The Missouri Missionary Baptist

"Holding Forth the Word of Life" – Philippians 2:16

Volume LXXXVIII | St. Louis, MO • September 8, 2026 | Issue No. 9

From the Host Pastor

Billy Davis – Bethel, Sikeston

Bethel Missionary Baptist Church is hosting our BMA of Missouri State Annual Associational Meeting October 10th at 9:00 a.m. Bethel is located at 128 5th Street, Sikeston. Coffee and donuts will be served between 8:00 and 8:45, and lunch will be provided. For anyone needing hotel accommodations, Sikeston has several to choose from. If you have any questions, contact Billy Davis (573) 521-8028 or Matt Bolen (573) 475-0728. Looking forward to a great meeting.

Annual Church Letter Reminder

Don Burke, Association Recording Clerk

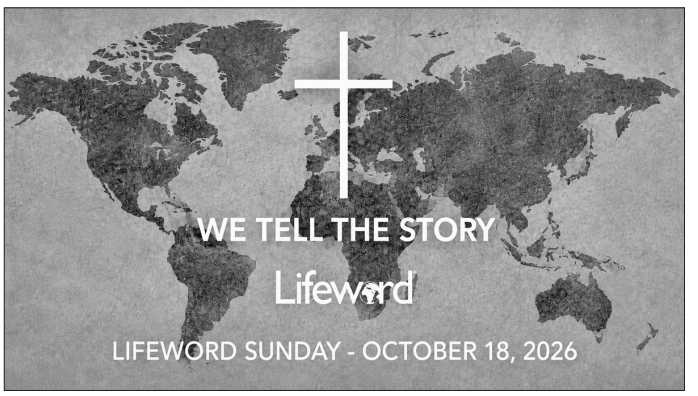
With the Annual Meeting of the BMA of Missouri fast approaching, please allow me to remind all of our churches to complete and send in your Annual Church Letter. The 2026 Church Letter can be found in the middle insert in your 2025 Minute Book, or may be accessed on our Association's website (https://bmamissouri.org/about/annual-minutes-for-the-bma-of-mo/). Sending in your letter allows everyone to stay current with your church's staff and contact information, and your statistical information provides a means of measuring our Association's collective kingdom impact.

Completed letters and Minute Fund offerings can be brought to the Annual Meeting, or may be mailed prior to the meeting to Don Burke, Clerk • 704 Valley Rd • Potosi, MO 63664.

When We Tell the Story, You Tell the Story

There is a story the world desperately needs to hear.

It is the story of a God who loves us, a Savior who came for us, and a hope that reaches beyond borders, cultures, and languages. It is the greatest story ever told, and for more than 60 years, Lifeword has been committed to sharing it.



Lifeword is the media ministry of the Baptist Missionary Association of America. Through radio, video, digital media, and the Internet, Lifeword carries the gospel into places many of us may never have the opportunity to go. Today, the message of Jesus is being shared through Lifeword in more than 175 languages with a potential audience of more than two billion people around the world.

But Lifeword was never meant to tell the story alone.

The Great Commission was given to the local church. Jesus told His followers to *go therefore and make disciples of all nations.* (Matthew 28:19) That means missions is not simply something happening somewhere else. It is the responsibility and privilege of every church and every believer.

That is why the partnership between Lifeword and BMA churches is so important.

When your church prays for Lifeword, gives to Lifeword, and shares the ministry of Lifeword, you become part of taking the gospel to people around the world. A church in Missouri, Arkansas, Texas, Mississippi, or anywhere else can help reach someone listening to a radio in Africa, watching a video in Asia, or discovering the message of Jesus online in Latin America.

Your church may never meet that person this side of heaven, but you helped tell them the story.

That is the heart behind this year's Lifeword Sunday theme: "We Tell the Story."

Lifeword Sunday is an opportunity for BMA churches to celebrate what God is doing through Lifeword, pray for those who are still waiting to hear, and give so the gospel can continue reaching more people in more heart languages around the world.

We want every BMA church to know: this is your ministry, too. Every broadcast sent, every video produced, every language added, and every gospel message shared is made possible through churches and individuals who believe the whole world needs to hear about Jesus.

So this Lifeword Sunday, tell the story with us.

Pray. Share. Give. And celebrate what God is doing as BMA churches work together to fulfill the Great Commission.

Because when we tell the story, you tell the story.

And together, we can tell His story to the world.

Request for Minutes

The BMA Theological Seminary's Kellar Library in Jacksonville, TX, archives all BMA associational minutes that we acquire, including national, state, and local minutes. Our collection of national BMA minutes dates back to 1950, and our state minutes go back as far as 1952 for Oklahoma and 1969 for other states. We are requesting that the clerks of each association help us preserve our heritage by mailing your minute booklets to: Kellar Library, PO Box 670, Jacksonville, TX 75766. Or if a Seminary representative attends your associational meeting, you may give them a minute book to bring back for the Kellar Library.

Editor's Note: I hate to piggy-back upon another department's request, but the Missouri State Association Clerk is also still in need of select issues of State Minute Books to complete our digital and hard-copy archives. Anyone with minutes from the following years willing to give or loan them, please contact the Clerk at mmbpaper@gmail.com:

- *1928-31*
- *1932-34*
- *1936-38*
- *1942-45*
- *1947-48*
- *1950*

Meramec Landmark Baptist Association Annual Meeting

White Oak Grove Baptist Church
Potosi, Missouri

September 25 • 10:00 A.M.

Baptist Missionary Association of Missouri Annual Meeting

Bethel Baptist Church
Sikeston, Missouri

October 10 • 9:00 A.M.

State Missions

Dear BMAMO Churches,

Well, praise the Lord we at Bethel have certainly seen the fruits of our labor through VBS and Jesus Camp, with several professions of faith and baptisms! All credit and glory to the Lord! I have heard that many other churches in our association are reaping those same blessings. Hallelujah! Praise the Lamb!

As you know, this month, on September 17-19, we will be hosting the Association and a few guests from other states for the Church Multiplication Workshop at the Meramec Retreat Center. We gave most of the article in last month's paper to this, and since we will most likely be done with the conference by the time you read this, I want to give some encouragement to those that went and those that could not go this time.

