

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

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

Volume LXXXVIII

St. Louis, MO • August 11, 2026

Issue No. 8

Garwood Camp Report

Chris Polk

This year's camp was such a blessing. In many ways the week helped me refresh. As a pastor: Matthews brought more people to camp than we have in several years. That was encouraging. Because it was a fairly easy week, I was able to spend more time with our group. We had a great week and spent time each day talking about the services, how camp was going, what Bro. Larry had preached on, recreation fun, etc. Best of all, The Lord blessed us with one profession of faith.

The week didn't start off easy – there was a lot of heat and wasps. Dan, Rob, Chloe and I fought wasps Sunday night into Monday. Dorm 3 was heavily infested. We knocked out the bulk and tried to discourage future builds. Did I mention it was HOT and the Dorm 7 air conditioning decided to give us trouble? It has some major issues and we plan to replace it before



next year. The Lord blessed and it made it through the week, although it sounded rough.

Beyond that, our troubles were minor, hardly worth mentioning.

I needed a week like we had. I prayed for a week like this. The Thursday night incident of 2025 still wore on my mind. I needed a camp week like this to replace that one. And the Lord blessed. So again, to everyone who made this year possible, Thank You!

Bro. Larry brought very relatable messages full of missionary stories, and reminding us in these *Perilous Times* to live in the presence of the Lord.

Central Collective band led us to the throne each service. We are grateful for their love of the Lord and willingness to return to Garwood.

On Tuesday night we changed what had become a traditional movie night and had guest ventriloquist Doug Mickan entertain instead. Everyone seemed to love Doug, along with Tommy, Ralph and others in his gang of puppets – so much so we have invited him back next year.

• See GARWOOD page 3 •

Jesus Camp – A Week to Remember

Mandi Miller

Another incredible week of camp is in the books at Jesus Camp, and what a blessing it was! Campers and volunteers experienced a week filled with fun, friendship, worship, and opportunities to grow closer to the Lord.

The week began with our children's camp, which followed *Emerald Crossing* Vacation Bible School-style format from Answers in Genesis. Campers stayed busy from morning until night enjoying Bible lessons based off Psalm 23, exciting games, creative crafts,

hands-on science projects, energetic worship, and plenty of laughter. Each evening concluded with bedtime devotions, giving the children a quiet opportunity to reflect on what they had learned throughout the day.

One special part of the week for the girls was a nightly devotion centered on Psalm 23. They explored what it means to be a godly friend – learning that as the Good Shepherd cares for us, we should care for, encourage, and love those around us.

• See CAMP page 5 •

~ 2026 WMA Sponsored Retreat ~

September 11-12

Drury Inn & Conference Center, Cape Girardeau

• Deadline for registration and t-shirt order: August 28 •

Registration fee: \$70.00

T-Shirt cost: \$20.00 sizes S-XL; \$25.00 sizes 2XL and up

Make checks payable to MO State WMA

Mail to: Janet Widger, 5014 Hwy N, Salem, MO 65560

(Include shirt sizes and any dietary restrictions, if applicable.)

BMA Seminary Free Class: The Life of Peter

David G. Hellwig, Seminary Dean

For more than ten years, BMA Seminary in Jacksonville, TX, has offered a free course during each regular semester. These courses have touched on all major areas of academic discipline: Biblical Studies, Theological-Historical, Church Ministries, and Religious Education. The topic for the Fall 2026 semester free course will focus on a study of the life of Peter.

Most seminaries and Bible colleges offer courses on the life of Christ and life of Paul, and for good reason. First, Christ is the main character of Scripture and the One who brought redemption to mankind. The Old Testament prophesied about Christ's coming redemptive works, the four Gospels in the New Testament record the historicity of their prophetic fulfillments, and the New Testament epistles explain the significance of Christ's redemptive work. Second, the apostle Paul wrote half of the New Testament books and was quite possibly the greatest Christian missionary. Plus, our theology and understanding of doctrine primarily come from Paul's biblical writings.

The apostle Peter also holds a significant place in Scripture and early Christian history. However, not many seminaries and Bible colleges offer a specific course on the life of Peter. He was a faithful follower of Jesus' earthly ministry, one of the main leaders of the early church, and a writer of two New Testament epistles. This FREE Fall 2026 course on the life of Peter will focus on four primary areas: (1) background information on Peter, (2) Peter as a follower

of the Lord as highlighted in the four Gospels, (3) Peter as a leader in the early church as noted in Acts 1-12, and (4) an overview of Peter's two epistles.

This course would benefit any Christian desiring to receive a detailed look at the life of Peter from the biblical record and would be a great refresher for any pastor or missionary, or Sunday school teacher. This would also be a great study for church groups such as Galileans, GMAs, WMAs, and Brotherhoods.

