

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

Issue No. 6

Pam Burke

• **See RULES** *page 8* •

[illegible]

State Missions

Dear BMAMO Churches,

I certainly hope this finds you doing well. It was great to see everyone that could make it to our Missions Symposium.

At the Symposium, we dropped the major announcement that we as an association and I as your Missions Director are hosting a very important conference on September 17-19, 2026, at the Meramec Retreat Center. I am inviting all the pastors of our BMAMO churches to attend, and each pastor is welcome to bring with him those from his respective church that he would like to be a part of this as well.

For this article, I want to pose a few questions followed by my response for each.

First, what is this conference? It's called *Church Multiplication Workshop*. For about 15 years, Larry Barker has been exposed to this material that helps church planters make disciples and as a result, plant churches.

The entirety of the emphasis is to pursue the mission of Christ. What is the mission of Christ? To embrace the cross, to experience community, and to engage the culture.

When you look at that closely, we as BMA churches have preached that from the beginning. We believe that every person should have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and follow Him in baptism, that is embracing the cross. We also believe that there are a lot of changes that each human being needs to make once they come to Christ; again, that is embracing the cross. When you come to Jesus, He loves you enough to change you to look more like Him.

And then, of course, we believe that baptism places us inside a scriptural New Testament church – a visible body of called-out believers. Well, that is experiencing community. We are to love one another. Jesus said, *by this shall all men know that you are my disciples if you show love one to another.*

Lastly, the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18 tells us to go into our world and preach the gospel, that is engaging the culture.

You could argue that throughout the history of the United States and humanity as a whole, there have been dark periods of time in our world. I don't believe that there

has been any darker than what we're experiencing now, and our churches truly need to embrace the cross, experience community, and engage the culture. This *Church Multiplication Workshop* will help us do that, and even though the express purpose of this conference was initially to train church planters, we have seen it used throughout our association as a tremendous help to our established churches to accomplish what we all know God has called us to do. I'm lovingly begging all our pastors to set this date aside and come to this

conference. More details to come. Larry Barker will be our trainer. I am working to become certified to present this material as well, so that as the Lord sends us church planters, I will be able to train them in this material.

To say that I am excited about how God wants to use this training is a gross understatement, and I truly believe this is our next step as an association to be who and what God has called us to be.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

May the Lord richly bless you is my prayer.

Bro. Ben



MISIÓN BAUTISTA BELÉN
(Bethlehem Mission)
Serving Hispanic Families • St. Louis Metro East
Juan Fernandez
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Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. (Isaiah 1:18)

Dear church family, we are so thankful for the privilege of being included in your prayers, knowing we are not doing this ministry alone. We value your prayers and support. We are praying to be found faithful and fruitful for the Lord. The harvest is plentiful, yet laborers are few. We pray for more of our contacts to continue with the process of discipleship and leadership training for multiplication.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the recent Missions Symposium. We pray for Bro. Chuck and Bro. Michael, thankful for the vision that Bro. Ben Kingston is leading the churches in the state of Missouri. We can hardly wait for the fall workshop at Meramec Retreat Center.

Prayer Network

Prayer is the best practice we have enjoyed in our ministry. We continue sending reminders to join in prayer every day at 6:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. You can text #LETSPRAYSTL to (618) 581-8056 to receive prayer updates. Please add your name and church to become an active member.

It is perfect weather to join us in our prayer walks. Throughout the summer, the Lord willing, we will be walking through the neighborhoods, reminding ourselves of the many souls that can be touched for eternity as we walk and bless families in the neighborhoods. If you ever come around Hazelwood, Florissant, Chesterfield, Clarkson

Valley or Berkeley, make sure you send an encouraging text saying that you are praying for these families and our ministry outreach.