First, I have been to a lot of conferences and seminars through my years of ministry, and I've gotten some good advice from people that host these types of conferences. Probably the best advice I've ever received is to very quickly set aside an evaluation time following the conference. Sit down with your notes and go back through and try to essentially highlight the things that you really liked, and maybe circle some things you really didn't understand and want to do more research on, etc. After that evaluation time, you pick at least one if not three things that you're going to try to implement in the next three to six months and then weekly you set a reminder on your phone or your calendar and do everything you can to move forward with the information that you have learned.

Pastors and Association, we are at a pivotal time in our history here in Missouri. If we are going to survive, we must practice this as churches, as individuals and, I believe, it will serve us well if we make this what it truly is from scripture: a make-or-break scenario between us and our Lord's command. He is quite clear in scripture:

Then saith he unto his disciples, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38)

Let's ask the Lord to send laborers into the harvest and be willing to go ourselves if He says, "I think I'll just send you."

Now to the pastors and Association members that were not able to go to this year's Church Multiplication Workshop: I want to make you aware that our Meramec Association will be voting on a recommendation in our yearly meeting on September 25 whether to pay for the expenses (as the State Association did) of a Church Multiplication Workshop conference in 2027.

Hopefully, we will be able to bring you a new date and a new opportunity soon. I'm begging you when that information comes forward, please make plans to attend. If you attended this year, it would be a great idea to attend again and maybe bring some more of your church folks with you.

It is a tremendous blessing to serve as your state Missions Director. May we all seek the Lord in how to best carry out the Great Commission in our lives and in our churches.

Bro. Ben

Financial Report
BMA of Missouri Missions
August 2026

Checking Account		
Balance July 31		$ 27,318.86
Income		
Missions	$ 3,214.59	
BMA Foundation	1,512.44	
WMA to Fernandez	518.75	
Total Income		$ 5,245.78
Total Available		$ 32,564.64
Expenses		
Director, salary	$ 450.00	
Secretary, salary	200.00	
Juan Fernandez, support	2,333.33	
WMA, Fernandez Wrk Fd	518.75	
MO Incorp. Renewal	10.50	
Total Expenses		$ (3,512.58)
Balance Aug 31		$ 29,052.06
BMAMS Revolving Loan Investment		
Balance July 31	$ 128,471.58	
Interest	0.00	
Balance Aug 31		$ 128,471.58
Total All Funds Aug 31		$ 157,523.64

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

Make checks payable to "BMA OF MO MISSIONS" and send your envelope addressed to:

BMA of MO Missions
c/o Stacie Hatfield
1220 Park Drive
St. Clair, MO 63077

MISIÓN BAUTISTA BELÉN
(Bethlehem Mission)

Serving Hispanic Families • St. Louis Metro East

Juan Fernandez
pastorjuanfernandez@gmail.com • (618) 581-8056

So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. (1 Corinthians 3:7)

SOS

Help…, volunteers needed! What? We need three families to come and help us! When? Either Fridays 7:00-8:30 p.m. or Sundays 1:00 to 2:15 p.m. WHY? We need your help with children's ministry/church.

If you can come and visit, even if only once a month or just once a year, that will be such a blessing for our ministry and to the families God is bringing to us. We have the privilege to minister to the first generation of Hispanic families, but we are short-handed in our ministry among the second and third generation. Would you consider praying and sharing with your family and church about providing help? God is moving and we don't want to miss a thing!

Praises – Filled with Joy and Gratitude

At the time of writing, we are scheduled to meet with an accountant on September 2 to discuss details for the establishing of our ministry. We plan to go over the financial report and budgeting for 2027. We also hope to open a bank account for expanding outreach and keeping track of new expenses with the van. We are praying God's provision for a driver to cover the 25-mile radius area to pick up and drop off families after services.

We have several individuals who live in Chesterfield and instead of finding another building (adding more expenses) we pray that being able to transport these families by van will be a workable alternative. We see a wonderful momentum of God's work among the families that started attending last month for Sunday worship and Friday family outreach.

Our home church family at Lindsay Lane in Florissant donated a vehicle for our ministry – a 10-12 passenger van. We are so excited for the many opportunities we anticipate to fill this vehicle with families who currently struggle to come and join us for our weekly worship gathering.

Our *Friday Fun, Food, Fellowship for Faith!* was a total success at its relaunching this past Friday. We had about 12 kids, ranging from seven months to nine years old. The best part is that their families stayed through the whole time we played, making five families that joined us!

In His service, Juan Fernandez

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Under Another Tree...

Newsletter (excerpts) from Mickeal & Sharon Quillman

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever. – Isaiah 40:8

There wasn't a church building. There weren't any pews. There wasn't a sound system. There wasn't even a single Bible in the crowd. There was only the shade of a large tree…, and more than sixty people waiting to hear about Jesus.

As I sat there looking at the faces gathered beneath that tree, I couldn't help but smile. I'd seen this before. Not the people. Not the place. But the beginning.

Three and a half years ago, Sharon and I stood under another tree between two villages later called Chabantu. We were in an unknown area, but knew it was a place unreached with the true gospel. We didn't know then what God had planned. We simply opened His Word and began teaching. Today, Chabantu Missionary Baptist Church is alive and well. Men and women are growing in their faith, 220 students are hearing the Word of God each day at Chabantu Missionary Baptist Academy, families are hearing the gospel, children are being discipled in our children's ministry, and lives are being changed by Jesus Christ. Now, here we were again…

…Under another tree. Only this time it was in two remote forest villages deep within the Sikute Chiefdom. The day started long before we reached those villages. We left home early that morning and drove about an hour and a half to Chabantu Missionary Baptist Church and picked up three of our men from the church and an eight-year-old boy who was our navigator, because even the men didn't know exactly where these villages were. From there, we turned off the main road and headed farther into the bush. For the next 40 minutes we bounced along narrow dirt cattle tracks, weaving between trees, and under ones that Sharon just knew we wouldn't fit under, making our way into an area none of us had ever visited before.

The only connection I had to these villages was a brief conversation with one of the village headmen sometime last year at the chief's palace. Beyond that, we didn't know what to expect.

Would anyone come? Would anyone be interested? Would they even know we were coming? As we pulled into a small clearing, all of those questions disappeared.