Dr. David Hellwig created this course for the seminary curriculum in 2013. It has been a repeated course since then. People from ten different states and nine different countries have already registered for this course. This class will run for eight weeks beginning September 7, 2026, and going through October 30, 2026. The last day to register for this course is August 24, 2026. You can go to bmats.edu/free/ to fill out a short registration form. The main textbook, in addition to the Bible, will be *The Life and Witness of Peter* by Larry R. Helyer (Downers Grove, IL, IVP Academic, 2012), ISBN: 978-08308-3982-7).

For further information about the course or BMA Seminary, feel free to contact the seminary by email (bmats@bmats.edu) or by phone ((903) 586-2501).

State Missions

Dear BMAMO Churches,
Happy August!

It's been a great camp season for the associations in Missouri with Jesus Camp and Camp Garwood. Bro. Larry Barker was utilized in both camps and did an amazing job. All credit to God for souls saved and seeds planted. I am sure both camps will be giving more detailed reports in this paper. Please give glory and praise to God for all of His blessings through the respective camps that He has provided for His Missouri BMA work.

As you know, the State Association is hosting a Church Multiplication Workshop led by Bro. Larry Barker on September 17 starting at 6 p.m. at the Meramec Retreat Center in Richwoods. It will run through the weekend, ending on Saturday, September 19 at 11 a.m. (See far right column on this page for a detailed program schedule.)

There has been some confusion as to who this is for, so I take credit for that and let me try to clear it up. This conference is suited for church planters, but after being exposed to the information in August 2025, I saw the unbelievable benefit for all believers to have this information. I believe Bro. Larry will do an excellent job showing us how to adapt these principles to established churches.

In my humble opinion, each pastor will benefit significantly from being exposed to these principles on how to be incarnational and intentional in carrying out the Great Commission. Everyone is invited, but pastors,

I will leave it up to you on who you invite personally. And yes, hat in hand, I am begging all our pastors to attend. We will survive without this particular conference; we will not survive as churches or an association without applying and obeying the Great Commission, which is to make disciples!

Please call me to RSVP and with any questions. I would like to know who all is going by September 7th, if possible, in order to make sure we have sufficient supplies.

FAQs

1. Are we spending the night at the Retreat Center? Yes, unless you make other provisions.
2. Are women invited? Yes.
3. Are lay members invited? Yes.
4. What do I need to bring? Bedding (twin size bunks), clothes for three days, personal items, Bible, notepad, pen, medications, specific foods for a specific diet.
5. Will I be allowed to share my infinite wisdom after each statement that Bro. Larry makes? Uh, NO! (Tongue in cheek!) But seriously, please come to listen and hear from God and His servant and His Word on how we can better carry out the Great Commission. As you can imagine, with several pastors in the same building if it becomes a share time we will not get through the material. Please be sensitive to this.

I am so looking forward to this conference and how God will use it for His glory.

Bro. Ben Kingston



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

Praises

We are so thankful for God's provision for our financial needs and prayer support to continue planting and watering the seed of the gospel among our Hispanic family.

We are meeting on weekdays for discipleship and life events with the following families: Ramirez and Pardo in Florissant; Ordóñez, Olivares, Alvarado and Arvaux in Hazelwood; the Geronimos in Chesterfield; and the Fernandezes (our family) in Moro, Illinois.



We recently moved our weekly gathering for worship and celebration service to 1:00 p.m. at Lindsay Lane Missionary Baptist Church in Florissant, MO. Pray for ministry teams to reach out to our family needs, worship, nursery, etc.

Prayer Requests

1. For healthy lifestyle for each one in our family, Hannah, Victoria, Eleanor, Juanito, and my parents Juan Manuel and Martha and myself. Dad's surgery is scheduled for August 14.
2. For each one of the contacts to become faithful laborers for the kingdom; for wisdom, discipline and energy as these men become leaders at home. That each one completes our discipleship process, starting with the salvation of these individuals. These include Jose, Jose Manuel, Nahun, Ramirez, Conor, Roberto, and Fabio.

• See BELÉN page 6 •

Church Multiplication Workshop

September 17-19

Thursday

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Session 1 Seize the Mission
Refreshments
8:30 - 9:00 p.m. Questions & Answers

Friday

8:00 a.m. Breakfast
8:30 - 10:15 a.m. Session 2 Adopt Missional
Thinking & Behaviors
10:30 a.m. - Noon Session 3 Exegete the Culture
12:00 p.m. Lunch
1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Session 4 Incarnate the Gospel
3:15 - 5:15 p.m. Session 5 Multiply Disciple-
Makers, Part 1
5:30 p.m. Dinner
6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Session 6 Multiply Disciple-
Makers Part 2

Saturday

8:00 a.m. Breakfast
8:30 - 10:00 a.m. Session 7 Form Communities
10:15 - 11:30 a.m. Session 8 Mobilize Leaders &
Teams
11:30 - Noon Questions & Answers
Dismissal

