

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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

Volume LXXXVIII

St. Louis, MO • July 14, 2026

Issue No. 7

Behold Your God!

Gary O'Neal, BMAA President

Being chosen to serve as your president is both humbling and inspiring. I grew up in a BMA church, and for nearly three decades I've had the privilege of serving BMA churches as a pastor. I don't take lightly the trust you've placed in me, and along with First Vice-President Dustin Wisely and Second Vice-President Tony Crocker, I covet your prayers as we move forward together.

As I begin this year of service, I've been asking myself a simple question: What does the BMA need most right now?

We live in a moment of relentless noise. Every week seems to bring a new crisis demanding our attention or a new strategy guaranteed to reverse our trends. We can find ourselves chasing all of it – measuring our churches against metrics, tracking cultural shifts, attending the right conferences – and slowly without realizing it, we can lose sight of the One for Whom we're doing all of this.

I'm not suggesting we ignore the world around us. But I am convinced that what our Association needs

more than a new strategy is a fresh vision of an old truth: our God is great, and greatly to be praised.

Seven hundred years before the birth of Christ, the prophet Isaiah looked ahead to a moment when God's people would be overwhelmed. In Babylonian captivity, they were discouraged and tempted to wonder whether God had forgotten them. And into that moment, God gave His people not a new program but a vision. Listen to how Isaiah opens his magnificent fortieth chapter:

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

What follows is one of the most breathtaking portraits of the greatness of God found anywhere in scripture.

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand? Who has weighed the mountains? Who has counseled Him? All the nations taken together are a drop in a bucket. And yet this same God tends His flock like a shepherd, carries the lambs in His arms, and renews the strength of those who wait on Him.

That's our theme for the 2027 annual meeting – *Behold Your God*.

I want to invite you and every pastor, church

leader, and messenger in our association to join us April 20-22, 2027, at the Chateau on the Lake Resort in Branson, Missouri. Come ready to lift your eyes. Come ready to be reminded that the God we serve has not changed and He has not grown weary.

The latest crisis will pass. The newest technology will be replaced. But the God Who sits enthroned above the circle of the earth remains. Knowing Him isn't one item on our ministry agenda. Knowing Him is the agenda.

We'll see you in Branson.

A Survey for MMB Readers

Don Burke, Editor

An Explanation of Our Situation

Those who regularly attend our State Annual and Semi-Annual Association meetings have likely heard me tell of the State paper operating in the red. I am writing today to make all our readers aware of the paper's growing financial difficulties and to give you the opportunity to share your thoughts on how to address it.

Our paper has a long history of periods of barely getting by financially. Add to this our declining church base in recent years and you can understand how our financial situation has fallen to its present alarming level.

As some of our churches have closed up and disbanded, they distributed their assets among various ministries. And while we are saddened by the disbanding of a congregation, *Missouri Missionary Baptist* has been blessed with \$40,000 in such generous distribution of assets gifts in the past five-and-a-half years.

But while such gifts are very helpful and certainly are greatly appreciated, the paper cannot plan its financial future on them. Routine expenses come in each month – even in years without these unpredictable gifts. We must plan our routine expenses to fit within our routine income.

But sadly, they aren't. Financials for the past five years show expenses increasing by \$400 per year (average), while our income has dropped by almost three times that (averaging \$1,100 per year). Our operational deficit for 2025 alone was \$8,400.



Missouri State Camp Week

July 27-31

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

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At this rate the paper's reserve will be depleted in little more than a year, and we will be forced to shut our doors. In order to prevent that, we have to act soon to either substantially increase our income or seriously reduce our expenses.

The Publications Committee is discussing options we hope will address our situation. But before pursuing any of these further we would like to offer you our readers a chance to voice your thoughts on what is important to you as we look into the future of our paper.

Options

Currently the Committee is evaluating the following four options:

1. Increase financial support. This would involve no change to the paper, but would simply require

• See SURVEY page 8 •

State Missions

Dear BMAMO Churches,

Greetings in the name of the Lord! It's camp season, VBS season, vacation season, gardening season, etc. I pray the Lord is blessing you in all of these endeavors and keeping you safe from the other seasons like tick and flea season, heat stroke season, and the like. We all must be diligent in our own protection in these areas.

Hopefully you have heard by now about our conference being held on September 17-19 at the Meramec Retreat Center. Bro. Larry Barker will be facilitating the Church Multiplication Workshop, designed by David DeVries. I am asking all of our pastors to attend and anyone they would like to bring with them to be exposed to this excellent material on how to carry out the Great Commission in your church and community.

I believe we are all as BMA of Missouri churches giving a sincere effort to reach the lost in our context and community. This material is simply a way to evaluate what

is going on and give a repackaging of the wonderful message of Jesus Christ with some creative methods.

The encouragement I'd like to give to drive this home is something that my son shared with the youth that attended the Men's Retreat in April. He shared it with me and it's very, very good. Not because it comes from Benjamin, but because it's a very good lesson that comes out of the Word of God. I've never quite heard it this way, so please prayerfully consider this concept.

The Old Testament tells the story of Moses being called of God to lead the children of Israel out of bondage and he did that. However, he did not do it alone. There was another man named Joshua, and yes, Joshua did end up being the single leader after Moses' death, but before that he did only and everything that Moses asked him to do. Anytime Moses asked Joshua to do something, he would do it as if it came from the Lord. Benjamin's takeaway from this was that Joshua faithfully and

happily served under another man's vision. It was God's will for Joshua to serve Him by making Moses successful. In doing so, he was honoring God and bringing God's will to fruition in his own life and the lives of the children of Israel.