Before we even stepped out of the truck, we could hear singing. The women of the village had gathered and welcomed us with a traditional song of greeting and thanksgiving. We couldn't understand every word, but we didn't have to. Their smiles said everything. We were welcome.

As we walked toward the meeting place they had cleared for the Bible study, people kept appearing from every direction. Some came carrying babies, some were elderly and walked slowly with the help of a stick, and so many children gathered quietly, watching everything that was happening.

By the time we reached the tree where we would meet, more than 60 people were already waiting. No one seemed to be in a hurry. No one was looking at a watch. They simply came because they wanted to hear. That alone was humbling. Then I noticed something else. Not one person was carrying a Bible.

At first, I thought maybe I had simply overlooked them. But as I looked around again, it became painfully obvious. Not one. Not a single person from either village owned a copy of God's Word.

In America, most of us have more than one Bible sitting on a shelf somewhere in our homes. Even here in Zambia I brought no less than 10 Bibles with me. Here were more than 60 people eager to

• *See* **QUILL** *page 6* •

Camp Garwood

Greetings from Camp Garwood. As fall quickly approaches, one last time I want to remind you to set aside time on your calendar to join us on October 2-3 for a weekend of prayer at camp. Bro. Larry Barker will be back to lead us through multiple times of prayer and solitude. These are the most encouraging and refreshing weekends. We spend time, alone with God. You may think you can do that at home..., but will you? Without the phone ringing or turning on the television or having someone stop by? I can promise that if you set aside time to join us, you will not regret it.

Following the prayer retreat we are planning a paintball weekend November 6-7. This retreat was requested camp week multiple times. I hope it sees a good turnout. It's a lot of fun whether you play paintball or not. It's a good time of fellowship and fun at camp before we settle in for the winter months.

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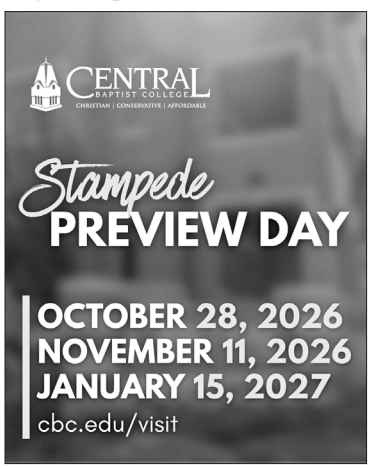
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Experience CBC at an Upcoming Stampede Preview Day

Choosing a college is a big decision, and one of the best ways to know if a school is the right fit is to experience it for yourself. At Central Baptist College, we want prospective students and their families to see firsthand what makes our campus and community special.

That is why I am excited to invite you to one of our upcoming Stampede Preview Days on October 28, November 11, or January 15.



Stampede Preview Days give prospective students an opportunity to experience everyday life at CBC. During your visit, you will tour our campus, enjoy lunch in the dining hall, and meet some of the people who make CBC such a welcoming place.

You will also have the opportunity to learn more about our academic programs and discover the many ways we help students prepare for their future. Our team will be available to answer questions about scholarships and financial aid, as well as share more about student life and the opportunities available to get involved on campus.

There is only so much you can learn about a college from a website or brochure. A campus visit gives you the chance to walk around, meet our people, ask questions, and begin to picture yourself as a CBC student.

At Central Baptist College, we want our students to find more than a place to earn a degree. We want them to find a community where they can grow academically and spiritually, build lasting relationships, and prepare to follow God's calling for their lives.

If CBC is on your college list, I encourage you to join us for a Stampede Preview Day. Bring your family, spend some time with us, and experience CBC for yourself.

To register for an upcoming Stampede Preview Day, visit cbc.edu/visit.

We look forward to welcoming you to campus and showing you what it means to be a Mustang!

▪ Updates from Our Churches ▪

Grandview Baptist, Springfield

Grandview Baptist, Springfield is celebrating God's goodness all month long in September as we mark our 65th Church Anniversary.

Grandview Missionary Baptist Church was started as a mission work of the former Landmark Baptist Church in West Plains, September 16, 1961.

We are looking forward to several special events beginning with gospel/bluegrass group High Road on September 6 at 10:30 a.m. We will have an all church "indoor picnic" following the morning service.

On Sunday, September 12, our guest speaker will be Bro. Larry Barker, Director of North American Church Planters for BMAGlobal.

Sunday, September 20, has been dubbed "Welcome Home" Sunday, hoping to have past members and friends with us as we enjoy music from local quartet, Coaches Four.

The last Sunday of September, the 27th, Pastor Gary Longstaff will cast a vision for the church emphasizing, "Where do we go from here?". It will involve a strong missions emphasis as a missions church pays it forward for others like we were "back in the day."

Everyone is welcome to come celebrate with us as opportunity may allow.

Gary Longstaff, Pastor

Bates Creek, Potosi

Hello everyone! I hope everyone is doing well.

Bates Creek comes to you with great news. Our church is growing again. We recently had a couple join on statement. Not long after that a man got saved. He and his wife came forward for baptism. Both couples have been such a blessing to our church already. A lady that had been saved but wasn't sure on baptism also recently came forward for baptism. God just keeps blessing us.

Congratulations to Bro. Chris and Sis. Tina Dicus on the birth of a new granddaughter and to Bro. Ryan and Sis. Blair Fields on the birth of their first child. She is a beautiful, healthy baby girl and proof that God answers prayers.

It was a blessing to our church to host the Washington County Association meeting. Next year the meeting will be hosted by Temple Baptist Church in Belgrade. We hope to see more of you there. We are praying for God's work to be done in our association.

Join us in praying for the BMA, our missionaries, our pastors, and our churches.

Bryan Buckley, Pastor
Sara Buckley, Reporter

Lower Doe Run, Ellington

Greetings, brothers and sisters.

We have been aware throughout this month in articles, sermons, and conversations that we must be intentional in preparing our replacement in the service of the Lord. Thanks for those reminders.

The church received a communication that Bro. Johnny is out there preparing himself through visiting churches and preaching where he can. We sure miss their family in our weekly services.