Financial Report BMA of Missouri Missions July 2026

Checking Account

Balance June 30 \$ 27,534.64

Income

Missions	\$ 2,086.02	
BMA Foundation	756.22	
Total Income		\$ 2,842.24
Total Available		\$ 30,376.88

Expenses

Director, salary	\$ 450.00	
Secretary, salary	200.00	
Juan Fernandez, support	2,333.33	
Director meeting exp	74.69	
Total Expenses		\$ (3,058.02)
Balance July 31		\$ 27,318.86

BMAMS Revolving Loan Investment

Balance June 30	\$ 127,042.74	
Interest	1,428.84	
Balance July 31		\$ 128,471.58
Total in All Accounts July 31		\$ 155,790.44

The Missouri Missionary Baptist

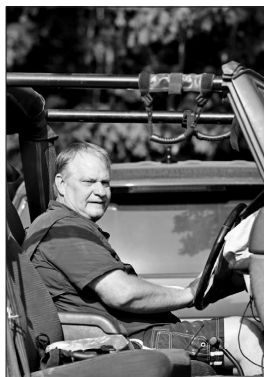
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• From GARWOOD page 1 •

Back in May, The Master's Builders built us a Noah's Ark, a GaGa pit and a couple carpet pool tables. All of these proved to be popular. These are new activities for all ages and will be a blessing for years to come.

Tristan and Jordy did a fantastic job MCing each session, moving us from announcements to worship and dismissing to meals. That's a hard time slot to fill and they did great.

Thanks to Melvin and Maggie Barnett and their helpers Anthony, Crystal, Bea, Janet, Jason, the Loyalty crew and I don't know who all. We had great food all week and appreciate the difficulty of that job.

The canteen crew, what can I say? If a guy needs a pick me up, he only needs to stop by the canteen. Order something and listen to that cast of characters spring into action. There are no funner people to be around on the camp grounds.

These few lines could never do justice to the memories we made camp week. It's sometimes suggested we separate and have a camp for different ages. But I don't think that would work for us. Our camp is a combination family reunion and church revival. We like being together. (Tell me if I'm wrong.) From babies crying to seniors on

walkers. We are better together. We love being together.

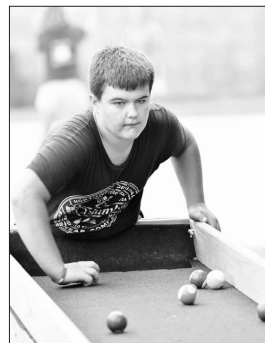
The most-campers award this year goes to Kewanee bringing 50! Second place goes to Ohlman with 42! Great job, guys! I hope you both bring twice that many next year! We had a total 227 campers. The best number of all, though, is the 13 professions giving their lives to Christ! Pray for these souls and the churches tasked with discipling them!

Our 2027 plans include repairing/replacing the Dorm 7 cooling system and working on the Tabernacle.

We have a few dates scheduled for this fall. Mark your calendars and join us!

- Aug 14-15 – Dewr weekend, Garwood
- Sept 17-19 – Discipleship training, Meramec Retreat Center
- Oct 2-3 – Prayer retreat, Garwood
- Oct 10 – BMA of MO annual meeting, Bethel, Sikeston
- Nov 3-5 – Celebration conference, Branson
- Nov 6-7 – Paintball, Garwood

We are working on plans for our next year's camp. The dates are July 26-30, and the theme will be *Seek Ye First* from Matthew 6:33, *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*



■ Updates from Our Churches ■

Abundant Life in Christ, Charleston

We rejoice in a successful VBS with one profession of faith.

Rodney Dunlap, Pastor

Oak Hill, Alton

HELLO to all from Oak Hill!

In July we welcomed two baby boys. Eli and Erica Smith on the 8th welcomed Henry Floyd Smith weighing 7 lbs. 9 oz. and 20 inches long. The name really surprised Eli's dad, Henry Jr., and made him proud. Then Jacob Hollander and Kendra Infranca on the 10th welcomed Walker Michael Den Hollander weighing 6 lbs. 6 oz. and 19½ inches long. We will be welcoming some more babies in the months to follow.

I know we have some kids that are not yet ready for school to start. Alton Elementary and High School start August 26. Couch Elementary and High School start August 24.

August 30 is our fifth Sunday dinner! If you are in our area, please stop by. I'm sure we will have something that you will like to eat.

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

Westview, Jefferson City

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

Westview received three new members during the

month of July. We are thankful for Hunter and Mary and for Rob.

Pastor Benjamin and some of our young people attended and worked at the Meramec church camp. Some of our church people donated and installed a new sound system.

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

Bethel, Sikeston

Hello to all from Bethel, Sikeston.

We all had a good time on the 4th of July celebrating Independence Day with our family and friends and watching the beautiful fireworks. We thank God for our freedom to worship and exercise our faith.