I don't know what obvious connections that you might be trying to make right now as to what I'm trying to say, so let me be extremely clear that this workshop material is not my vision. It is ultimately God's desire for us to carry out the Great Commission, and David DeVries has come up with an approach, some encouragement, and some advice to carry these things out.

At some point, we have to determine if we need to get under the umbrella of another man's vision so that we can carry out the vision that God

has for us. I'm always looking for a better way to accomplish what God has called me to accomplish, especially if until now I might not have had the level of success that I believe is possible. Not only does David have this vision, but also Larry Barker has this vision. He's brought this vision to our Association to help our churches carry out the Great Commission, and so I'm offering it to you as food for thought. Ultimately, the people that you pastor have to choose to follow your vision as their pastor, as you follow Christ.

May the Lord richly bless you as you pray through this approach, and may the Lord help you to carry out the Great Commission to the glory of His name. Please let me know if I can help in any way.

Bro. Ben Kingston



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

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (Philippians 4:6-7)

We are so blessed beyond measure. We get to receive text messages and cards that are such encouragement and help us go through the many challenges we face on a daily basis as we share the good news of the gospel among our Hispanic families in the area. Thank you for your prayers. Feel free to text me at (618) 581-8056 to learn the latest news regarding our ministry existence, expansion, challenges, blessings, etc. Please don't forget about us – we would love to hear from you.

Prayer Network

We are so glad to continue our prayer walk this summer. We have added many more contacts to our prayer network. We don't have an in-person gathering for this ministry – all is done through WhatsApp. Praise the Lord for many opportunities to connect, to bless and invite people to join us in prayer.

VBS 2026

We are pleased to have two amazing helpers this summer for our kids' outreach which we are conducting this week at Lindsay Lane. We have asked the Lord to bless us with three families to minister to, and we are looking forward to this week's outcome. We have plans to take our kids for a day or two to Camp Garwood, and we would love to have a good group of parents excited about sending their kids to go with us. We are also considering other options and waiting to see how the Lord leads.

We are praying for the harvest from our ministry efforts to be plentiful. May the Lord gather his people for this special week focused on VBS. There is another ministry opportunity the end of the month when we plan to reach out to families in the Chesterfield area by gathering kids in the park near the neighborhood where our friends Nahun and Ermilanda live.

Sunday Ministry

Praise the Lord, this past Sunday we were able to gather all of these for worship at 11:00 a.m.: Juan, Martha, Valentin, Conor, Kathe, Sebastian, Fabian, Fabio, Marielly, Antonella, Victoria, Eleanor, Juanito, Hannah and Juan! We also experienced growth in our meeting at the Two Lokos restaurant. We have doubled from three participants to six, praise the Lord! In our home Bible study in Chesterfield we had six, also! This past Sunday a group of men gathered to listen to why I don't drink beer, prompting an interesting question-and-answer time as well as the gospel being presented. Let's wait for the harvest! We are going over a three-year discipleship program that discusses essentials of the gospel and promotes transformation in a relevant manner.

At the time of this writing this coming Sunday is our Second Sunday celebration highlighting food and fellowship in faith as we honor those with birthdays during the

• See BELÉN page 3 •

Financial Report BMA of Missouri Missions June 2026

Checking Account

Balance May 31	\$ 26,823.14
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Income

Missions	\$ 3,538.61	
BMA Foundation	756.22	
Total Income		\$ 4,294.83
Total Available		\$ 31,117.97

Expenses

Director, salary	\$ 450.00	
Secretary, salary	200.00	
Juan Fernandez, support	2,333.33	
Hillside Support	600.00	
Total Expenses		\$ (3,583.33)
Balance June 30		\$ 27,534.64

BMAMS Revolving Loan Investment

Balance May 31	\$ 127,042.74	
Interest	0.00	
Balance June 30		\$ 127,042.74
Total in All Accounts June 30		\$ 154,577.38

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Quarterly Financial Reports	
Missouri Missionary Baptist Paper 2nd Quarter 2026	
Beginning Balance April 1	\$ 15,965.98
Income	<u>3,434.60</u>
Funds Available	\$ 19,400.58
Salaries	(2,400.00)
Printing & Mailing	(2,796.43)
Other Expenses	<u>(497.29)</u>
Ending Balance June 30	\$ 13,706.86
Kenneth E. Gibson Grant Fund 2nd Quarter 2026	
Beginning Balance April 1	\$ 31,643.07
Income	0.00
Expenses	<u>(1,462.50)</u>
Ending Balance June 30	\$ 30,180.57
BMA Of Missouri Minute Fund 2nd Quarter 2026	
Beginning Balance March 1	\$ 3,681.84
Income	<u>0.00</u>
Funds Available	\$ 3,681.84
Clerk Hire	(1,300.00)
Minute Printing	<u>(914.16)</u>
Ending Balance May 31	\$ 1,467.68

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Dear BMA Churches,

The past few months have been challenging as Hillside Baptist Church is continuing in the building process. I remember watching my dad, who was a farmer in Iowa, building extra corn cribs before the harvest. He was preparing for a big crop of corn.

Likewise, here at Hillside Baptist Church, we are building and preparing for growth before growth appears. Recently completed projects and projects in progress include the following: downstairs classrooms have been painted, and doors have been installed. The fellowship area has been painted and a new chair rail has been installed. The kitchen cabinets are in place, and we are waiting for the counter tops to be delivered. Final trim installation should be completed by the middle of July. Also on the list of projects to be completed is one restroom on the lower level, which needs a cabinet, toilet and drywall. We will soon start working on the landscaping.

