



**MID LAKES
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
BOLIVAR, MO**



Mid-Lakes Association
Youth Fall Retreat
Saturday, November 2nd
2 PM - 8 PM
Noble Hill Baptist Church
Speaker: Noah Taylor
All youth are invited!



Missions and Ministry Together

By John Rhodes, AMS (Associational Missions Strategist)



Comedian Mark Lowery once said, “God works more in the interruptions of our lives than He does in the plans of our lives”. How right he is. It always amazes me how God can take what seems to be a gigantic mess and bring good from it. I was reminded of this from a sermon I recently preached, about a man who was a leper who came worshipping Jesus. After he worshipped, he asked Jesus if it was His will to heal him. He trusted Jesus to decide if he would be healed or not. Another word for this is faith. Oh if we just had the faith of this man with leprosy.

Just like the man with leprosy, we too have unexpected, or undesirable things happen in our lives. When those things happen, we find there is only one place we can truly turn, and that is to Jesus. However, I do wonder how often we respond like this leper. The first thing he did was worship Jesus. He saw Jesus for Who He was, the living Messiah. He actually calls Him Lord with a capital L. This man did not allow his circumstance to dictate his response to worship. Jesus came first. Even when it came to his illness, he still left his situation resting in the Lord’s hands.

I love the response Jesus gave. The man said, “Lord, if you are willing”, and Jesus reply was “I am willing”. This man’s faith moved Jesus’ heart, and wonderful things happened.

I shared this to say, our faith must be in the One we follow, not in a result that we desire. I believe if Jesus had not healed him, this man still would have worshipped Jesus. So often we plan and forget to allow Him to be part of that plan, or we plan for Him, to later learn He has a different plan. I have learned in my years of ministry that faith in my plans often fail, but when I trust God for the plan, and for Him to reveal it to me, then I will see all the puzzle pieces come together. Sometimes God even adds a few extra pieces to the puzzle, but that’s OK. When God starts adding puzzle pieces, that just means He is at work. Sometimes He is just adding what we never thought possible. That’s why He is in charge.

I want to challenge all of us for this upcoming holiday season, to worship, seek God’s will, and be flexible when it comes to God. He know all the roads we need to travel. He can open doors we never imagined, and when He does, Praise Him!

Seldom will I ever mention politics, however I want to encourage everyone who is able to get out and vote. But as believers, we must weigh our votes against the standards God has placed before us. Your vote needs to reflect the will of God. There are no perfect choices, however, we must choose the best from what we have to pick from. As you enter the ballot box, just ask yourself the question, what would Jesus do? He would vote for life. Your answers should be pretty clear.

God bless you, and we love you all,

Bro. John and Gayle Rhodes



10 Reasons to OPPOSE Pro-Abortion Amendment 3

1 Parental Consent laws will be eliminated

If a "right" to abortion is enshrined in our Missouri Constitution it would allow abortions to be performed on pregnant minors without notice to or consent from the minor's parents.

2 Abortion - all 9 months

If our Missouri Constitution is amended with a "right" to abortion, abortion will be allowed for "physical or mental health" for all 9 months from conception to live birth.

3 No alternatives allowed

This amendment callously disregards the unborn child and the alternatives to sacrificing his/her life and future while helping his/her mother.

4 Health & Safety standards eliminated

Missouri health and safety standards for abortion clinics would be gutted if this amendment passes. Its language would even allow some unlicensed persons to perform or induce abortions.

5 MO's pro-life laws will be eliminated

Our Missouri Constitution is our state's supreme (highest) law and governing document. Our pro-life laws in more than sixty sections of the Revised Statutes of Missouri will be eliminated by enshrining a "right" to abortion in our Missouri Constitution.

6 Women lose ability to sue for malpractice

A woman's ability to seek criminal prosecution/civil penalty of any person who performs/assists/provides support to induce/seek/obtain an abortion will be eliminated.

7 PRCs forced to refer for abortion

Pregnancy Resource Centers will be forced to refer for abortion.

8 Ultrasounds eliminated

Abortion clinics will no longer be required to offer or show a mother her baby's ultrasound image.

9 Significant \$ Loss to MO

Missouri could suffer a significant loss to state and local revenue if this language is enshrined in the Missouri Constitution.

10 Taxpayer-funded abortion

If abortion is enshrined as a "right" in our Missouri Constitution, your legislator will be unable to refuse to appropriate funds to abortion providers.

Contact us for more information about how you can be a pro-life voice!

Missouri Right to Life, PO Box 651, Jefferson City, MO 65102 | 573-635-5110 | missourilife.org

THIS IS NOT A POLITICAL ISSUE, BUT A SPIRITUAL ISSUE!

AMENDMENT 5 - OSAGE RIVER CASINO

Amendment 5 would allow the operation of a new casino near the Lake of the Ozarks. State revenues from the operation of the casino would be earmarked for early-childhood literacy programs

Problems with this amendment:

- It creates pathways for addiction and harm to families.
- The casino would need to generate a 31% increase in tax revenue for the lake area to match ballot language predictions. This is wildly unrealistic.
- The way that revenues would be used is unclear. While it promises help for "early-childhood literacy," it is not defined who will receive those funds, or how they will be spent.
- It invites the entire state to make a decision that could deeply harm the local community at Lake of the Ozarks.