June and July

ESL (English as Second Language) Class

Every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30-8:00 p.m. we gather with six to eight of our Spanish-speaking friends who are wanting to learn English. We are looking for two babysitters for these evenings of

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Financial Report BMA of Missouri Missions May 2026

Checking Account

Balance April 30 \$ 27,033.43

Income

Missions	\$ 2,108.23	
BMA Foundation	1,512.44	
Total Income		\$ 3,620.67
Total Available		\$ 30,654.10

Expenses

Director, salary	\$ 450.00	
Secretary, salary	200.00	
Juan Fernandez, support	2,333.33	
Special Missions Comm	660.41	
Meeting Expense	187.22	
Total Expenses		\$ (3,830.96)
Balance May 31		\$ 26,823.14

BMAMS Revolving Loan Investment

Balance April 30	\$ 127,042.74	
Interest	0.00	
Balance May 31		\$ 127,042.74
Total in All Accounts May 31		\$ 153,865.88

**If you send support for multiple months, please combine into ONE check if possible, or send monthly. Due to a reminder from our bank for check guidelines, they can refuse to accept a check if it is dated more than 60 days prior to deposit. Thank you for your understanding.*

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Camp Garwood



Summer greetings to everyone!

It's been a busy spring, including a visit by the Master's Builders who have been here and gone. The times spent with them are precious memories. I look forward to seeing them again.

The ark the Builders worked on is pretty much complete. We also now have a Gaga pit behind the lower camper shower houses, and we have two carpet pool tables – one by the basketball pavilion and another by the canteen area.

We are working on a few small projects around camp this summer, some improvements and some maintenance.

As you receive this it will be close to time to register your church for camp. Please

note some changes to the registration page. We have a new medical release form that follows the pattern used by our national camp in Daniel Springs. It asks for more information but will be helpful in case of an emergency. We are also asking that you provide the ages of sponsors this year since sponsors must be at least 20 years old.

Please be sure to read the camp rules to all those going to camp as we have made some slight changes to those as well.

Registration deadline is June 21. Everyone 18 and older is required to complete an adult screening form and background check. Laura will post an updated list several times between now and camp.

As we get close to camp time, churches are generally good about coming to help get things ready. Watch the Facebook group to be up to date on what is needed and when you can help.

As a reminder, our theme this year is "Perilous Times" taken from 2 Tim 3:1 *This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.*

Please continue to pray for our speaker, Bro. Larry Barker. I'm looking forward to spending time with him and seeing how the Lord uses him camp week. Be praying for all of our workers, from teachers to trash detail. We have so many people who step up and make camp week happen.

Blessings in Christ,
Chris Polk



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• From BELÉN page 2 •

these families connected throughout the year with Friday evenings of fellowship. It's our desire to keep these people involved through such fellowship events and pray that soon they open their hearts and homes to start new home Bible studies. These families live in the Florissant, Hazelwood, and Overland areas. Maybe the Lord will bring them again this summer, this time to stay with us to participate with us in our discipleship

On Wednesdays evening from 7:00-9:00 p.m. we are having another group of students meeting in the two Lokos restaurants. We are now kicking off a summer class, and at the moment we are serving eight students.

Summer Family Outreach

Friday evenings are invested in the lives of the children whose parents attend our ESL class. We are getting them together to do soccer scrimmage, have fun and share the gospel with some refreshments, snacks, etc. These outreach events are every Friday, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

VBS (Vacation Bible School) week runs July 6 to 10. We are excited to reach out this summer to new families as well as families that have participated in the last three summers. We are planning to keep

process.

Prayer

- Salvation of each one in our contacts.
- Banner and material for VBS.
- Safe travels for the volunteers who will join from Bethel Baptist Church, Lonedell.

We are so excited to see what the Lord is going to do in allowing us to join Him in His agenda for our community.

In His service, Juan Fernandez



■ Updates from Our Churches ■

Bethel, Sikeston

Hello from Bethel, Sikeston. We have had a very busy month of May.

We honored our mothers on Mother's Day. Our youth presented them with a card and a gift, leaving the mothers humbled and very blessed! All of our mothers – or those who have a mother's heart, or those who are going to be mothers – are so special to us! Most of all, they are special to God!

On the 17th we celebrated our graduate, Ty King, by showering him with gifts and a cake. He is a very special young man whom we are very proud of for all his accomplishments! We are also proud of another young Christian man, Carlos "CJ" Posey, Jr., as he graduated from West Point Academy this month. He earned his degree in nuclear engineering and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the US Army! What an honor! We are so proud of him!

One of our faithful mem-

bers, Bro. Gary Lindsey, went home to be with the Lord on the 19th after a long battle with cancer. He will be so missed here, but we know he is not suffering anymore and know that we will see him again someday! Please join us in keeping his wife, Sis. Karen, and children in your prayers.