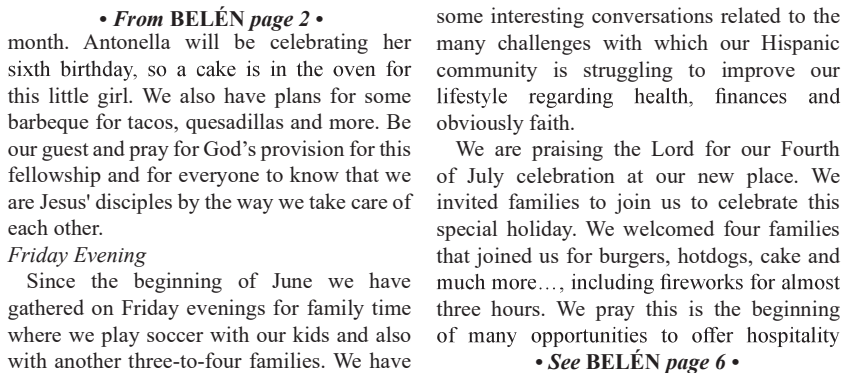
Growth without structure creates failure. Many ministries stop growing, not because God stopped blessing them, but because they stopped building an awesome team. But if there is no discipleship process, leadership development, follow-up ministry, or care system, growth becomes difficult to sustain. Growth that is not organized eventually becomes mediocre.

Hillside Baptist Church now has two awesome leaders. Bro. John Sumpter is our outreach ministry leader. Bro. Richard Flowers is our children's ministry leader.

Another great farming lesson I learned was harvest begins long before harvest season. There is plowing before planting. Planting comes before growth. Cultivation occurs before reaping. The harvest is the visible result of invisible preparation. Many people desire what others reap, but are unwilling to do the work.

At Hillside Baptist Church, we are in the planting part now. Our outreach has begun to take shape with Bro. John Sumpter leading the way. Bro. John has gone to the laundry mat three times, giving out \$5.00 to help people with their laundry expenses, along with sharing Christ and the church.

We are starting GPS, God's Plan for Sharing. Our goal is to knock on every door in the Union area. Pastor Josh Wright, New Testament Baptist Church, is bringing teens every Thursday to go door to door to assist us with canvassing. There are about eight teens and three adults every week participating in this effort. To date, we have knocked on over 200 doors. There is a long way to go, lol! Bro. Richard and Bro. John also visit on Saturday mornings. We have seen five visitors come so far as a result of their efforts.



▪ Updates from Our Churches ▪

Abundant Life in Christ, Charleston

We mourn the passing of Mother Earnestine Anderson during June but are thankful God gave her 83 strong years before she got sick and passed within a matter of weeks. Her homegoing was actually a blessing as the way and hope of Heaven were clearly laid out with standing, clapping, and shouting all over the building.

Rodney Dunlap, Pastor

Westview, Jefferson City

Greetings from the BMA church in Missouri's capital city!

We continue to have visitors for our Sunday morning worship services for which we are thankful. We honored the mothers of our church on Mother's Day with a gift bag, while the fathers of our church were honored with a pizza gift card on Father's Day.

We are again participating in the BMMI's Everlasting Smiles Christmas Shoebox ministry. We had a "USA Celebration 250" after morning worship on July 5 – hot dogs, ice cream and a gospel singing.

What a blessing it is to continue to bask in the mercy and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Benjamin Kingston, Pastor
Rae Lynn Hearst, Reporter*

Ozark Heights, Potosi

Greetings to all our brothers and sisters in Christ!

We are praising our Lord for the many answered prayers. Bro. Gary got a good report from his oncologist in June and is very thankful for all your prayers. Sis. Georgie

Warden has had great reports following a scary report from her doctor as well. Bro. Jim Shy saw prayers for his son Billy for salvation answered recently, followed by baptism on June 14th.

Our Bible school was a wonderful success with 40 students and workers each night. The program was "Magnify," and the work was mostly done by Bro. Hunter Moorman and his mother, Sis. Teri Moorman. Everyone was excited as we studied the powers and magnificence of our God.

We begin camp in a couple of weeks, and the kids are getting excited.

Until next month, keep the prayers coming. May God bless each of you.

*Dwight Petete, Pastor
Gary Gilliam, Reporter*

Bethel, Sikeston

Hello from Bethel, Sikeston.

Our VBS went very well this year. We had a good number of children attend. Our theme was "True North." The program was very good, and all the teens played their parts very well. Everyone worked together in harmony to make this year's VBS a great success.

On the 21st we honored our fathers with a special gift of recognition. We are so thankful for all of them, but most of all we are thankful for our heavenly Father.

On the 28th we had a double blessing as John and Matthew Nolen came forward, gave their testimonies, and requested to join the church. We experienced two ordinances of the church that very night, as we baptized them

both and welcomed them into the church with lots of hugs and handshakes. Afterward we observed the Lord's Supper. What a great blessing that was, and we are so proud of both of these young men.

We plan on having Bro. Tom McCannless here to teach the book of Revelation July 20th through the 24th, 6:30 to 8:00. We invite everyone to attend! This is such a great and rewarding study.

Congratulations go out to Sis. Mattie Bolen and Bro. Brett Whitlock as they are joined in holy matrimony on July 11th here at Bethel! May God bless them with many happy and blessed years!!