Fifth Sundays: How did that time get to be so special? We used to look forward to the Association meeting on Friday night and Saturday all day for devotionals, specials, and revival sermons. Then we downsized to Sunday afternoon singings. A friend called a few weeks ago to ask if we have fifth Sunday singings any more. Sadly, I said, "No." To share a blessing to those who miss the fifth Sunday singings, we decided to have our fellowship lunch, then just sing. Dianna jumped up immediately and sang *I Saw the Light.* Before she sat down, Donnie and Janet were up with a duet. Then one after another was sharing a message from the Lord in song. Bro. Ron blessed with his rendition of *I Won't Have to Cross Jordan Alone*. The rafters rang and our hearts were blessed. Even ten-year-old James, a visitor, sang *Jesus Loves Me*. Our pastor closed by singing *The Lord's Prayer*.

Come visit us at Lower Doe Run. As the Lord comes down, we have church!

Melvin Meade, Pastor
Carolyn Meade, Reporter

Oak Hill, Alton

HELLO to all from Oak Hill! This week Bro. Chad Casey took Carstyn down to St. Jude in Memphis, Tennessee, for scans and chemo. Bro. Chad said that this chemo treatment was the last strongest medication. The strong medication usually wears Carstyn down for a few days. I do remember him saying that he only has five or six chemo treatments to go. We are praying that his scans will have great results. Bro. Chad said that Carstyn's doctor said that his nerves on the side of his face are waking up.

August 30th was the fifth Sunday, and while we were eating Bro. Ed was trying to get everyone's attention that he wanted to make an announcement. Harper Wheeler had just received the Lord as her Savior! Harper is nine years old and one of Carstyn's 4th grade classmates at Alton Elementary School.

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

August started with everyone coming home from Camp Garwood refreshed and ready to do a lot. Well OK, maybe not refreshed, more like tired, but still excited over the week spent at camp.

August 4th, some of the youth who were part of the Ohlman group spoke about camp and how much it meant to them. Morgan Lanham gave her testimony of salvation at camp, then after services she presented herself for church membership through baptism.

The week after camp, some of our members started preparing the fellowship hall to be painted in preparation for our 75th anniversary. The painting was not done in time to use for the adult class on Sunday, August 9th. The adults held class in the sanctuary, which meant no coffee or refreshments. We did manage to survive.

Also on August 9th, we observed the baptism of Morgan Lanham and had a full house of family and friends who came to support her.

On August 16th, we welcomed L.J. Parks to our church as he presented himself for membership on statement from Corriher Heights Baptist Church in China Grove, NC. L.J. had moved back to the area and had been attending Ohlman for quite a while.

August 23rd, Brittany Barton came forward and accepted Christ as her Savior. She then requested church membership through baptism. This will be scheduled when more of her family can be present. Brittany, as well as several of our members, is employed by the Bunker School District. We pray for all of them as they have started a new school year.

Speaking of starting a new school year, September 2nd will be our first night back for the Wednesday night student ministry. We are excited about this. Pray for this ministry, as we have made a couple of changes in teachers and bus drivers.

Last but not least, on October 4th we will celebrate 75 years as a church. We have been planning for this day for several months, and now it's coming in a month. We are planning on former pastor Russell Chitwood to bring the morning message. We have a video of pictures being completed. To give our ladies a break, we will have a catered lunch. Then in the afternoon we will have Mainline leading in worship music. Our pastor, Bro. Terry Sharpe, will speak, as well as Holden May. We are excited that several former members have responded that they will be attending. It is going to be a great day!

Terry Sharpe, Pastor
Janet Widger, Reporter

Bethel, Sikeston

Happy fall, everyone, from Bethel, Sikeston. We are looking forward to some fall weather, a beautiful time of the year where God has given us all the vibrant colors and scenery to enjoy! We serve an awesome God!

Some of our ladies are looking forward to attending the ladies' conference this year. We also voted to start a WMA here at Bethel. We are excited to see what God

~ Upcoming Events ~

WMA Sponsored Ladies' Retreat – Sept 11-12; Drury Plaza Hotel Cape Girardeau Conference Center

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

Meramec Assoc. Annual Meeting – Sept 25, 10 a.m.; White Oak Grove, Potosi

Re:Charge Leadership Retreat – Sept 28-30; Great Wolf Lodge, Grapevine, TX

BMA of Missouri Annual Meeting – Oct 10, 9 a.m.; Bethel, Sikeston

Lifeword Sunday – Oct 18

Celebration 2026 – Nov 3-5; Chateau on the Lake, Branson

Send event info to mmbpaper@gmail.com.

has in store for us! We plan on having our first meeting in September.

Congratulations to Brett and Anna Hurst on the arrival of their baby girl, Oakley!

Some of our members plan on attending the prayer retreat at Camp Garwood. Everyone that attends says they have been so blessed by being there.

Thanks to our ladies, our shoeboxes are ready to be taken to Conway and shipped out!

After our fifth Sunday night singing on the 30th we celebrated both our pastor's birthday, which was on the 21st, and his wife's birthday on September 6. Refreshments were served, including cake and ice cream. We had a good time of fellowship. We love and appreciate Bro. Billy and Sis. Donna.

September 13th our missionary to the Philippines, Bro. Benson Olipas, and his wife will be here during the evening service to share their ministry with us. We are always so blessed when our missionaries come to visit with news of their ministry. God is doing a great work with all our missionaries!

We are looking forward to hosting the Missouri Annual State Meeting here at Bethel on October 10th. The ladies always prepare and serve a delicious meal after the meeting.

On October 11th we look forward to having Bro. Jordan Tew with us for the morning and evening services. He will give us updates and news on the Baptist Publishing House.

God bless you all. Our prayers are with you.

Billy Davis, Pastor
Joan Wood, Reporter

Landmark, DeSoto

Hello to all from Landmark Baptist Church in DeSoto. I'm typing this in the middle of the latest heat wave. Hope you're all keeping safe and cool.

Good news at Landmark: Cara Ernst, one of our regular visitors, came forward requesting membership by letter from her previous church! We're so excited to officially have her as part of our church family. Welcome, Cara!

Bro. Glenn Stinson made the decision to retire as Sunday school supervisor after MANY years of faithful service. We asked how many years he'd been doing it, and neither he nor our other long-term members could remember that far back, just knew that it's been a LONG time. We surprised him on his last Sunday as S.S. supervisor with a special plaque commemorating his hard work and dedication. He was really surprised! (*See picture in next column.*)

We had our fifth Sunday potluck dinner on that same day. Everyone enjoyed the time of fellowship and delicious food, including LOTS of desserts. Those desserts were blessed right along with the other fine food, so that made them good for us, right?