Bro. John Beardsley, Jr., preached on the 24th for the morning service, as Bro. Billy was still healing from his foot surgery. Bro. John did a great job! Bro. Billy's foot is healing well and he is back in the pulpit. We are so thankful he is doing better!

Our VBS is June 8th -12th, Mon.-Fri., 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. The name of our VBS is "True North." We look forward to seeing lots of children that are eager to learn about Jesus and prayerfully some salvations!

We had our fifth Sunday night singing on the 31st with lots of specials and good fellowship and refreshments afterwards! God is so good!

Happy Father's Day to all you fathers! May God bless each and every one of you.

*Billy Davis, Pastor
Joan Wood, Reporter*

Landmark, DeSoto

Greetings from Landmark Baptist Church/Trauma/Medical Center!

We've had SEVERAL injuries and illnesses this past month: Bro. David Burch fell and really messed up his left hand, causing lots of bruising and swelling. Sis. Sharon Page got attacked by a dog who decided her left forearm was a chew toy. She had to have 43 stitches to put it all back together. Bro. Denver Page tripped and fell on the church parking lot, skinning up his right arm and breaking his right foot. He'll be wearing one of those special boots for a while. Sis. Terry Smith fell and "face-planted," causing extreme bruising and swelling to the right side of her face. (She told her husband he'd better be especially nice to her, because she could call

the police and report spousal abuse, and they would believe her! He's an over-the-road truck driver and said that would be hard to prove since he was 700 miles away at the time). I apparently pivoted in a funny way and strained my left hamstring, which was NOT funny. Bro. Len Young just had surgery this morning (June 2) to remove his gallbladder (laparoscopic, same-day surgery). Whew! We could corner the market on purple hearts! BUT God is GOOD, and we're all recovering.

Several other members are still dealing with severe medical illnesses and conditions, and we ask that you lift us all up in prayer. We'll do the same for you.

In spite of all the medical stuff, God continues to bless us. We have visitors just about every Sunday, for which we're very thankful.

Bro. Glenn Stinsen hosted a fish fry at church on Saturday, May 16th. Everyone who was able to attend certainly enjoyed the trout and hush puppies he and Bro. Randy Causey (his son-in-law) fried up. Folks brought other goodies as well, so no one went away hungry.

We also had our fifth Sunday potluck luncheon on May 31st. Another time of great fellowship and great food! That Sunday evening we

observed the Lord's Supper, which is always a time of reflection and renewal for me.

That's about all the news I can think of right now. Until next month, may we keep on remembering to count God's blessings, no matter what's happening to us and around us.

*Len Young, Pastor
Barbara Williams, Reporter*

Oak Hill, Alton

HELLO to all from Oak Hill! We hope everyone is doing well. We have enjoyed a few good rains.

On May 24th, we gave our new members, Cejay and Madison Cook and Hayley McClanahan, a New King James Study Bible. On May 31st, fifth Sunday, we enjoyed eating and fellowshiping with two of the three recent high school graduates, Eli and Erica Smith and Kaylee Latham.

Recently Carstyn Casey had surgery removing some cancer in his bones; that went really well. He was able to be with us and eat at our fifth Sunday dinner.

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*

~ Upcoming Events ~

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 27-31;
Camp Garwood

WMA Sponsored Ladies' Retreat – Sept
9-11; Drury Plaza Hotel Cape Girardeau
Conference Center

Church Multiplication Workshop – Sept
17-19; Meramec Retreat Center

Send event info to mmbpaper@gmail.com.

The Master's Builders Build an Ark!

The Master's Builders began work on job #199 on May 4th at Camp Garwood. The camp is just east of Van Buren, MO, which is located on the Current River in the beautiful Ozark Mountains. It was so good to see Camp Director Chris Polk (Pastor, Matthews Baptist Church) and his wife Laura again. The Master's Builders worked at Camp Garwood last April for the first time and helped build a 20x60' building for a nurse's station with a living quarters on one side. Two additional living quarters were also built on the other side for evangelists. This building also serves as the registration and check-in facility and was well used last camp season.

Bro. Chris had unique needs for the camp this year. He needed a GaGa pit built (first ever for the camp), two multi-use carpet ball tables which can convert to serving tables, and an ARK! An Ark



was something that The Builders had never even thought about building before! Completed at 15' tall, 12' wide, and 23' long, the two-story vessel

was something to behold. The Master's Builders were given the plans, the camp had the wood ready, and with God's guidance, they began to build.