May God bless and keep you all.

*Billy Davis, Pastor
Joan Wood, Reporter*

Oak Hill, Alton

HELLO to all from Oak Hill!

Praise the Lord and thank the Lord that a couple of weeks ago Carstyn Casey asked the Lord to save him! July 5th Carstyn was baptized and became a new member to Oak Hill! We are hoping and praying about the chemo treatments he will have at St. Jude's this week to kill and eliminate his tumor/cancer behind his ear.

We are also hoping and praying that Eli and Erica Smith will welcome a healthy little baby boy very soon.

We hope and pray that everyone had a happy and blessed 4th of July, remembering how the Lord has blessed the United States over the past 250 years of being a free and prosperous nation!

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*

Ohlman, Bunker

Been a while since a report has been sent in.

We ended our Wednesday night student ministry for the summer on May 13th. School is out and this gives our workers a much needed break. We will start up after school has been in session for a couple of weeks this fall. We encourage the youth to attend other churches' vacation Bible schools during the summer.

Mother's Day we had a full house. A blessing that day was that two of our young newer members, Raelee Bennett and Hailey Bennett, sang a special before our praise and worship time. They had a proud mom in the congregation. We all were proud.

Juanita May took several of our Wednesday night girls to the MO GMA annual meeting and retreat at Camp Garwood in June. Seems like they had a great time. Paisley May was elected as President and Raelee Bennett was elected as Vice President.

Due to schedule conflicts, we couldn't recognize our high school graduates until June 7th. We had several visitors that day.

The town of Bunker had a thousand or more additional people in town attending the Mid America Bash that was organized by Dalton Harper. Several from the local churches, community, businesses and family members worked as volunteers that day. It was a huge undertaking but seemed to be enjoyed by everyone in attendance, except for the heat.

On July 5th, Natalee Steelman was baptized. She had accepted Christ at 2025 Camp Garwood. We authorized Joel Steelman to administer the

church ordinance of baptism. Again, we had a FULL house.

We are getting ready for a large group to attend 2026 Camp Garwood.

Last but not least, we are planning for our 75th Anniversary/Homecoming on October 4, 2026.

*Terry Sharpe, Pastor
Janet Widger, Reporter*

Landmark, DeSoto

Greetings to all our Christian siblings from Landmark Baptist Church, DeSoto. Hope this finds all of you praising God for the freedom we still have to openly worship our Lord and Savior.

250 years! And we're still fighting to keep our freedom and independence. Praying to God to lend us His strength in this battle, keep us ever vigilant, watching, and hoping for His coming.

We had a good Father's Day breakfast on June 21st. We held our Sunday School lesson in the fellowship hall afterward, so everyone had a chance to finish up their coffee and breakfast goodies. During song service, the men gathered at the front of the sanctuary and sang "Amazing Grace." It was great! You can watch them on the church's Facebook page!

The folks on our medical recovery list from last month are doing just that, recovering (praise the Lord!). We still have several members that are struggling with illness and medical problems – Sis. Lorrie Causey, Sis. Betty Harrison, Sis. Rebecca Young, Bro. Cameron Miller, and Bro. Kevin Saylor, just to name a few. We ask that you continue to pray for them as we continue to pray for all of you.

At our last WMA meeting, we decided to have a spaghetti dinner fundraiser on Saturday, September 19th, to benefit the projects for the district, state, and national WMA. I will post more details next month, since we haven't worked them all out yet!

~ Upcoming Events ~

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.

Attendance has been down some during these summer months, although we continue to have visitors on a regular basis. As Bro. Len has been stressing, we need to remain faithful even during vacation season!

May God continue to bless all of you until next month or until the Lord comes again!

Len Young, Pastor

Barbara Williams, Reporter

Mt. Olive, Salem

Exciting things are happening at Mt. Olive. We have

had two visitors coming to worship with us over the past few months. We are so thankful for their presence at Mt. Olive!

We had wonderful revival services in May with our evangelist, Bro. Lee Miller. To God be the glory!

On May 23rd we had a "going away" party for Bro. Larry and Sis. Rhonda's foreign exchange student, Ainhize Arrizabalaga, from Spain. It was great to get to meet her parents and her sisters, but the goodbyes were hard!! We

love you, Ainhize, and we all hope that someday we will be able to see you again!

We are excited that our men have organized a Brotherhood. We are praying for them as they start looking for guidance as God leads them in the Brotherhood ministry.

On Father's Day we presented gifts to each father in honor of their role as godly fathers in their families.

The new addition to our church building is getting very close to completion! We are excited to begin using it!

"Thank you" to our Mt. Olive men who have worked hard to accomplish the completion of the addition. Especially a big "thank you" to Bro. Steve Stricklin for all the hard work and many hours he has put into this building project!

Our WMA has been busy! For our June outreach we went to the long-term care at the hospital and sang hymns with them. We love that the residents join in singing with us. Visiting with them after we sing is always a blessing! When we left there we met

up at the church house and had a fun time of fellowship while making yarn dolls for our shoeboxes for the shoe box ministry we chose to participate in this year. At our June meeting we discussed more ideas for reaching out to our community through our WMA! "Reaching out in Service" is our theme song!

Thank you and please continue to pray for Mt. Olive as we work for the Lord in our church and community.