Our WMA ladies will be hosting a fundraiser spaghetti luncheon on Saturday, September 19th, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Come join us if you can. The proceeds will benefit our mission projects.

Until next month or until the Lord returns, let us all continue to lift up each other in prayer and watch for His coming. Praise His name!

Len Young, Pastor
Barbara Williams, Reporter



Blaylock Memorial Dedication

Phillip Waddell - Library Director

On Tuesday, August 18, 2026, BMA Seminary re-dedicated the newly renovated Blaylock Memorial/Tennessee Room in memory of Dr. James C. Blaylock for over 50 years of service to BMA Seminary's Kellar Library. The renovation added a display case for safely viewing and preserving the Dr. James C. Blaylock Sefer Torah Scroll. The room also displays a portrait of Dr. Blaylock, plaques commemorating his service, and a collection of ancient manuscripts.

The dedication ceremony began with a welcome and a brief history of Dr. Blaylock's service to Kellar Library presented by the library director, Phillip Waddell. President Dr. Philip Attebery spoke briefly about Dr. Blaylock's professional accomplishments and the BMA Seminary's decision to award him the Honorary Doctor of Divinity in 2011. Dr. Greg Parsons, Professor of Biblical Studies and Old Testament, spoke on the significance of the Torah Scrolls in general and the Blaylock Sefer Torah in particular. Following these presentations, John Blaylock offered words of remembrance of the life and legacy of his father, Dr. James C. Blaylock. Attendees were then welcomed to tour the Blaylock Memorial/Tennessee Room and view the Torah display for the first time. Following the event, refreshments were made available in the Gregson Student Center.

There were approximately 75 attendees present. Distinguished guests included BMAA President Charles Johnson, BMAT President Eric Johnson, City of Jacksonville Mayor Randy Gorham, BMA Seminary graduates, faculty, staff, administration, trustees, local pastors, students and faculty of Jacksonville College, and church members where Dr. Blaylock had previously pastored.

As the current library director, I want to thank the many people who helped make this event possible. I want to thank the BMA Seminary faculty, staff, and administration, the BMA Seminary maintenance staff, the family of Dr. Blaylock, the donors to the Blaylock Memorial, the Library staff, and many others who contributed their time and money to this project. This event was well received by all who attended. I was greatly encouraged by a BMA Seminary trustee who was overjoyed and who asked about the last time this many people had come to the library. He stated, "This was a raving success."

Personally, I am overjoyed at the response of those who attended. This event was the most rewarding experience I have had while working at Kellar Library. I am so thankful that God allowed me the privilege to be the librarian to honor Dr. Blaylock and preserve the Torah for future generations.

A Great Day

Dr. Philip Attebery, Seminary President

The Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary is set to celebrate 70 years of ministry on its campus located in Jacksonville, TX.

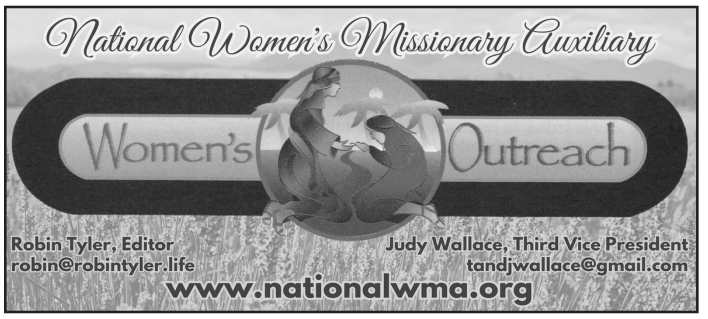
Jacksonville Seminary began on the campus of Jacksonville College in 1949. In 1950, during its first national meeting, the North American Baptist Association accepted an invitation from Jacksonville College to make its seminary a part of the national association's work. The association was later renamed the Baptist Missionary Association of America.



Seventy years ago, in October 1956, seminary personnel, church members, and community leaders gathered for a special occasion. In his book *Earnestly Contending for the Faith: A Fifty-Year History of the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary (1955-2005)*, Dr. John W. Gregson, the seminary's first registrar and second president wrote, "The date of October 15, 1956, stands out as a GREAT DAY in the history of [BMA Seminary], for it was on that date that a groundbreaking ceremony was held" for the seminary's new campus (p. 34). On September 9, 1957, the seminary held its first classes on the new campus.

Dr. Gerald D. Kellar, the seminary's first president, reported to the national association in 1956 that the establishment of the seminary was a "noble endeavor to our Baptist cause, both for the present and the future, cannot be valued in dollars and cents; but it can be valued in terms of more and better churches, qualified ministers, singers, evangelists, missionaries, and educational directors, and souls won to the Lord Jesus Christ" (*Yearbook of the North American Baptist Association*: 1956, p. 79).

Thank the Lord that the BMA's founding fathers understood His leading and took the initial steps to establish the BMA Seminary. The original facility cost approximately $170,000 to build and included a chapel, classrooms, offices, and a library. BMA Seminary continues to use this facility as a valuable tool for strengthening churches and qualifying ministers, evangelists, missionaries, and educators for His service. The association has certainly gotten its money's worth. In fact, BMA Seminary continues to use the same facilities to train students both on campus and around the world via online studies. Our hope is to be good stewards of the Lord's resources for the benefit of present and future churches and ministers. Please join our seminary family in thanking and praising the Lord for His 70 years of blessing since that "great day" of groundbreaking in 1956.



Training Your Replacement

Valarie Fish

I've been a full-time caregiver for my mother-in-law now for the last four years. Her most recent hospital stay landed her in rehab again, this time for a more extended period. I stop in or call to check in every day. I want to know the people taking care of her are doing things right – i.e., the way I would do things! I pray every day for the people who take care of her, and there is a part of me that wishes I could be involved in their training. After all, I know her well and I want them to know her and love her the way I love her! I want to train my replacement caregiver.