Each morning at 7:00 a.m., The Builders gather for a time of Bible devotion, a "circle up" prayer time, and always end with singing "The Family of God" together. With that encouragement, each began the day's work. It was "all hands-on deck" for the first week as the Ark was the challenge facing them. The "saw man" had so many angles that had to be cut it was slow going in the beginning. For safety purposes there were some adjustments needed to the plans, so there was a lot of "ciphering" taking place throughout the build. The Builders did face a problem that Noah never faced during his approximate 100 years of ark building... RAIN on the second day! Work outside ceased for a bit, but

• See ARK page 8 •

Passing the Faith Along: Serving across the Generations

Editor's Note: In early May, Just the Crumbs sent the Missouri Missionary Baptist and others an announcement (see right column) asking for those interested in helping with a new disaster relief project in Mississippi. Due to the production and mailing delays inherently involved in getting word out via print, the MMB did not include that announcement in the May issue, knowing that word would spread anyway. And spread it did, reaching the ears and the heart of one of our own who is no stranger to the work of JTC – Juanita May – who decided to join in once again. But this time she took along some new help, her two grandchildren Paisley and Alton. I've invited all three to share some of their story of helping with the JTC relief work.

Juanita May (Grandma)

I recently had five of the most enjoyable days with two of my grandchildren, Alton and Paisley May. God blessed us with the opportunity to serve together in Purvis, MS, with Just the Crumbs (JTC) ministry.

The area was hit by a tornado May 6, 2026. JTC was there serving many of the victims with a warm meal each day, plus water, non-perishable foods, personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies, clothing, etc. They also serve to those who are helping and working the clean-up efforts.

These two teenagers were such a blessing, as they worked non-stop, jumping in and helping wherever they were needed. Each day they helped set up, prepare, serve, and distribute the meals as the people drove through. They also loaded each car with cases of water, drinks, and whatever supplies the people needed. They helped Bro. Lavon Haden clean and organize two of the supply trailers, all this while we worked through rain, wind, and sometimes the hot sun!

This was the third location that I have been able to help JTC. The other two were Asheville, NC, and Des Arc, MO. I am so thankful that Alton and Paisley were able to go with me for their first time together serving and working with JTC. It reminded me that as a grandparent I can help, *train up a child in the way they should go....* and to help them see that God blesses us as we bless other people.

We were blessed to be able to stay at the Pine Grove Baptist Church while we were there. We attended their Wednesday night service and met some of the sweetest people from that church. Again, we want to thank them for their hospitality.

Another first for Alton was the opportunity to drive (cruising) on the interstate. He chauffeured the three of us almost the whole 1,200-mile trip from Bunker, MO, to Purvis, MS! We laughed lots, shared stories, and made many wonderful memories to talk about for a long time. Just ask Paisley about the song she is working on, "Livin' on Rice and Beans," her online piano lessons, Grandma getting proposed to, the \$50 bill that Alton found, Bro. Dwyann's antique building, loading 100 cases of water (she says), and many, many more stories too numerous to mention! God bless you all..., and whatever your hands find to do, do it with all your strength as to the Lord.



Just The Crumbs / BMA Disaster Relief is responding to the needs left behind by two devastating tornadoes that caused substantial loss in our area [Mississippi].

We are currently set up and preparing hot meals at two locations:

- Bogue Chitto, MS
- Purvis, MS

Both communities have suffered significant damage, and we are working to serve those affected with meals, support, and prayer. Anyone interested in volunteering may contact Lavon Haden ((601) 522-6055).

Donations may be sent to:

- Just The Crumbs, 10 Wagon Trail, Sumrall, MS 39482
- BMA Disaster Relief, P.O. Box 878, Conway, AR 72033
- BMA Mississippi Disaster Relief, 4226 Hwy 15 N, Laurel, MS 39440

Donations may also be sent by PayPal to: justthecrums21@gmail.com

Please continue to pray for all those affected by this storm, for the families who have suffered loss, and for the volunteers and ministries serving in the days ahead.

