deeply meaningful.

His early pastoral ministry began at Macedonia Baptist Church in Etoile, Texas, where the building was barely standing and infested with wasps. Through faithful visitation, prayer, and hard work, the church began to grow. Buddy often summarized his philosophy of ministry with a simple phrase — “God blesses W-O-R-K” — faith expressed through action, not excuses.

Later ministry opportunities in Texarkana allowed him to disciple leaders and strengthen growing churches. Yet God was preparing him for something beyond Texas.

In the early 1970s, Buddy joined a short-term trip to Mexico that would change the course of his life. The journey itself was marked by danger, including a flight over the Gulf of Mexico in a small, overloaded plane with faulty navigation. But what impacted him most was what he saw on the ground — churches filled with sincere believers, yet lacking a clear plan for leadership development and multiplication.

At a youth camp soon after, God confirmed what had already begun stirring in his heart. Buddy sensed a calling not just to preach, but to train leaders and plant churches.

In 1973, Buddy and Martha were appointed as missionaries to Mexico by the BMAA.

They moved their family to Mexico, began language study in San Luis Potosí, and settled into long-term ministry. In places like Huejutla, Hidalgo, Buddy focused on equipping national leaders rather than creating dependency. His vision was clear — missionaries should work themselves out of a job by empowering others.

The years that followed were not

easy. They faced illness, robberies, flooding, and constant challenges. Yet through it all, churches were planted, leaders were trained, and ministries multiplied.

Martha played a central role in this work. Just days before moving to Mexico, she completed her education degree. She embraced language learning, cultural adaptation, raising their six children, and extending hospitality in ministry. In Huejutla, she started a school that continues today as a testimony to her faith and love for the people of Mexico.

After decades of ministry together, tragedy struck when Martha passed away. Her death marked one of the most difficult seasons of Buddy's life. For a man accustomed to solving problems through determination, grief was something he could not fix, only endure.

Yet he remained faithful.

In time, God provided companionship again, and Buddy married Taffy, whom he often described as someone who “rescued” their family during a vulnerable season. Taffy stepped into a complex situation with grace, becoming a source of encouragement, stability, and partnership in ministry. Together, they continued traveling, mentoring missionaries, and encouraging churches.

Even after stepping away from full-time field ministry in Mexico, Buddy continued investing in pastors and younger leaders. Known for his thoughtful demeanor — often with a toothpick in his mouth and a knowing smile — he offered simple but profound wisdom. His role shifted from starting new works to strengthening those who would carry the mission forward.

Buddy Johnson's legacy is one of faithful service. Churches were planted across Mexico, and those churches continue to multiply. National leaders were trained to shepherd their own people. His life stands as a reminder that obedience matters more than credentials — he once failed a missions class, yet became a career missionary.

His journey was not without hardship. It was marked by storms, both literal and figurative, from a childhood tornado to near plane crashes, ministry challenges, and the loss of his first wife.

Yet through it all, some truths remained steady:

- When God calls, you go.
- When God burdens your heart, you obey.
- And when loss comes, you trust Him still.

That is the enduring legacy of missionary Buddy Johnson.

• *From BMA page 5* •

Daniel Springs Camp reported on the extensive preparations required ahead of the summer camp season. Following last year's deadly flooding at a Texas camp, new state requirements were put in place for camps to be open to campers this summer. Jason Prewitt shared that many camps may not be able to meet those requirements, but Daniel Springs has been working to comply, including approximately \$40,000 in needed preparations. His report reflected deep gratitude for the workers, volunteers, and staff who have helped make the camp ready, along with thankfulness for the opportunity God continues to provide to invest in students for a week and then see them return home to put what they learned into practice.

Additional reports included BMA Theological Seminary's continued focus on equipping disciple-makers for service in local churches and mission fields, along with growth in enrollment and increasing opportunities for students both on campus and online. Baptist Publishing House reported ongoing development of biblically grounded curriculum and resources designed to strengthen local churches, with a continued emphasis on helping believers grow in their understanding and application of God's Word within the life of the church. BMA Financial highlighted continued growth in retirement and financial services, along with partnerships to assist churches with payroll, bookkeeping, and financial management, helping ministry leaders serve with stability and finish well.

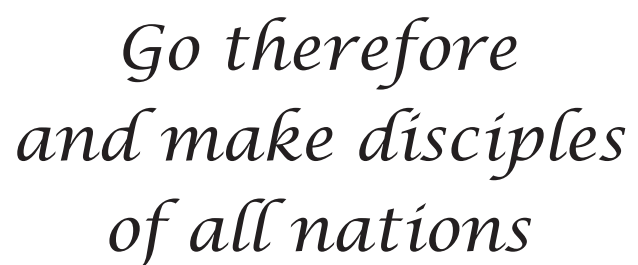
During the business session, a recommendation brought by the Coordinating Council regarding financial oversight language was challenged when a point of order was raised that the recommendation was beyond the scope of the council's duty under the Principles of Cooperation. The question was put to the body, and messengers voted that the point of order was correct, meaning the recommendation could not be offered by the Coordinating Council. A joint motion was immediately offered from First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, TX, and Garrett Memorial Baptist Church in Hope, AR, with the wording revised to include the Missions Advisory Committee alongside the other ministry boards.

With the exception of the Coordinating Council recommendation, all previously reported recommendations were approved, and all department leaders were reelected to serve.

In closing business, messengers elected Dr. Gary O'Neal as president, along with Dustin Wisely as first vice president and Tony Crocker as second vice president. Dr. Charlie Holmes was selected to deliver the 2027 annual message, with Ben Kingston elected to serve as alternate. Additional committee appointments and recommendations were approved.