When I was a young mom, I remember how excited my kids were to be going to kindergarten. I was excited too, but as I dropped them off, I realized I was entrusting my children to the care of another person. They don't know my child the way I know my child. What if the teachers don't do it right – i.e., the way I would do things! I want to train my replacement influencer.

When I visit churches, I often hear people lament the drop in attendance and participation. To the precious gray-haired lady who is tired and ready to let the younger ones take over some of the responsibilities that you have done well for so many years – by all means, get ready to enjoy your retirement ... as soon as you train your replacement.

At our church there is a precious lady that always takes care of the kitchen. She knows how many towels and potholders and serving utensils are in the drawers and she notices when they are missing. Her service may seem unimportant, but not too long ago she was sick and absent for several months. No one else knew how to find anything! We ran out of paper plates. Used dishrags got stacked in a cabinet for "someone" to wash, but no one knew who that someone should be. Eventually, several other ladies tried to step in and figure things out, but the struggle was evident. Now that our kitchen coordinator is back on her feet, we need to have her show someone her system. She needs to train her replacement.

God has designed women to be caregivers and servants by example to the next generation of the church. We are the mothers, grandmothers, sisters, aunts and teachers for every child that comes into our sphere of influence. We are familiar with the teaching of Paul in Titus chapter 2 where the older women are to teach the younger women. What does that even look like in your life?

Step 1: Evaluate your degree of service and commitment. Are you a leader or a follower? Do you faithfully hold to the behind-the-scenes service of prayer, attendance, volunteering and encouragement, or are you the one who organizes the events and activities of your organization?

Step 2: Think ahead. If you were unable to do what you do, would someone else know how to do what you do? Whether sudden or expected inability, is there someone who can step in and execute your plans or perform your duties?

Step 3: Find your replacement and start training! Get to know the people in your sphere of influence and be intentional about sharing what you do.

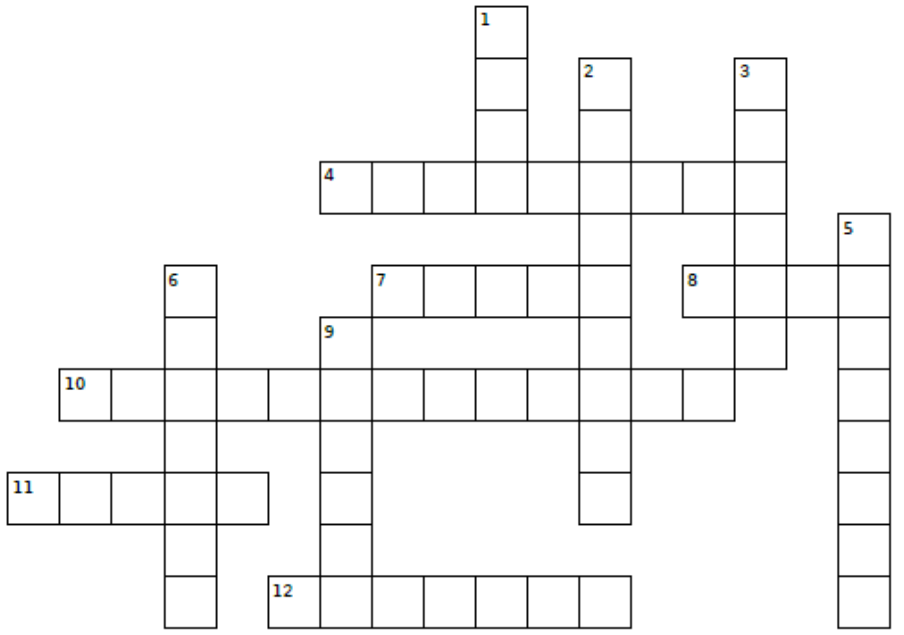
I have worked for many years with the BMA auxiliaries of WMA and GMA. I am passionate about teaching others how to study the Bible and apply the lessons of the Bible to everyday life. That is my calling and through the years I have poured into hundreds of girls through the GMA program and my opportunities to speak and share with GMA and WMA groups. This is how I will find and train my replacement.

If you are not sure how to find your replacement, start with your immediate circle of influence – your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc. Then reach out to neighboring circles – the kids that come through your church programs or live in your neighborhood or younger couples that you know.

You may need to pour into multiple people to find one who will replace you, but I promise that the effort is worth it! By the way, there is an official name for training your replacement – it is called DISCIPLESHIP.

Women of the New Testament

Can you identify these women we read about in the New Testament? If you get stuck, there are hints provided on page 7 of this paper. (Feel free to make copies of the puzzle for sharing.)



Down:

1. The grandmother of Timothy; praised for her sincere faith
2. The mother of the forerunner of Jesus
3. The wife of a manager in Herod's household; she helped support Jesus and His followers
5. She died along with her husband after they lied about a donation from selling property
6. She was with King Agrippa as he and others listened to Paul's defense before he went to Rome to appeal to Caesar
9. Known for being busy in serving guests while her sister sat at Jesus' feet

Across:

4. A tentmaker; she and her husband worked with Paul
7. A servant girl who was not believed when she announced that Peter was outside of the house after an angel released him from prison
8. An elderly prophetess who recognized the infant Jesus at the temple
10. The first recorded person to see the resurrected Jesus
11. A seller of purple cloth from Thyatira who responded to Paul's message
12. Known for a life of charity and then was raised from the dead by Peter

• *From* **QUILL** *page 3* •

learn about Jesus…, and not one of them had a Bible to open.

At that moment I quietly prayed, "Lord, help us change that."

If the Lord is willing, next week we'll return with Bibles so these families can begin reading God's Word for themselves. Please pray with us that every person who wants one will soon have a Bible in their own hands. We must order Bibles from Lusaka, which is an eight-hour drive north of us. Bibles typically cost us about $15-$20 per Bible, but the investment is priceless. I have an order in for 200 more Bibles in the local CiTonga language and 50 in the local CiLozi language.

Since this was our very first Bible study in these villages, I wanted to begin where everything begins, with Jesus. So, we opened to John chapter one. Our question for the day was simple: "Who does the Bible say Jesus is?" Not my opinion, not what the world says, but who does The Word say He is. I made the promise to them that I have made to all those we encounter: I will only tell them what the Word of God says, because His Word is flawless, and I am a flawed man.