Paisley May

I have always wanted to go on a mission trip to help Just the Crumbs ministry ever since my grandma told me about the first trip she helped them. She told me she would take me, so we were just waiting on them to need help when we were free. It turns out I, my brother Alton, and my Grandma Juanita all were free when Just the Crumbs needed help in Purvis, MS. We decided all of this on a Sunday night and loaded up Tuesday morning to head to Mississippi.

The experience that I had working with the most loving and hardworking people with Just the Crumbs was amazing! It was a great time cooking and serving with them. One of the best parts for me was getting to see people's reactions when we loaded their cars and gave them food and how grateful they were. I think in everyday life we take for granted what all we get and is just normal for us. It was very eye opening seeing how much we were helping them by simply giving them a plate of food or something to drink.

I am so thankful for being able to go on this mission, doing work for the Lord, meeting some great people, and being able to do it with my brother and grandma made it extra special.



Alton May

Working and serving with Just the Crumbs ministries alongside my sister and grandma was a truly impactful experience. Together we worked with others to distribute supplies, feed, and encourage those victims that had lost so much.

While our efforts were to serve and make an impact on the storm victims, it also left a lasting impact on me. It taught me the significance of service and love. We met and got to become friends with some amazing people, and I will never forget the time I served in Purvis, MS, with Just The Crumbs.

*Remembering the sincere faith
which lived first in your grandmother
and I am convinced that is in you also....*



Right Place at the Right Time

Jackie Ricks

Often, we plan and think that things either go according to plan or get messed up. However, we fail to remember that everything is in God's hands and He makes sure things happen for His plan. Check out Proverbs 16:9, *A man's heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps.* Many times we decide we want to do something or go to a certain place, but things happen at the last minute to make those plans change. Have you ever thought about what a difference that makes in life? I had reason to think about it just last week.

One night we planned to go out to eat at a particular restaurant, but when the time came to go I changed my mind at the last minute and decided to go to a closer one. When I walked in, I saw a couple whose daughter had graduated with my son. I taught the girl as well as her husband so I knew the parents well. In the course of the conversation, I learned some disturbing news about my former students and their family situation. The mom ended up asking me to remember them all in prayer. I came away telling my husband that I felt like God had sent us to that particular place so that we would have that unspoken prayer request to add to the church list on Sunday.

However, God didn't stop there. Two days later, I planned to go on an Amtrak trip to Dallas with several teacher friends. It was just a day trip and we had hopes of going to the Holocaust Museum before returning home the same evening. This whole trip is another story! We spent ten hours on the train (on what should have been a two-hour trip!). That meant that the eight of us got to do more actual visiting than we would have otherwise. While talking to one of the younger teachers whose sister I had taught, I asked how the sister was doing. The teacher opened her mouth to tell me and then finally said, "Just pray. That's all I can say. Just pray." She did mention that the sister and all of her children live with their parents now. So that meant two unspoken prayer requests for the church list. Neither of these would I know anything about if I hadn't changed my plans about where to eat or if our original plans for the trip to Dallas had not been "messed up." God's hand was definitely in both situations.

Thinking of the Bible, there are several times that God put a person in exactly the right time and place even though it might not have been the person's original plan. Think of Joseph and his life. The children of Israel likely would have died out had Joseph not been sold as a slave to Egypt. Then another time, the Jews would have all been killed except for Esther's position in the palace. And what if Ruth had remained in Moab instead of going on to Israel with Naomi? God certainly led her to the right field to glean from. Maybe you think that these all have to do with the Old Testament and the Israelite people, not us in modern day America. But think about what it means about Jesus. Jesus was a Jew. Ruth was one of his direct ancestors. Yes, God could have figured out another way, but He had a reason for His way to begin with.

Let's look at a New Testament example. Check out Acts 8:4-40. After Jesus ascended to the Father, the disciples remained in Jerusalem for a while and then began to spread the Word to the Samaritans. Philip was one that God used to spread the Word. Then God told him to go south to Gaza. That's where

BMA Seminary's Sixty-Ninth Commencement

Dr. David G. Hellwig, Dean

Nine students received degrees from the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary of Jacksonville, TX during commencement exercises conducted Saturday, May 16, 2026. The event occurred in the Seminary's Dorman Chapel.