Larry Nash, Pastor

Deiatre Gillam, Reporter

The Master's Builders Celebrate Milestone

On June 9th, The Master's Builders gathered at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Jacksonville, TX, to celebrate their 200th completed job since the ministry began in 1991. The fellowship space was packed, and everyone loved watching the slideshow of pictures highlighting decades of projects over the past 35 years. Each table was decorated with a centerpiece designed and hand made by some of the Master's Builders ladies. Special celebration placemats and miniature tool giveaways decorated each table. A large table was set up with many photo albums and memory books of many of the 200 jobs over the years.

It's been an amazing journey of faith in God's provision since this ministry began. The very first project started when five couples loaded trucks with supplies, pulled their RVs, and headed to Dolores, CO, to help Interstate Missionary Ray White and Mountain View Mission with working on the sanctuary and building a fellowship hall. The 200th job had us working at Jacksonville College (for the ninth time). The Master's Builders have done a large portion of our work in Texas, Arkansas, and Missouri, but have worked as far away as Idaho, Florida, Illinois, and Colorado.

Even though things didn't go exactly as planned for the celebration, the group didn't skip a beat. Their main leader and field coordinator, Mike Green, was supposed to be the Master of Ceremonies but unfortunately ended up in the hospital. Rose Bittner stepped right in to take over as MC and did a great job keeping the evening moving. Bro. Eric Johnson, the Pastor at First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, started things off with the opening prayer.

Betty White Wilson shared a neat look back at the ministry's history and gave a sweet tribute to Audrey Tilley, the oldest living Master's Builder at 99 years old! Audrey is the wife of Roy Tilley and one of the original five couples who started the ministry. She was so excited anticipating the opportunity to share her memories with the group, but unfortunately had a serious fall before the event and had to attend from her hospital bed via a group video call.



"Honorary Hammers" inscribed with "The Master's Builders – Raising Roofs for Christ" were awarded to folks who have volunteered with the group for 20 years or more. These included John and Bettye Wilson, Eddie and Carol Sikes, Leroy and Norma Rankin, David and Dusty Axe, and James Chamness (wife Joyce went home to be with the Lord in 2023). Carol and Eddie Sikes then read the names of the Builders who have gone home to be with the Lord over the last 35 years. More than 60 names were read, and their contributions to the group were honored.

Master's Builder Leo Sketo gave a short devotional called "If You Died Today, Where Will You Be Tomorrow?"

Dinner was a huge hit – catered by a local favorite, Legend's Burgers restaurant. Everyone loaded up on big burgers with all the fixings, Legend's famous beans, potato salad, and wrapped things up with a 200th Celebration Cake and Legends famous chocolate sheet cake for dessert. Everyone enjoyed the food and especially the fellowship!

The room was filled with special guests, including several couples who had served with The Master's Builders over the years.

After 35 years and 200 jobs, The Master's Builders thank God for the provision, strength, and protection He has provided over the years.

The theme verse for the celebration and the core foundation of all the work The Master's Builders do is, I Cor. 3:10-11: *According to the grace of God this is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

The Master's Builders continue to pray that the Lord will call more workers to this vital ministry. If you feel compelled to join, visit a job site, or if your church has building needs, please reach out to one of the ministry coordinators, Mike Green ((972) 935-3877), David Axe ((903) 918-0702) or Eddie Sikes ((479) 462-1675).

Nelda Malone – Reporter

Poirier's Mission Update

Quebec

Thank you to all those who read our mission letter about the work the Lord opens for us. In Levis, Quebec, the work is growing little by little according to God's will. In the church at Levis we had to do some building modifications in order to provide more space for the nursery area. We moved my office into the nursery and moved the nursery into my office. This will give to those young ones 60 square feet.

By the grace of God we are growing in the Lord. New visitors are coming in most Sundays. The church is excited and the joy of the Lord is all over the building. We pray for the people of Levis to let the Lord come into their homes. We are witnessing door to door, and we meet new people..., but their heart is far from God. They have the appearance of Christianity but reject the gospel of Christ. The Catholic church has blinded the minds of the people for years, with her false doctrine and beliefs, trusting in their sacraments. We pray the Lord will open the hearts of the people to receive the good news of Christ – salvation by grace through faith.

Haiti

We have a lot of young ones who come to church on Sunday morning, receiving the Word of God at their level. More join the group because of love the leaders show and because of care given to ones left to themselves. Food is given each Sunday to help children to survive another week in that poor country. Parents are also coming when they can to church, but it is very dangerous for them to be on the street because of the gangs who charge money to use the streets. Sadly, two people of the church family were taken to the hospital for treatment: one child due to a beating by a gang because he did not want to give up his lunch; another was a single mother who had a stroke, paralyzing her right side. There is no home care for those that suffer in Haiti.

A new work is in preparation for the south part of Haiti – Les Cayes. It is far from Port au Prince and far from the gangs. People of Les Cayes have asked for a church in their area. I have been there a few times, like when hurricane Matthew and when an earthquake passed through. Pray for the church planting efforts in that region.

• See POIRIER page 7 •



In Due Season

Cindy Allen

We live in a very small rural community in east Texas. It is about 20 minutes from the metropolis of Jacksonville (haha), and I have been blessed to live here most of my life. For the first two years of marriage, Greg and I lived in an apartment in town. It was a great apartment and a good experience, but these two country kids moved back to the woods as soon as we could afford to.