We only made it through the first five verses. That was the plan. I've learned that it's better to help people

• *See* **QUILL** *page 8* •

Newsletter from the Poiriers

Where should I start? What should I put on this letter of ministry presentation? So many things going on with the French-speaking ministry that I am overwhelmed by how to describe what the Lord is doing in a field so vast. Since the beginning of our church-planting ministry in 2019 the Lord has opened new doors to other countries that we never thought possible. But the Lord has been using His servant with about 20 partners to reach souls for His glory.

From Quebec, Canada, to Haiti to Cameroon to Ivory Coast to Benin to Dominican Republic, the Lord has challenged us to extend our ministry to other countries, taking us from our comfort zone to see the need of Christ.

What first opened the door for us was the Haiti earthquake of January, 2010, when God opened my eyes to the need of Christ in that country. Going back and forth three times a year taught me to understand the culture and the need for good solid doctrine. BMMI was the first group I went with to Haiti. Since then, the Lord has allowed us to begin three churches and call five men to plant churches in that country. Knowing the poverty for each of those men, I knew it wasn't going to be easy to build a work. But by God's grace and patience He provided the need. It is only though Him that churches have been started and established in the capital city of Port au Prince.

When we thought all was at a standstill, God called a man to plant two more churches in the south side of the island. YES! God still calls men to ministry in that country. We will go back in the near future if we are allowed to work with the people. God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. So, we ask God to give us the means and the tools to start a work in that land that has been so devastated by natural disaster and gangs.

Benin

Our missionary, Prince Sonagno, is doing a wonderful work. He is preaching in the streets to Muslims and teaching a group of young men and women to spread the good news of Christ to the area of Cococodji, in Abomey-Calavi. As he says, it's not easy but the reward is greater than the attack of Satan. Souls have been saved and taught Baptist doctrine. Pray for Prince to have wisdom and protection in the Lord.

Cameroon Africa

The work here was started in 2015. It all began when one man heard our preaching on the internet and asked for help to understand. We taught him online for a year and after that we made a trip to Cameron, Africa, and to our surprise a good group came to listen to the message of God. There was no roof on the building, only four fragile board walls. It was so hot our clothes were drenched. That group has since grown into the hundreds, and now the building has a roof.

Ivory Coast Africa

Our missionary pastor Paul Gbebioho Yetondji is doing a good work with the people of a small town near Daloa. Like most church people, they gather in a shed of bamboo sticks covered with banana leaves. They have a group of 20-25 people worshiping every week. When Pastor Paul heard that we were teaching online in French, he wanted to get in on the action. We sent a study by email and we taught online for years since then. The church was able to purchase a building and renovate with the help of BMA churches. The church is growing and praising the Lord every day. Pray for Pastor Paul's protection as he battles against groups who are opposed to Baptists and attempt to hinder soul-winning efforts by throwing stones.

Dominican Republic, Haiti Church

Ruth and I did not know that the Lord could use us in a Spanish speaking country to preach the gospel and win souls to Christ. This started when I received a call from old friends from Haiti that had moved to Santo Domingo and wanted us to visit in their home and share the Word with them.

Now the people from Haiti who took residence in the Dominican Republic are not welcome in the country since the gangs invaded the capital of Haiti. For that reason our friends who are Haitians are afraid to go into the streets because they could be arrested and put in jail and shipped back. So, we started a church home in the area of Boca Chica of Santo Domingo. It started with only French-speaking people in the home, and it then grew into a Spanish work, and we now have Spanish and French sitting together listening to French sermons.

Well, I reached out to a pastor friend, Pastor John Valera, who helped me handle this situation. From the French Haitians ministry and the Spanish families many got saved. Now the Haitian of Boca Chica are gathering every Sunday in the principal home to listen to the sermon I send them every week, and the Spanish family are going to Pastor John. There is so much happening in the Dominican Republic, with people who are interested to receive the Word of God and seeking Christ the Savior. Every time we go to the Dominican Republic a new convert is made. The Lord is working in that area. Why us, when we don't speak the language? Only the Lord has the answer to that question. Since then, Ruth and I are learning the language on our own, which is not easy, but we have a mind to learn and witness to the people. Last January during our trip we sowed the seed and many are still interested to hear more of the message of the cross. We depend on God to make it possible for us to travel and provide for our work in those fields.

Pray for all those countries who need the Lord and the protection to spread the gospel each day.

Michel & Ruth Poirier

Visiting Mexico

Dr. Ricky Williams

When most people think of visiting Mexico, tourist attractions such as Cancun, beaches, and restaurants might come to their minds. During the month of June, I visited Mexico, but those tourist destinations were not on my mind. In contrast, my thoughts centered on two important things at BMA Seminary: a mission practicum course and the new Diploma of Ordination course of study.

My journey began at BMA Seminary on June 7. I was accompanied by a BMATS student, Pedro Zepeda, and his wife. Pedro had enrolled in a Missions Practicum course, and it required him to be involved ten days in a foreign mission field. On Sunday night, June 7, at a bus stop in south Houston at 12:30 a.m., we boarded a Valley Transit bus bound for Brownsville, TX. From the Brownsville bus terminal, we crossed the international bridge afoot, passed through immigration and customs, and took a taxi to the bus terminal in Matamoros. From there, Pedro and I travelled by bus to Tampico, Aquismón, Huejutla, San Luis Potosi, and Queretaro.

The trip allowed Pedro to see the different churches of the BMA and interview pastors as part of his course work; furthermore, we both preached at churches in Huejutla on Father's Day. Next, we attended a Bible study in Queretaro at the house of Tommy and Sara Rose, BMA missionaries. What a blessing to see Tommy teach a portion of the evangelism outline he learned at BMA Seminary and see the people grasp the concept! Bro. Pedro fulfilled his course requirements in Queretaro and went to join his wife and visit family in Guanajuato, Mexico, his home state. Since returning to Texas, Bro. Zepeda has commented at least twice about the impact he received from this visit. He said, "I couldn't believe there were so many Baptist churches in the hills and mountains of Aquismón and Huejutla. The next time you go, Bro. Ricky, I want to go, too!"

Not only did I want to help this student fulfill the missions course requirements, but I also desired to promote the new "Diploma of Ordination" studies that will soon begin at BMA Seminary. To my surprise, in practically every church, men were interested in enrolling in this practical course of study that will equip them to preach and understand BMA doctrine.