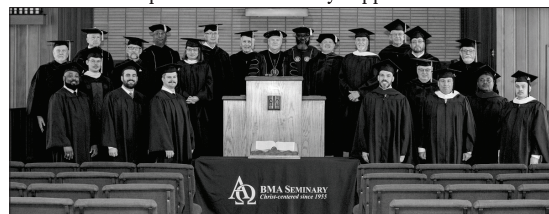
Graduates included:

- Associate of Divinity: Omar Clemons of Russellville, AR; and Henry Grant McRight of Jacksonville, TX
- Bachelor of Arts (Religion): Daniel Taylor Bruce of England, AR; and Christopher Richardson of Tulsa, OK
- Master of Arts (Pastoral Theology): Josiah Lemuel Bradley Burns of Hot Springs, AR
- Master of Arts (Religion): Earnestine Foreman of Tyler, TX
- Master of Arts in Church Ministries: Joshua D. Price of Irving, TX
- Master of Divinity: Kingsley Nduka of Akwukwu Igbo, Delta State Nigeria; and Dalton Jacob Tew of Bedford, TX

Bro. Aubrey "Buddy" Johnson, former missionary to Mexico and BMAA's Hispanic Coordinator and Church Planting Trainer, presented the commencement address.

BMA Seminary provides accredited theological education to qualified individuals by seeking to equip them for Christian service and leadership roles. The seminary supports the educational

needs of the Baptist Missionary Association of America and other groups who share a like commitment to the authority of scripture by offering certificates, associate, bachelor, and masters' degrees.



Lifeword's New Women's Program

Donny Parrish, Lifeword Executive Director

Starting May 12, Lifeword begins a new devotional series for women. Every Tuesday and Friday mornings, ladies have the opportunity to grab a cup of coffee, their Bible, and join Yalanda Merrell and pause before the rush of everyday life. This is a time of reading God's Word, reflecting on His truth, praying, and discovering the deep, personal love of Jesus.

Through meaningful conversations, Scripture, and real-life stories, Yalanda invites women to explore how Jesus meets us right where we are — offering hope in our struggles, peace in our chaos, and purpose in every season. Each episode includes additional resources to guide ladies through deeper discussions and reflection in their personal Bible study and throughout their day.

Yalanda shares, "My heart is for people to know who Jesus is and the love He has for them. I want them to understand the beautiful grace and joy He offers for our lives. I want them to see how Scripture is lived out, to see Jesus in those everyday moments — little things that may seem insignificant, but

oh how God uses little things. The Lord can use them to draw us to Himself and shape



us into a vessel He can use for His great mission. I want women to see that we serve an incredible God who loves us, sees us, understands us, and redeems us. And I want women to know that the most important thing they can do for their family, their career, or their church is to spend time at the feet of Jesus every morning."

Join Yalanda every Tuesday and Friday morning and discover how His love transforms ordinary moments into something beautiful, guiding us step by step in the way we live, love, and grow in Christ.

To sign up, text "AWAKE" to (833) 781-2736.

Why Seminary after University?

Philip Attebery, BMA Seminary President

Going to college was never a doubt in my mind. The Lord blessed me by allowing me to be raised in a home with parents who attended college. My father earned a doctoral degree and taught collegiately, and I had always envisioned myself attending the state university where he taught.

However, following my junior year of high school, I answered the Lord's clear calling on my life and surrendered to ministry. With that in mind, I began to wonder during my senior year if I should attend a Christian college.

The next question of concern to me regarded what major I should pursue. Since the beginning of high school, I had been interested in learning about the field of mass communication. At the time, the local university offered such a program. My final question was about how to pay for college. Because of my father's position with the school, I would receive a very helpful tuition discount. And the final bit of encouragement to attend the university was the presence of an Association of Baptist Students (ABS) chapter in which I could be involved.

I chose to attend the local university, which was to my advantage financially, allowed me to stay home and serve my local church, and to be involved in the ABS. I also gained experience pastoring a small church outside of town during my final two years of college.

So, how did that help my ministry? I earned a bachelor's degree in mass communication and that still helps me today in communicating with groups of people be it through public speaking, writing articles, or digital/video media production. Perhaps the most beneficial part of that degree came when I was forced to write several lengthy research papers. The pressure of writing multiple papers in college absolutely

helped me get ready for similar requirements at the seminary level. Attending a state university also allowed me to learn how to deal with such things as liberalism and unbiblical beliefs often touted on a secular college campus.