On the 11th Sis. Mattie Bolen and Bro. Brett Whitlock were united in marriage. It was a beautiful ceremony and reception. We pray God will bless this union with many happy years together.

On July 20-24 Bro. Tom McCanless blessed us by teaching the book of Revelation. We had a house full show up every night, for which we are so thankful! We are also thankful for Bro. Tom's willingness to teach this book and that God gave him that gift of wisdom and knowledge.

We had 30 teens and adults attend camp this year, and they came back fired up for the Lord!! We were so blessed to hear there were 13 professions of faith made, praise God!! We are so thankful for Camp Garwood and for Bro.

Chris Polk and family for all their hard work to keep it going. We are thankful for all the other churches that are involved in helping to make it a success, too.

Some of our ladies plan to attend the women's conference in Cape this year.

May God bless you all!

Billy Davis, Pastor
Joan Wood, Reporter

Landmark, DeSoto

Hello to all our brothers and sisters in Christ from Landmark, DeSoto. We have had bad news and good news this past month.

Sis. Betty Harrison, one of our dear 90-year-olds, passed away on July 9th. We already miss her so much but take comfort in knowing she is face-to-face with Jesus Christ. She was our Sunday School secretary and prayer list caller and always carried out her duties very faithfully. Please remember Bill and Terry Smith (Terry is her daughter) and all their family as well as the rest of us at Landmark as we face this time of grieving.

Good news: We have had three first-time visitors in the past couple of weeks. One young lady brought her mother this past Sunday! We could take a lesson from her about inviting people to church!

Bro. Len's sermons and teachings are still lifting us up spiritually. He's a history buff and can explain Biblical words, expressions, customs and practices in a way that helps us understand the true meaning of the scriptures. Sis. Rebecca blesses us with her musical gifts and encour-

aging us to join in the fun!

We'll be having our fifth Sunday potluck luncheon on the last Sunday of August. This is always a good time of fellowship and good ol' country cooking. We'll observe the Lord's Supper during the evening service.

Please continue to remember us in your prayers, and we will do the same for you.

Len Young, Pastor

Barbara Williams, Reporter

Lower Doe Run, Ellington

We at Lower Doe Run are so blessed as old/new attenders are coming back. God has blessed with our fellowship in all services.

We know God is present in choir with Bro. Ron leading when he is able to be at his home church. He's been able to preach in other churches since having the announcement in the state paper.

We are enjoying the fellowship of potluck every Sunday after morning services. There we can catch up with everyone that seems to be too busy during the week.

We were sad to see Sis. Tabby have to move to a new home. She has moved to Williamsville, MO. We miss her.

The ladies Bible studies continue weekly in town at the home of Eva Shelton. We dig deeper into the Bible writings by Luke. All of us are mature Christians that have been involved in ministries for years, yet joy it is when one says, "I never knew that!" Sis. Kathleen has taught the young classes all her life, and now she is enjoying digging deeper for her faith to increase. Yes, we have a great time.

I wish you all could have been at Camp Garwood this month as we experienced our mission field at work. Bro. Barker poured out his heart through relevant stories from his life. We saw how we are blessed with youngsters coming out, worshipping, giving testimonies, doing devotionals, and witnessing of how Jesus has changed their lives. In the junior girls class with Ladonna and me, several girls gave testimonies, and one brought her classmate back after class to seek the Lord in salvation! For us it is a little bit of Heaven on earth. While reading real missionary stories one morning, one thing stuck out so clearly. We in ministry (which is each and every part of the body of Christ, the church), we need to stay the course! The need is for workers who will stay the course.

We are concerned for our local association of churches. We are three churches now in the Logan Creek Association, spread from Salem to Ellington. We were several at one time and treasured our fellowship at fifth Sunday meetings and singings, and we miss those days. Are we teaching and discipling our young ones to stay the course and be faithful where they are planted? Pray for faithful members that will commit to serve in different areas! We need encouragement from fellow believers. Don't fail to attend associational meetings, revivals, and anywhere the word is preached. 2 Timothy 2:1-4: Be strong and stay the course.

Melvin Meade, Pastor
Carolyn Meade, Reporter

~ Upcoming Events ~

Day of Sharing – Aug 16; special offering for Baptist Publishing House
WMA Sponsored Ladies' Retreat – Sept 11-12; Drury Plaza Hotel Cape Girardeau Conference Center
Church Multiplication Workshop – Sept 17-19; Meramec Retreat Center

Meramec Association Annual Meeting – Sept 25, 10 a.m.; White Oak Grove, Potosi
BMA of Missouri Annual Meeting – Oct 10, 9 a.m.; Bethel, Sikeston
Lifeworld Sunday – Oct 18
Celebration 2026 – Nov 3-5; Chateau on the Lake, Branson

Send event info to mmbpaper@gmail.com.