For the first three decades of my life, I attended Friendship Baptist Church, just down the road from our house. My brother and I were those "drug kids." Every time the door was opened, we were drug in. And how thankful I am for that! Those people shaped me into the adult I am. When I walk through the doors, I see faces, hear voices, and sometimes feel a little sad; so many saints that aren't with us anymore. So many people who influenced me and others for God. We have a former pastor who often tells people, "Everyone needs a Friendship in their life," and I totally agree.

Those people let me teach their kids and grandkids and some of the adults as well. They allowed me to play the piano, sing specials, and lead the music, when I probably wasn't the best in the crowd. They loved my family through loss and celebrated milestones. The ladies hosted parties and showers in honor of every major event in my life. They are my people.

This morning I received a very pleasant surprise as I drove by the church. Many years ago, my mom and some others decided to add flowerbeds to the church. They planted and tended and watered. It was a nice addition. But as the years passed, and sadly the people passed, the flower beds were disassembled. So, imagine my surprise when a pink flower was shining brightly this morning. No one has put any effort into the beds in years, yet here the flower was.

The first thing I thought of was all the wonderful people who labored over the beds in the past. Then I realized the parallel between this flower and the people that were poured into by these precious saints. We often don't see the fruit produced by the seeds we plant for God. We teach kids to love and pray for people, invite people to our homes, try to influence coworkers, and other things; praying God will use our efforts for his honor and glory. Sometimes we see the results: salvations, lives changed, families restored. Other times we just pray and trust God with the outcome. And just like this flower, the fruits may not show up for years, but God has a plan. If we are faithful to His plan, He will create beautiful flowers for His garden.

This flowerbed has not been tended to in years, but because of the diligent care provided years ago, the seeds were there and beauty was created. God puts people in our lives that we are to give diligent care to. The people of Friendship Baptist Church lived life with me. Look around at the people who are living life with you. These are the people God wants you to be pouring in to. Can it be frustrating at times? Yes. Are we promised that people will make God-honoring choices? No. But we can't give up. Plant, pull weeds, add fertilizer, whatever it takes to help God's garden grow. It may be years before the flowers bloom, but while driving past Friendship this morning, I was reminded that God makes all things beautiful in his time.

Witnessing As a Way of Life

Dr. David G. Hellwig, BMA Seminary Vice President/Dean

On June 1-5, 2026, the BMA Seminary offered a class on discipleship which covered the spiritual disciplines of giving, witnessing, and serving. BMA Seminary teaches DiscipleWay as part of the curriculum required for most degree programs. Produced by BMA leaders over ten years ago, DiscipleWay has become a significant part of the seminary's curriculum. It teaches that "it is better to train a disciple maker than make a disciple," and focuses on seven key spiritual disciplines: Bible Study, Prayer, Worship, Giving, Witnessing, Serving, and Leadership.

For the witnessing component of the course, the seminary teaches Evangelism Explosion (EE) and has taught this method of evangelism for several years. EE teaches that evangelism is something any Christian should do simply as a "way of life." As Christians go about their daily lives, they should be open to God's leading to share the gospel with the people around them. Evangelism is not just for preachers, evangelists, and missionaries. All Christians should be encouraged to share their faith.

One seminary student took the course for credit, while several others signed up for the free witnessing component of the



class. Of those were young people from churches of the Cherokee Baptist Association in Jacksonville, TX. For the most part, these were not preachers, but laypeople who accepted the challenge to learn how to share the gospel.

This course provided not only classroom instruction and discussion, but also real-world experience in witnessing to people in the communities surrounding the seminary. Four groups of three, led by student trainers and professors, went out witnessing on three different occasions through the week. A total of 63 contacts were made, 30 full presentations of the gospel were given, and one person made a profession of faith. Everyone in the class participated in the presentations, even those with timid and shy personalities.

These young people learned that they can indeed share their faith with courage and confidence. Listen to



what they had to say about the course:

- "Since taking the Evangelism Explosion workshop, I now have the utmost confidence to share the gospel."
- "As a Christian, I've always known we need to evangelize and I've always been wanting to evangelize more, but never really knowing what to do. When I learned how effective it was during on-the-site training, it grew the flame even bigger, and that desire for evangelizing is still burning after the class."
- "EE really opened my eyes to how sharing the gospel is actually simple and easy. And now I have confidence that I didn't have before in sharing the gospel with others."

The seminary teaches Evangelism Explosion three times in the year during the regular fall and spring semesters, and a one-week intensive course in the summer. If you or anyone from your church would like to learn how to share the gospel more effectively and with confidence, contact the seminary to learn more. You can email the seminary at bmats@bmats.edu or call (903) 586-2501 and ask for the dean's office.

Prayer: Dear Lord, how can we thank you for all the people you have put in our lives to lead us closer to you? You do so love us. Please help each of us to carry on their legacy and pour into others. Show us who, what, and when you want us to do and give us the gumption to do it. Please, Lord, help us to pour into others so they in turn can pour into the next generations. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Scripture: Galatians 6:1-10; II Timothy 2:2; Titus 2

Response: Matthew 5:16 "...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

• **From BELÉN page 3** •
to our community as we continue to reach out to these families through our various ministries. PRAISE the Lord!

Prayer Items

- Salvation for each one of our various contacts.
- The discipleship pathway to be completed by each one of our participants as well.
- Baptism ceremony to be celebrated as soon as the Lord gives us the opportunity to

witness growth and their call from God identifying them as Jesus' followers.

- The establishment of our ministry with the IRS and with a new bank account to be opened.
- Healthy lifestyle for me and my family.
- God's provision of good friends to grow in faith and fellowship.

Dios le bendiga! (God bless you!)