Additionally, in this trip, I conducted research on the impact of Buddy Johnson's BMA mission and church growth ministries in Mexico. I did so by interviewing ministers that studied under him at the Instituto Bautista Asociacional (Associational Baptist Institute) or young men who walked beside him in ministry. While the study still lacks further interviews, I hope to soon publish the results.

Finally, one of the greatest blessings was visiting with my brothers and sisters in Christ that I had grown to love during the 37 years of ministry in Mexico as a BMA missionary. In the 14 churches I visited, I sensed a spirit of unity, dedication and a desire to press forward in fulfilling the Great Commission for our Savior, Jesus Christ. What a blessing to see graduates of the Bible Institute from years past leading as pastors, serving as officers in the BMA of Mexico, and faithfully fulfilling their roles as fathers and husbands. Observing the unity, dedication, and faithfulness of these brothers and sisters in Christ certainly made over 4,000 miles of bus travel during my visit to Mexico well worth it!

Women of the New Testament

Some scripture clues for the crossword puzzle on page 6.

Down:
1. 2Tim 1:5
2. Luke 1:13-17
3. Luke 8:1-3
5. Acts 5:1-11
6. Acts 25:23-27
9. Luke 10:38-42

Across:
4. Acts 18:1-2
7. Acts 12:11-15
8. Luke 2:36-38
10. John 20:11-16
11. Acts 16:14-15
12. Acts 9:36-41

Celebration 2026

There's something special about gathering with people who share your faith, your history and your love for the Lord.

That's what Celebration is all about.

This November, BMA friends from across the country will make their way to Branson, Missouri, for three days of worship, biblical encouragement, laughter and fellowship at Celebration 2026, November 3-5 at Chateau on the Lake.

Celebration is "A Worship Celebration for Adults" – a time to step away from the busyness of everyday life, reconnect with longtime friends and enjoy being together as part of the BMA family.

This year, Todd West will bring messages from God's Word, while Neil Dumas and David Attebery will lead us in worship.

There will be plenty of fun, too. Gospel music group, The Lesters, will provide special musical entertainment, and Christian comedian Taylor Mason is sure to keep us laughing. Attendees will also enjoy an afternoon at one of Branson's best-known shows, The Haygoods.

But some of the best moments at Celebration aren't found on the schedule.

They happen over breakfast when you spot someone you haven't seen in years. They happen in the hallways between sessions, around tables at dinner and in conversations that pick up right where they left off. They happen when a room full of believers lifts their voices together in worship.

For many, Celebration has become a reunion – a chance to reconnect with friends made through years of serving, worshiping and doing ministry together throughout BMA America.



And if you've never been before, this year is a great time to experience it for yourself.

Registration for Celebration 2026 is now open, and rooms at Chateau on the Lake are already filling quickly. Make your plans now and invite some friends from your church to come along.

Celebration 2026
November 3-5, 2026
Chateau on the Lake • Branson, MO

Register, reserve your hotel room and find more information at bmaamerica.org/celebration.

Come worship with us. Come laugh with us. Come reconnect with old friends – and make a few new ones.

Come celebrate with us in Branson.

• • • • •

A note from Donny: Still need a room? Please contact our Celebration Conference Coordinator for overflow hotel information. We'll also add you to our Chateau cancellation list so we can contact you if a room becomes available.

Already have rooms at the Chateau? If your church or group finds that you won't need all of the rooms you reserved, please contact us before releasing them. We'd love the opportunity to make those rooms available to someone on our cancellation list.

emily@lifeword.org • (501) 329-6891 ext. 3837

• *From* QUILL *page 6* •

understand a few verses well than to rush through an entire chapter. Together we discovered that Jesus didn't begin in Bethlehem. He has always existed. He was with God. He is God. He is the Creator of everything that exists. He is the source of life. And His light still shines into a world filled with darkness.

As we walked through those verses, I could see people listening carefully. They weren't simply hearing words; they were thinking. Most had never heard these truths before.

After about an hour, I thought we had reached a good stopping place. Instead of people standing up to leave, hands started going into the air. The Bible study turned into another hour of questions. Question after question led us deeper into the gospel.

Those are the kinds of Bible studies you never want to end. There was no rush. No one was looking at a clock, in fact there wasn't a clock in sight. People simply wanted to know more about Jesus.

As the afternoon went on, I realized this wasn't just another village. These two forest villages are home to more than 300 people.

As Sharon and I climbed back into the truck for the long drive home, we didn't talk much at first. We were both thinking about what we had just experienced. Three years ago, God allowed us to begin a Bible study under a tree at Chabantu. Today there is a faithful church family worshipping there. This week, He allowed us to sit under another tree. We have no idea what this story will look like two years from now. But if today's Bible study was any indication, God is already at work.

Would you pray with us?

- Pray that these villages would not simply become another place we visit.
- Pray that one day they will become another place where Christ is faithfully preached, disciples are made, and a local church stands as a light for generations to come.

Sometimes God's greatest works begin in the simplest places. Sometimes…they begin under another tree.

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.*

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). *(1026)*

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.

Jerry Jolly, Longtime BMA Pastor, Dies

via *Baptist Trumpet*

Bro. Jerry O. Jolly, 86, of Jonesboro, AR, passed away August 11. He faithfully served the Lord for more than six decades as a pastor and denominational leader within the BMA.



Bro. Jolly answered the call to preach the gospel in January, 1959, at Hopewell Baptist Church near Rector, AR. He was ordained in September of that year and began pastoring at Boydsville Baptist Church of Rector.

During his ministry, Bro. Jolly pastored many churches in Arkansas, Missouri, and Alaska. His pastorates in Missouri included two tenures at First Baptist of Potosi.

His longest pastorate was at Temple, Jonesboro, AR, where he served for more than 30 years.

Bro. Jolly married Freda "Sweetpea" Tyner July 17, 1959, and they shared more than 54 years of marriage before her death in 2014. He later married Mary "June" Hicks Hyatt and shared his later years with her until her death in 2022.

Survivors include a son, Terry Jolly of Jonesboro; a daughter, Cathy (Paul) King of Jonesboro; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.