75 Year
Anniversary

One Foundation
Many Generations



October 4, 2026
9:00 - 3:30

To ensure we have plenty of food,
please RSVP to
Juanita May
Janet Widger
Glenda Morgenson
Marilyn Situka
Tracy Gant

Join us in Celebrating 75
years of God's blessings.

9:00 Reception
10:00 Worship Service
Bro. Russell
Chitwood

12:00 Catered Lunch

1:15 Praise, Worship &
Challenge

Music - Mainline
Speakers:
Bro. Terry Sharpe
Holden May



Ohlman
Missionary
Baptist Church

Hwy 72 Approx. 8 miles east of Bunker

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Staying Connected to the CBC Family

Dr. Jeremy Langley, CBC President

Serving as president of Central Baptist College has given me the privilege of seeing how a CBC education continues to shape the lives of our alumni long after they leave campus. Although graduation marks the completion of your student journey, it is also the beginning of a lifelong connection to the CBC family.

One of the best ways to stay engaged is by becoming a member of the CBC Alumni Association. Your membership helps strengthen the connection between alumni and the College while supporting programs and opportunities that enrich the CBC experience for current and future Mustangs. Whether

• See ALUMNI page 7 •



• From CAMP page 1 •

No camp week would be complete without great food, and the kitchen crew certainly delivered. A heartfelt thank you goes to the Janes family, who served as camp cooks. Their delicious meals and hard work helped keep everyone fueled for the busy days ahead.

Teen camp followed and brought our largest attendance since before COVID, with 104 girls and 55 boys spending the week at camp. It was encouraging to see so many young people eager to worship, learn God's Word, and build lasting friendships.



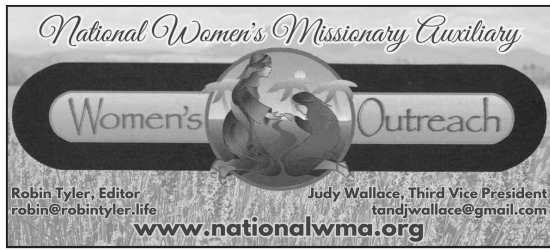
Our guest speaker, Bro. Larry Barker, challenged campers throughout the week with a sermon series focused on how we can BLESS others through our words, actions, and daily lives. His messages encouraged students to be the hands and feet of Christ both at camp and when they return home. He also taught us what it means to disciple others and how to do that.

Of course, camp wasn't all serious! Campers enjoyed recreation, friendly competition, and even a few refreshing (and very cold!) swims that helped beat the summer heat. Memories were made that will last a lifetime.

As another year of Jesus Camp comes to a close, we are thankful for every camper, volunteer, counselor, cook, pastor, and church that made this week possible. Most importantly, we praise God for the seeds planted in the hearts of so many young people. We pray they continue to grow in their faith and boldly share the love of Jesus wherever they go.

(Photo credit: Molly Kingston, Facebook)





It's All About Jesus

Robin Tyler

Picking up our granddaughter at VBS, she came running to me shaking a piece of paper yelling, "Look Mimi! It's all about Jesus!!" I glanced at the piece of paper, nodding my head in agreement of what was causing all her excitement.

We get home and the piece of paper finds its way into an unknown location. A few days later it shows up and I pick it up to look at what caused Charlotte's excitement. Drawn in seven small squares on the piece of paper was the story "All About Jesus." It truly was something to get excited about. At five years old, or any age, what powerful truth to learn.

On the page, the seven images depicted Christ from creation to the tomb. It's not often Christ is brought into the conversation during lessons on creation to children, but it's an important attribute they need to hear and we need to ponder often. From the very beginning Jesus has been, and Jesus will always be. Here is a list of the seven pictures our granddaughter drew on her piece of paper.

- World – Jesus is Creator with God and the Holy Spirit.
- Fruit – Man's sin created a need for Jesus.
- Baby – Jesus came down from heaven as a baby.
- Man – Jesus was fully man and fully God.
- Cross – Jesus died on a cross for our sin.
- Lamb – Jesus was the Perfect Lamb who died.
- Tomb – Jesus rose from the tomb defeating sin.

The piece of paper found its way to our refrigerator, the most prominent place for masterpieces created by

our little artist. The words Charlotte called out to me as she waved the piece of paper in the air continue to ring in my ears: "It's all about Jesus!" What a testimony to any ears who hear those words. Gladly proclaiming the truth she heard not only reached my ears, but others within hearing distance. Everything we think, say or do has potential to be a testimony living out the truth "It's ALL about Jesus!"

A few years after I married and was still a young bride, our towels had begun to wear a little thin. We visited some friends and I noticed their towels were not as worn and tattered as ours. I felt inadequate thinking our towels did not measure up to the nice towels they had. Somehow I felt lesser of a person because of their towels and other nice things they had. Jesus tells us, *So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.* (Matthew 6:31-33) Jesus has faithfully provided everything I have ever needed. This world is temporary and will someday pass away. The things we see, experience, and try to hold onto here will not last unless Jesus is in them. At that time, I wanted what I did not have. Jesus had another lesson for me later in life.