In His service,
Juan Fernandez

The Woman at Church Everyone Sees

Emily Simpson, Baptist Progress Editor
Via Baptist Progress

Ladies, the pastor's wife is not your pastor.

A big misconception often exists that a pastor's wife is there to meet every need of every lady, participate in every church event, have knowledge of every spiritual concept or be the epitome of every stereotype. Perhaps an exaggeration, or perhaps not. In reality, she has a much different responsibility that is not much different than your own.

Scripture directs her to be a trustworthy wife to her husband, working hard and bringing good to her family and community, as you are (Proverbs 31:10-31). She's to be a disciple-maker of other women, as you are (Titus 2:3-5). She's to practice godly behavior, submission and a gentle and quiet spirit, as you are (1 Peter 3:1-6). She's to watch her tongue, be sober minded, and faithful, as you are (1 Timothy 3:11). And in so doing, she adorns the doctrine of the gospel, as you can (Titus 2:10).

Where her role does differ, the depths of it will be seen by her family, close friends and God alone.

"When I chose to marry Charles Johnson, then I was called into the ministry to serve as his helpmate," acknowledges Charlotte Johnson, a pastor's wife veteran of 54 years. Mrs. Charlotte's love for God, His church and His people has allowed her to learn this and many other valuable truths that she has in turn taught to other women. As Titus 2 instructs.

"My husband is called to serve a sovereign God. He is charged to reach the world for Christ and to impact the present for eternity. I am called to serve my Savior as a child of God and work alongside my preacher husband. What a privilege. This is not a job, but a lifestyle and calling from God," Mrs. Charlotte explains.

Our society used to associate all women with their husband's job. They were a team, but it did not mean she was tasked to do the job her husband performed. Her willingness to be an active helper, supporter or business partner made all the difference. Much like the effect a modern pastor's wife has today.

"She can be a great influence on her husband's ministry, or she can be a hindrance," Mrs. Charlotte warns. "Women of the church need a leader and an encourager. The Lord has chosen you [pastor's wife] to be your husband's helpmeet and walk beside him in ministry."

Such a task is easier said than done – any pastor or preacher's wife knows this. From spiritual and emotional drainage to church conflict. And often, the woman at church who appears she's got it all together, is the one who needs someone to reach out to her the most. Yet, as tough as it can be, God is the one who equips and strengthens her to endure through these challenges (Galatians 6:9). His grace is sufficient, and it is sufficient for the trials you face too (2 Corinthians 12:9).

"There is no greater joy than to be married to a minister," Mrs. Charlotte truly believes.

So though your pastor's wife is not automatically a member of the church staff, she's not guaranteed to know how to play the piano, apart from God her home belongs to her and her family and she may or may not have seminary education, rest assured she is a Christ follower seeking to be obedient and please Him, I hope just like you.

Take notice the next time you're around your pastor's wife. How has she come alongside her husband in ministry, not to do his job, but to support it? How have you benefited from her presence at your church? Does she have a kind and caring heart that scripture describes? Does she have a loyalty to truth that you admire and wish to imitate? Is she always the first to volunteer in service? She may not have a perfect home, but is

• From POIRIER page 5 •

Dominican Republic

The Lord is blessing our Haitian church in the area of Boca Chica with new visitors. They enjoy all the messages that we send them. Despite the restriction placed on the Haitians living in the Dominican Republic, our people are faithful to encourage each other, knowing that God is in control. We have a Spanish family going through a hard time due to health concerns. The father, Victor, went into the hospital with pain in one leg and now it is worse – he can hardly walk. The doctor believes it is the *Staphylococcus* bacteria in his blood. Pray for Victor for salvation, that the veil will be pulled back from his eyes and he will see his need for salvation. Another lady who needs salvation, named Yris, we plan to see on our next trip to the DR.

Benin (Africa)

Missionary Prince is doing well in spreading the gospel, preaching on the street and adding more young men to the Bible teaching each week. The group is praying for a bigger place to meet.

Ivory Coast (Africa)

Many people came to Christ and were baptized the last couple months, and the people are excited for God's work. Their prayer is that more people would be exposed to the Word of God.

Prayer Requests

- That the people of Levis, Quebec, would open their hearts to the gospel of Christ.

the atmosphere welcoming in a way that others aren't?

Write her a note, ask about and invest in her life, make a meal for her and her family. Find ways to encourage her efforts in Christlikeness and for all that she does. If you see these efforts from her lacking, then encourage her by going the extra step and model those things yourself. In the end, you may find a new understanding of one another and a deeper connection to the God you both serve.

Quillman Newsletter

There's something about this season here that feels, well, full. Not just the fields, though they are too. Everywhere you look right now, the land is alive in that deep, satisfied way that only comes after good, steady rain. And this year, the rains didn't hold back. They came often, sometimes a little too hard, but in the end, they did what we all hoped they would do.

Harvest has begun.

Just the other day, we joined in helping pick maize from the school's field. It wasn't glamorous work. Dusty hands, sore backs, the sun refusing to take it easy on anyone. Still, there's something grounding about it. You stand there, holding what months of waiting has produced, and you remember that growth doesn't shout, it happens quietly... then all at once. It's hard not to think of Galatians 6:9 in moments like that, *Let us not grow weary in*

doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. Some days, that verse feels very literal out here.

And in a way, lately ministry has felt like that, too.

We were blessed to host Melvin and Carolyn Meade, along with their daughter Valarie Fish. Their time here was short, but full in all the right ways.