As messengers departed, the emphasis remained clear — the mission continues “until then,” as churches work together to proclaim the gospel and develop leaders who will carry it forward.

The 2027 National Meeting will be held April 20-22 in Branson, MO, at Chateau on the Lake.



*Go therefore
and make disciples
of all nations*

• *From CAP page 1* •

premier organizations. The Civil Air Patrol is an official, uniformed auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force and those serving as a chaplain must meet many of the same standards as those serving in the active force.

Dr. Pollock stated, “I look back over my 48 years of uniformed service with a great sense of accomplishment and much pride.”

Thank you Chaplain Pollock for your dedicated service to God and country. You have served the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of America with great distinction and faithfulness. May the Lord bless your continued ministry in His service!

It's About Time

Fonda Norris, EIM Shepherd's Bag Ministry Coordinator

The Lord works out everything in our lives for His glory and our good, and His timing is always right on time. It is also about time that I sent in some long overdue news about EIM's Shepherd's Bag Ministry and our plans for 2026.

Sometimes ministry feels like a sprint, when in reality it is a long and steady marathon that unfolds in God's timing. We are still in the race by His grace, but we have had a slow start this year. Slow starts are not always a bad thing. The Bible says in Psalm 27:14, *Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord.* Waiting has never been easy for me. I usually have all of the supplies ready and sitting in the office by early spring. This year has been an exception, and I would like to explain why.

The most important item we place in every Shepherd's Bag is a small thirty-three-page gospel storybook with coloring pages that tell key Bible stories. It has served us well for about sixteen years. Last fall I believe the Lord gave clear direction to write a new book. When traveling internationally, we have learned that many children and adults need to begin at the very beginning when hearing the gospel. They need to understand who Jesus is and why mankind needs a savior.

After much planning, waiting, collaborating, and editing, we now have a new book that will go into every Shepherd's Bag. It explains who Jesus is and why He is the Promised Savior.

When we were discussing possible titles, Michelle Rawls, who writes EIM's OBS curriculum,

reminded us that Bro. Mike Goodwin always begins sharing the gospel by saying, "Can I share with you the greatest story ever told?" That reminder settled it for us. There is no better title for a book about Jesus, because it truly is the greatest story ever told.

Each child receiving a Shepherd's Bag will now have a storybook that presents a clear and cohesive gospel narrative. It begins in Genesis with perfect creation, continues with the fall of man, the Old Testament promises of redemption, the birth of the Savior, and concludes with His death, burial, resurrection, and promised return. Along with matching coloring pages, we included as much Scripture as space allowed, with English and Spanish translations in the same book. It is currently being printed, and we are excited to soon have it in hand and ready to place in our one-gallon zip-lock Shepherd's Bags.

Along with *The Greatest Story Ever Told*, we will continue assembling our generic Shepherd's Bags. For the past fifteen years this method has been a tremendous help. It ensures that every child receives the same items, it simplifies organization and logistics both here and overseas, and it helps us steward our limited resources wisely. Prices continue to rise, and our supplies are no exception, but God continues to meet our needs through His

people. If you would like to support the Shepherd's Bag Ministry, the cost to assemble and ship one bag is approximately seven to ten dollars. This covers supplies and all shipping expenses to place a bag into the hands of a child overseas.

*Shepherd's Bag Ministry
News for 2026*

We currently have sixteen thousand Shepherd's Bags ready for shipment to Ghana, completed last fall. We are praying they will be shipped soon, once all logistics are finalized and everything aligns with God's timing. I look forward to the day when I can say with a smile that the shipment to Ghana is finally on its way and right on time.

For the upcoming year, our plans and goal are to assemble and ship sixteen thousand Shepherd's Bags to Honduras. Our EIM Honduras Director, Ben Benitez, is a faithful laborer who shares Jesus throughout the year in schools and villages using Shepherd's Bags. We also have three mission teams traveling to Honduras in June and August to preach the gospel, minister in schools, and distribute Shepherd's Bags to many children this summer.

Please pray for our mission teams, for the precious hearts who will hear the gospel, for God to bless His Word as it is preached, and for every bag that will go into the hands and homes of children in Honduras.

If you would like more information about EIM's Shepherd's Bag Ministry, you can contact me at (870) 226-3626, email me at fnorris@eimworldwide.org, or visit our website at www.eimworldwide.org.



• From BELÉN page 3 •

visiting them during lunch or dinner time, there is always the door open for planting, watering, the seed of the gospel. A couple of weeks ago in Hazelwood area, a door was opened for me to visit some young men who were interested in learning about the Bible. We spent almost two hours in discussion regarding the gospel and their lifestyles. The three young men made a profession of faith. Now almost every other day we get together during their lunch break to pray and visit about their concerns regarding following Jesus.



Pray

Our prayer network continues to expand. We have been blessed to hear from you and some church families who every Sunday pray for this

Hispanic ministry. Praise the Lord!

- Salvation for each member of the families who receive the message daily.
- Establishment of a leading team of men who are ready to become the providers, protectors, and pastors for their own families who are wanting to learn about the gospel.
- Summer outreach.
- VBS and soccer tournament.
- Prayer and fasting on last Thursday of the month.

In His service, Juan Andres Fernandez



Spring Revival

Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church
968 N. Hwy. 68 • Salem, Missouri

May 17th - 20th • 7:00 p.m.

Evangelist: Lee Miller

Pastor: Larry Nash

•••••

Special music nightly

Music Director: Deiatre Gillam • Song Leader: Steve Gillam

Refreshments nightly after service

(573) 247-5769

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.

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.