Later on and many years after I was married, during the latter years of my grandmother's life, our family's thoughts, energy and

Blaylock Memorial Dedication

The Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, TX, is celebrating the life, legacy, and work of Dr. James C. Blaylock, who served the seminary's Kellar Library for more than 50 years. We are delighted to invite you to the dedication of the James C. Blaylock Memorial in the newly renovated Tennessee Room in the Kellar Library, featuring the James C. Blaylock Sefer Torah Scroll and other ancient manuscripts. The event will take place at Kellar Library on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.



Highlights of the event include:

- A brief overview of the legacy of Dr. James C. Blaylock
- A short lecture on the significance of the James C. Blaylock Sefer Torah scroll
- A display of the works of Dr. James C. Blaylock
- Light refreshments and coffee

Following the dedication, you will have the opportunity to explore Kellar Library's unique collection.

Kellar Library is located on the campus of BMA Seminary, 1530 E. Pine St., Jacksonville, TX.

• From BELÉN page 2 •

3. For establishing our ministry as self-supportive by spring 2027.
4. For obtaining a tax ID and open a bank account, banner and new web site.
5. For faithfulness and fruits from our various services for the Lord, with joy and progress:
 - Fall outreach on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. (ESL)
 - Family, fun, food, faith, fellowship, soccer Friday evening outreach.
 - Monthly outreach potluck on second Sunday of the month continues being a great connection and commitment opportunity for growth and encouragement.

In His service,
Juan Fernandez
Acts 20:24



hearts turned to take care of her every need. Occasionally I would spend the night. The biggest blessing was going to church with her, after I spent the night, and listening to her sing hymns in the church I grew up in. Being in her upper 80's and early 90's, some of her towels had been around a while. Drying off on some of her well-worn towels I felt much love. Her hands had to have touched those towels hundreds of times as she used them, washed them, dried them, and used them again. There never was a feeling of inadequacy using her towels. My focus turns to Jesus when I think of her. I never heard Mamaw complain about anything, except Papaw selling a car she had taken a liking to. She loved Jesus and loved serving her family. Somehow that love transferred to her towels. Drying off with her thinning and well-worn towels was special. It's as if you could feel her love with each swipe as water was dried from your skin.

Towels are a small thing we don't give much thought to in life, except perhaps when we compare what we have to what others have. Desiring to have fluffy towels, like our friends, faded when using my grandma's towel. Simple things in life can have a huge

impact on our life, if we let ol' Satan have a place in the things we think, say or do. Simple things in life can have a profound impact on our life, if the love of Jesus is on display. The love of Jesus, because of what He did for us, transforms the way we think, the things we say (even to ourselves), and the things we do. *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Mamaw was unaware of the impact she had on me as she went about her daily chore of taking care of the towels. She was discipling me about Jesus and probably never knew it. She lived out her faith for her family to see. Our love for Jesus is revealed in her lives.

Our granddaughter learned a lasting truth at VBS. From Creator to Defeater of Sin it is "All about Jesus!" Things in life can happen and unexpectedly our thoughts, words or actions take a downward turn and suddenly things can get out of focus. In our worries and inadequacies, as I was when towels seemed important, it is the love of Jesus that moves hearts and transforms lives. It's not the quality of the towel, but the quality of the heart. It truly is ALL about Jesus!!

The Master's Builders at Jacksonville College

Nelda Malone – Reporter

The Master's Builders completed their latest project at Jacksonville College in Jacksonville, Texas. The college's facilities manager, Nic Ray, provided a list of needed tasks across campus, keeping the Builders busy with renovations and repairs as well as some new construction in the golf training building. Long-time friend and supporter to The Builders, George Baker, who also works in facilities at the college, worked side-by-side with the group each day. George worked tirelessly to ensure every material and logistics need was fully met. Jacksonville College President Dr. David Erickson and his son, Ezra, frequently joined in to work alongside the group. Dr. Erickson's willingness to roll up his sleeves and work alongside the group showed a true spirit of service to the campus.



The first building that needed some help was the historic Newburn-Rawlinson House on campus, which was built in 1903. This historic home currently serves as the home of the Jacksonville College Library, and the structure requires ongoing care and restoration. The Builders spent most of the first week replacing rotted ceiling boards above both the front porch and the second-floor porch. They also replaced necessary trim on the porches, cut new picket fence boards to replace ALL the fence pickets around the house, and repaired the AC unit fencing. Finally, they constructed new front entry steps and built a dedicated wheelchair ramp for library ADA access.