The men's and women's Bible studies had a strong turnout, more than we expected if we're honest. There's a real hunger here and it shows whenever the Word is opened and shared.

Mrs. Carolyn also brought along clothes collected through the Pregnancy Resource Center she volunteers at, and we were able to distribute them to families in the community. That moment, watching people receive something so simple, yet so needed, it stays

• See QUILLMAN page 8 •



- Pray for our Haitian church – for protection, food, growth in the Lord.
 - A new work for a church plant in Les Cayes, Haiti.
 - Help from the Lord for salvation and health for Victor in Dominican Republic.
 - An open door for preaching the gospel in Africa.
- May the Lord bless as we serve in the place He has assigned us.

Michel & Ruth Poirier (pasteur.poirier56@gmail.com)

CBC Academic Achievements

Central Baptist College announced the President's and Dean's Lists for Spring 2026, including the following students from Missouri.

President's List

Melanie Phillips
Dudley

Robert Watson III
Brentwood

Dean's List

Aliya Grotjohn
Seneca

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)

Oak Park Baptist Church in Little Rock, AR is seeking a full-time pastor. For more information or to send a resume, contact the Pastor's Search Committee by email (oakparkpastorsearchcommittee@gmail.com) or mail to Oak Park Baptist Church (8200 Flintridge Road, Little Rock AR 72210).

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 SURVEY page 1 •

increasing our level of giving – both in number of churches giving regularly and by increasing the amount each church gives monthly. Ideally we will need a total increase of \$1,000 a month or more for this option to work.

2. Subscriptions. This would require us to set up every address receiving the paper on an annual subscription payment. Subscription rates are not yet known, but would likely be double (or more) the present \$10 annual rate.

3. Transition to digital. With this option we will no longer print the paper, but have it available only in digital format. This will require readers to have internet access, although we would hope to have options where those without internet could have a friend print each issue

on a home printer.

4. Mixed. We are also looking into the option, if desired by our readers and supported by increased offerings, of printing a limited number of issues each year and doing the rest as digital.

Your Feedback

We are inviting your help in deciding which way to proceed. Please complete the survey below and return it for your opinions to be counted. Completed surveys can be sent via email (by sending a clear snapshot of your marked survey or by typing your responses into an email message) to mmbpaper@gmail.com. Or you may clip and mail completed forms to *Missouri Missionary Baptist*, 704 Valley Rd, Potosi, MO 63664. Deadline for responses is August 1. Your help is greatly appreciated.

• From QUILLMAN page 7 •

with you. It's easy to forget how far a small act of kindness can reach.

Looking ahead, another team is set to arrive mid-May, and we're already preparing, praying it will be just as impactful. Each group that comes brings something a little different, and somehow God uses every bit of it.

At the same time, we've had to walk through a change that hasn't been easy.

Our ministry partner, Lackson Munkombwe, has been called into military service. Saying goodbye, even if it may not be forever, has been difficult. He has been such a steady presence here; someone we've leaned on more than we probably realized until now. Ministry has a way of weaving people together quickly, and when one thread is pulled, you feel it.

Still, we're holding onto truth even when emotions tug in another direction. Proverbs 3:5-6 has been on repeat in our hearts lately, *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight*. We may not fully understand the timing, but we do trust the One who does. We're praying for Lackson as he steps into this new season, believing God's plan for him is just as intentional as it is here.

Then there's the bigger step we've been quietly working toward.

We've been shown a piece of land for the future BMA Bible Institute building. Standing there, it is still

just land, open and waiting, but it doesn't feel empty. There's vision in it. Next week, we'll begin the process of getting it surveyed, which is one

of those necessary steps that isn't very exciting on paper, but it matters a lot. Once everything is in place, we will begin building.

It's strange to think about what

might stand there someday. We keep coming back to 1 Corinthians 3:11, *For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ*. That's the heart behind all of this. Not just buildings, not just programs, but something lasting.

Sometimes ministry feels like planting seeds and walking away, trusting something will grow long after you've left the field. Other times, like now, you get to see a bit of the harvest, and maybe even start laying foundations for what's next.

We're grateful to be here in both moments.

Thank you for continuing to pray for us, for the people here, and for what God is doing in Zambia. Truly, we couldn't do this alone.

Prayer Requests:

- Our family in the U.S.
- Traveling safety for the teams visiting
- For the Holy Spirit to go before us
- Pray for Sharon as she continues with a women-only Bible study

Prayer Praises:

- The rains and the crops
- Land for the Bible Institute



Reader Survey

Strongly Agree Strongly Disagree

1. I think the *Missouri Missionary Baptist* paper still serves a vital role in our State work, and should continue to be published in some format each month. (Circle one.)
2. I would prefer that churches and individuals increase monthly offerings so the *Missouri Missionary Baptist* can continue to be published in the current (printed) format.
3. I genuinely believe my church will *increase* its giving to the paper by \$ _____ per month.
4. I prefer to retain the printed format by going to an annual subscription paid by each individual or family who receives the paper (i.e., no more church lists).
5. I would be willing to pay up to \$ _____ each year to continue receiving the paper in a printed format.
6. I prefer that the paper convert to a digital format (which will require readers to have internet access).
7. I have internet access: Yes / No. (If Yes, proceed to Question 8.) If the paper does transition to digital format, it is important to me that it can be printed on a home printer by a friend for me to read it.
8. I would prefer for the paper to split formats, with some months published in digital-only and others in print-only formats.

Additional Comments: _____