However, as I approached graduation day, all my college experience led me to the conviction that I needed to learn more about God's Word and work. The next logical step would be to attend seminary. I remember thinking, "I believe that God can use me anywhere He wants without me having a seminary education. But I do not want to hear Him tell me, 'Philip, I would have done more with you if you had been faithful to prepare.'"

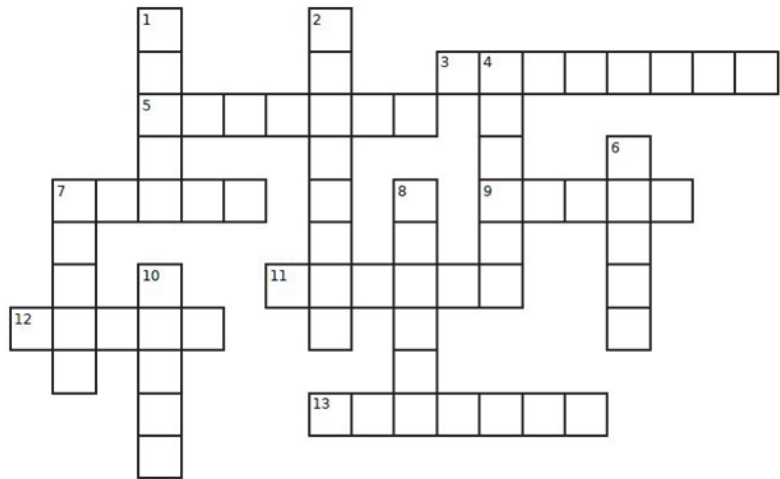
I was grateful to find out that the prerequisite for a seminary master's degree is an undergraduate (bachelor's) degree in any major. That meant my degree in mass communication, along with other requirements, qualified me for entrance into BMA Seminary's Master of Divinity program. I must admit that I have always thought those with a Bible degree at the undergraduate level had a potential advantage over me, especially when it came to knowing Greek.

Also, with today's economy, some anticipate a need for pastors to prepare for bi-vocational ministry. Preparing for non-ministerial employment can be done at either a state or Christian college.

Whichever route is taken, I encourage potential seminary students not to compromise on their seminary education. What do I mean? If you think the Lord wants you to pastor, then be sure to pursue a ministerial leadership degree such as the BMA Seminary's Master of Divinity or Master of Arts in Church Ministries. The programs are longer but more thorough in what they cover in preparing a student for ministry.

People Who Prayed

Can you identify the people who are described in each of these instances of prayer from the Bible? If you get stuck, there are hints provided on page 8 of this paper. (Feel free to make copies of the puzzle for sharing.)



Down:

1. Asked God to show him His glory
2. Prayed for God to grant him mercy in the sight of the king
4. Prayed for God to prove His power over the prophets of Baal
6. Prayed on a rooftop and then fell into a trance and saw a vision
7. Prayed a desperate prayer of repentance and thanksgiving while spending three days and nights in a very dark place
8. Prayed three times a day even when it was made illegal
10. One of two who prayed and sang praises in a prison cell

Across:

3. Prayed for God to deliver His people from the Assyrian king to show that He alone was God
5. Prayed for his executioners while being stoned, echoing words spoken by Jesus on the cross
7. Frequently retreated to solitary places to pray
9. Asked God to enlarge his territory and let His hand be with him
11. Prayed to have a child
12. Asked God to create within him a pure heart as he confessed his sins
13. Asked for a wise and understanding heart

• From BMAMO page 1 •

• Bro. Claude Evans gave a report from Camp Garwood.



• Sis. Tracy Goede gave a report from the WMA of Missouri. She reminded about the upcoming ladies' retreat on September 11 and 12.

• Bro. Ben Kingston gave a report on the state Brotherhood, including its name change to Men of Faith.

• Bro. Benjamin Kingston gave a report on Youth ALIVE. He announced that the dates for 2026 are December 27-29.

The Association adjourned for the meeting of the Missionary Committee. During this time Bro. Fernandez and Bro. Tedrow shared condensed versions of their presentations from



Friday evening for those who were not present at the Missions Symposium. Then Bro. Michael

Strong shared about the church planting work he is involved in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Bro. Ben Kingston gave his summary Missions report and again shared about the *Church Multiplication Workshop* scheduled for September.