The Master's Builders had lots of help with this project, which was much appreciated. The ministry has long been praying for a younger generation of workers to step up, and this trip brought a wonderful answer to this prayer. Nic Ray had his family on hand to help each day. Daughter Pelia, and sons Paxten, Porter, and Phynlee were all on summer break and willing to work hard with the group. The family parked their RV by the worksite and pitched in daily with anything that needed to be done. Lots of wood needed to be removed and hauled to the dumpster, as well as painting of the



new pickets. This group was always ready and willing to do what was needed. They were also joined by a hard-working campus crew including TJ, Cody, and Jay. The young helpers also joined The Master's Builders every weekday morning for devotionals at 7:00 a.m., the "circle up" prayer, and a shared performance of the song *Family of God* before beginning work.

The Builders also worked next door to renovate a campus dorm house. An enclosed carport being used as a dorm room received completely new exterior siding, a window replacement, and new interior sheetrock. This was a much-needed repair to this dorm and this house. At the nearby Collins Dorm, they replaced the stair railings and reinforced the structural posts leading down to the street, providing a safe transition down the stairs to the crosswalk at the street. General wood repairs were also completed on the exterior AC closet at the security building on campus. Then, to wrap up their structural tasks, The Builders constructed two custom enclosures for the campus's Virtual Golf Simulator training area. Head golf coach, Danny Leatherman, expressed immense excitement for the addition, noting it will be a fantastic tool to get more students involved in the sport. The Master's Builders were so happy to be a part of this exciting



new chapter for the school.

This trip marked the ninth time The Master's Builders have returned to serve Jacksonville College and look forward to continuing to serve the campus as needed in the years to come. While on campus, those traveling by RV set up camp next to Collins Dorm, while the rest of the crew stayed in Anderson Dorm, a building The Master's Builders helped build back in June 2014.

The two weeks of hard work were balanced by beautiful moments of community, worship, and hospitality. Dr. Phillip Attebery and Dr. David Hellwig of the BMA Seminary graciously hosted the group for an evening of delicious food and connection. Melina and Antony Baker prepared an incredible potato, salad, and dessert bar, after which Melina led everyone with some fun group games.

The campus cafeteria staff kept the workers fueled by providing lunch and supper to the group. Additionally, the group accepted



an invitation from Round Prairie Baptist Church in Fairfield, Texas, to attend the dedication of their brand-new sanctuary. The Master's Builders originally framed that very sanctuary back in June 2025 (Job #195), making it a profound joy to see the building completed and filled with worshippers.

This job required leaders to step up under some unexpected challenging circumstances. Because Field Coordinator Mike Green was unexpectedly hospitalized, David Axe stepped in to lead the men on-site, doing a phenomenal job. The ministry asks for continued prayers for Mike's swift healing, as he deeply wished to be there with the group. Please pray for the group as they look forward to serving again in the fall.

Want to see more photos and updates? Be sure to "Follow" The Master's Builders page on Facebook (arbor logo). 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 the ministry coordinators Mike Green (972) 935-3877, David Axe (903) 918-0702 or Eddie Sikes (479) 462-1675.

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you recently graduated or have been part of the CBC family for decades, I encourage you to become an active member of the Alumni Association and stay connected with your alma mater. To learn more or become a member of the CBC Alumni Association, visit cbc.edu/alumniassociation.

We also invite alumni to introduce the next generation to Central Baptist College through our Mustangs in the Making program. This free program is open to children and grandchildren from birth through their senior year of high school and is designed to help families build an early connection with CBC. Throughout the years, participants receive birthday cards and special milestone gifts as we celebrate each stage of their journey. It is a wonderful way to begin building excitement for what could

one day become their own CBC experience. To enroll a child or grandchild in Mustangs in the Making, visit cbc.edu/makingmustangs.

Another meaningful opportunity to invest in the future of Central Baptist College is through Legacy Leaders. This monthly giving program allows alumni and friends to make a lasting impact by supporting scholarships, academic programs, and student opportunities. Every gift, regardless of size, helps prepare future generations of Christian leaders and ensures that CBC continues to fulfill its mission for years to come. To become a Legacy Leader, visit cbc.edu/legacyleaders.

Thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and prayers for Central Baptist College. Together, we are investing in students, strengthening our mission, and building a legacy that will impact lives for generations.



ReCharge '26: Healthy Families

Summer always seems to pass more quickly than we expect. It doesn't take long for fall calendars to begin to fill, for ministry activities to ramp back up, and for the holiday season to arrive. Before that busy pace takes over, what would it look like to intentionally create space to slow down, catch your breath, and allow God to refresh your heart?

We'd like to offer a suggestion. Join pastors, spouses, church staff, and ministry team leaders from across the country for the ReCharge Leadership Retreat '26, happening September 28-30 at Great Wolf Lodge in Grapevine, Texas.

ReCharge is small on purpose and gives you a place to step away, make deeper connections, engage in real talk with others who understand ministry, and freely worship the Lord through praise, prayer, and biblical teaching. In fact, several churches are making ReCharge their annual staff retreat by bringing their entire ministry team to be refreshed and encouraged together.

This year's theme is *Healthy Families* and is designed to encourage you as you lead your own family while also shepherding the families God has entrusted to you in your church.

Here's what you can look forward to:

Monday Evening – We'll begin at 6:00 p.m. with a catered dinner, meaningful worship, and an evening of entertainment that sets the tone for several refreshing days together.

Tuesday – After enjoying a buffet breakfast, we'll gather for men's and women's breakout

sessions on *Family of Origin*, with Larry Barker leading the men and Angelyn McMurray leading the ladies.

In Session One, our speaker, Dr. Steve Crawley, will equip us with practical, biblical insights about what it looks like to be active and passionate about *Family Discipleship*.

Tuesday afternoon is intentionally left open for you to rest, enjoy Great Wolf Lodge, or explore the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Tuesday night's session will be especially meaningful as Larry and Shelby Barker share from their own family's journey in a message titled *Ministering to Prodigals: The Ministry We Wish We Never Had*. Their honest and transparent story offers hope and encouragement for families walking through similar seasons.

Wednesday Morning – We'll enjoy one final

breakfast together before concluding with Pastor Charles Johnson, who will challenge us with the message, a reminder of the priorities that sustain healthy relationships and ministry life for the long haul. You'll be done before lunch and can plan to travel home or sightsee some more.

One of the unique blessings of ReCharge is the opportunity to spend time with many of our North American church planter families, who attend each year for much-needed encouragement and respite. We encourage you to join them and get to know them better. We have some great folks in our tribe!

If you're a church member or church leader who isn't planning to attend yourself, consider blessing your pastor and spouse by sending them to ReCharge as a Pastor Appreciation gift. And pastors, why not invite your staff and key ministry leaders to experience it with you? Investing in your leadership team today can strengthen your church for years to come.

Don't Delay! Register Today!

Our special conference hotel rate of just \$109 per night at Great Wolf Lodge is only available through August 28, so be sure to reserve your room and complete your registration before the deadline.

Visit bmaamerica.org/recharge today, and join us September 28-30 as we worship, rest, reconnect, and return home refreshed for the season ahead.

We can't wait to see you at ReCharge!



Why CBC Day Matters

Dr. Jeremy Langley, CBC President

Since its founding in 1952, Central Baptist College has existed to serve as the educational arm of the Baptist Missionary Association of Arkansas. According to the College's official history book, written by Dr. Dusty Bender, the founders of the BMA believed that education was "a means of perpetuating the faith." We still believe that today.

Students are being saved at CBC. Since January 2026, we have witnessed 15 students place their faith in Jesus Christ. I wish we had a tally of all the students who have been saved on this campus since 1952. Some see CBC as "just a college," but this small campus is an international mission field.

We are only able to do this Christ-centered work because of the churches who make it possible. It has been truly incredible to witness the way the churches of the BMA have rallied behind us over the last year. During the most recent fiscal year, which ended June 30, we experienced a 13.27% increase in support from our churches. Some increased their monthly support, some sent generous special offerings, and others who had not given to CBC in more than two decades renewed their support. We are grateful for the trust our churches place in us to carry about this great work.

On September 27, we invite BMA churches to join us in celebrating Central Baptist College and the ministry we share together. CBC Day is more than a day to recognize our college. It is an opportunity for churches to unite in support of preparing the next generation of Christian leaders who will serve in churches, schools, businesses, ministries, and communities around the world.

For many decades, CBC has remained committed to providing a Christ-centered education that develops students academically, spiritually, and personally. While our campus has grown and academic programs have expanded, our purpose has remained the same: equipping men and women to discover God's calling and faithfully live it out.

Many of our students arrive at CBC because a pastor, youth pastor, Sunday school teacher, or church member encouraged them to consider a Christian college. Others are able to attend because churches invest through scholarships, special offerings, and generous financial support. Just as importantly, our churches faithfully pray for our students, faculty, and staff throughout the year.

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). (0726)

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.

CBC Day provides an opportunity for churches to come together in a united expression of support for Christian higher education. Whether your congregation chooses to receive a special offering, spend time praying for CBC, invite a college representative to share during a service, or simply highlight the ministry of the College, every church can play a meaningful role in strengthening our mission.

If your church would like to participate in CBC Day, I encourage you to contact Duffy Guyton, Vice President for Advancement, at (501) 269-6784, or sign up by visiting www.cbc.edu/cbcd. We would gladly provide promotional materials, resources, and information to help your congregation participate.

As September 27 approaches, I hope your church will join us in celebrating God's faithfulness to Central Baptist College and in investing in the future of Christian higher education. Together, we can continue preparing students who are rooted in faith, equipped for service, and ready to answer God's call wherever He leads.