After the Missionary Committee completed their business and the full body approved their work, the business portion of the Association was adjourned. Bro. Ben Kingston then gave the annual message on "The Ministry of Encouragement." Then everyone in attendance was treated to a delicious meal provided by the host church.





Missouri State Camp Week

July 27-31

Speaker: Larry Barker
Music: Central Collective
Theme: Perilous Times

• From ARK page 4 •

the carpet ball table building started under a shed. The Ark was completed in a little over a week and then work continued with the carpet ball tables and GaGa pit.

There were ten Master's Builders who traveled to MO and worked on this project. The group was so blessed to have Barbara and Tobin Bushman, of Strafford, MO, join in on this job! Barbara helped for a day on a job at Oak Ridge Baptist Church, in Cassville, MO, back in April 2024 as Tobin had not yet retired. Barbara brought new perspective to this build as she also does beautiful woodworking as a hobby. Tobin was excited to begin his journey in building and never expected to have the opportunity to build an ARK! He found out quickly he loved the Hilti gun!! They were both so fun and they sure helped to "energize" the older folks! What a blessing to have them become a part of this group.

Bro. Chris Polk, his dad Lonnie, and daughter Chloe helped on these projects also. As always, the Builders

enjoyed precious fellowship with them.

Thank you to Camp Garwood for giving The Master's Builders the opportunity to serve in your camp ministry. Thank you to Bro. Chis, Laura, and family for always making the group feel loved and appreciated. The Builders are so thankful for ALL who made sure they were never hungry: Bro. Claude Evans (Pastor, Stony Point Baptist Church) and wife, Bea, who worked tirelessly cooking and seeing to both our needs and wants. Sweet friend, Janet Widger, for cooking a meal, or two, or three, and getting to spend time in fellowship with the Builders. Sharon Lourance for cooking for several days before bringing a meal and many homemade sweet snacks to share, which were all enjoyed! Thank you to Zion Baptist Church, St. Louis, for the salad bar makings provided each day; Ohlman Baptist Church and Lower Doe Run Baptist Church for a time of worship, fellowship, and food enjoyed on both Sundays. Special thanks to the Ohlman Baptist Church

family for the delicious fish fry and fellowship on the last Saturday evening there!

Thank you to Bro. Melvin Meade and his wife Carolyn for the sweet fellowship the Builders enjoyed so much. Bro. Meade is very talented with woodworking and brought a homemade challenge game for The Master's Builders to try. It is sometimes called "Wall Climber Ball Maze" or "Swiss Cheese." The Master's Builders appreciate everything that was done for the group and pray no one was left out as every Builder felt the love and warm welcome to the camp.

The Master's Builders encourage you to "Follow" them on Facebook. "Like" them at The Master's Builders (arbor logo). The next job will be at Jacksonville College in Jacksonville, TX, starting on June 1st. This will be the "200th" opportunity to serve since The Master's Builders Ministry began in 1991.

Please pray for The Master's Builders as they strive to serve our Lord in this ministry. The Builders have been so encouraged by a few new folks to the ministry in the last year. However, The Master's Builders desperately need more workers if this ministry is to continue. Most of the men are in their late 70's or 80's.

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

Nelda Malone
Reporter

Ministers & Ministry Opportunities

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

Johnny Beardsley, Jr. is available for pulpit supply. You can reach him at (573) 300-8460. (0626)

Ron Fears is available for pulpit supply. 768 CR 608, Ellington, MO 63638. (501) 206-6574. (0626)

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

• From RULES page 1 •

- Overall neatness of dress must prevail at all times, expressing godliness, being modest in nature.
- Sponsors are responsible to enforce the camp dress code upon campers, within your own church group, and are accountable to the camp director to enforce said rules.

Camp rules and dress code approved by the BMA of Missouri, May 2026.

People Who Prayed

Here are scripture references to help with each clue in the crossword puzzle on page 7.

Down:

1. Ex 33:18
2. Neh 1:1-11
4. 1Kings 18:36-39
6. Acts 10:9-16
7. Jonah 2:1-9
8. Dan 6:10
10. Acts 16:25

Across:

3. 2Kings 19:14-19
5. Acts 7:59-60
7. Luke 5:15-16
9. 1Chron 4:9-10
11. 1Sam 1:9-11
12. Ps 51:1-12
13. 1Kings 3:5-9