A NO vote on Amendment 5 is best for all Missourians.



Keep your life free from the love of money. Be satisfied with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or abandon you."

- Hebrews 13:5 (CSB)

Visit the Secretary of State's website to read full texts of Amendments 2 & 5.



**Christian
LIFE
Commission**
MISSOURI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Visit us online at mbcclc.org

DON'T LET
GAMBLING
TEAR
**MISSOURI
FAMILIES**
APART



Paid for by the
Christian Life Commission
of the Missouri Baptist Convention

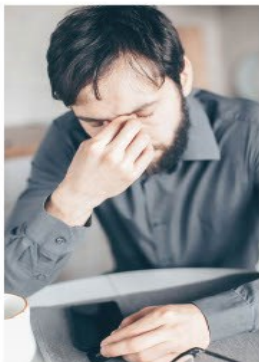
Willie Isaacson, Chairman
400 E High Street, Jefferson City, MO 65101

GAMBLING HARMS MEN & THEIR FAMILIES

Gambling affects all people in ways that grieve the heart of God, but men are especially vulnerable.

Consider:

- The average gambling debt of a man addicted to gambling is between \$55,000 and \$90,000.
- This debt comes with increased rates of job loss, home loss, legal trouble, and damage to family relationships.
- 58% of men who gamble say that sports betting has negatively affected their mental health.



While gambling addiction affects people from all walks of life, studies show that black men, single men, and men under 30 are at higher risk of this destructive practice.

AMENDMENT 2 - SPORTS BETTING

Amendment 2 would legalize betting on professional sports in Missouri. If passed, Missourians could place such bets online, in casinos, or within professional sports arenas. Tax revenues from such gambling activity would be designated for education and compulsive gambling prevention programs.

Online betting is lining the pockets of platform creators while hurting American families.

When the Supreme Court struck down the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act in 2018, it opened the floodgates to placing bets online and through gaming apps.

Gross revenues from sports gambling increased from \$430 million in 2018 to more than \$11 billion in 2023.

Online betting is more addictive than other forms of gambling.

Gambling addiction risk rose 30% in the first three years since the Supreme Court made sports betting legal. This addiction is fueled by:

- Gamblers' mistaken assumption that sports knowledge gives them a way to beat the odds.
- Live betting giving gamblers the ability to bet many times during a game, reducing the delay between risk and reward.

Problems with this amendment:

- It enables legal access to a new, incredibly virulent form of gambling.
- It brings sports betting into the home, workplace, and schools.
- It increases the reach of sports betting platforms without solving age-verification problems that allow minors to participate.
- Losses may be greater since betting is tied directly to bank accounts.
- It endangers the integrity of sports.

A NO vote on Amendment 2 helps keep the pandemic of gambling in check.

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JOIN US IN
PRAYING FOR



**FLORIDA
GEORGIA
SOUTH CAROLINA
NORTH CAROLINA
TENNESSEE**

FAITH • LIBERTY • COMMUNITY • LIFE



Also pray for all the MO Disaster Relief volunteers (plus those from other states) who have had a hand in helping our neighboring states.

THE Pathway

Did you know that you can get a subscription to the MO Baptist Convention's Newspaper, "The Pathway" for absolutely FREE?

The bi-monthly issues will help keep you informed about ministries, missions, and opportunities around the state of MO and the world.

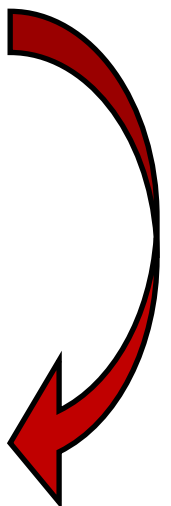
Through The Pathway you can learn more about what MO Baptist Churches are doing, and how God is working through the churches, associations, state conventions, and the SBC, including NAMB and IMB.

To sign up just go to the link below and fill out the information and hit submit, and you will soon find a physical copy of The Pathway Newspaper in your mailbox. This is provided through your Cooperative Program Dollars.

Sign Up TODAY and tell your friends.



<https://mbcpathway.com/contact-us/subscribe-to-the-print-edition-of-the-pathway/>





2024 Annual Meeting

Mid Lakes Southern Baptist Association

REPORT

First, I would like to say THANK YOU to Southern Hills and FBC, Humansville for hosting our annual meeting this year. The meals were wonderful, and the spirit was great. Our speakers challenged our hearts, especially concerning missions. Dewayne Dunning, Scott Hudgins, Jeremy Dunn, and Duke Jones all did a wonderful job in sharing about ministry. The Nominating Committee Recommendations were voted in, and the 2024-2025 Proposed Budget was adopted. Thank you for the generous \$1,000 raise this new year.

For me, one highlight was when we introduced a request from Wellspring Baptist Church to join our association of churches. We are excited about this. Our Personnel Committee will be meeting with them and we will go through the process required for membership according to our Constitution and By-laws. At the 2025 Annual Meeting, a vote will be taken to accept them into the association, however, we will go ahead and include them in the life of the association throughout this year. We welcome their participation and fellowship.

We did welcome some new pastors into the association (although some are not new to the association). Harry Moore became the new pastor at Caplinger Mills Baptist Church, Duke Jones became pastor at Mt Etna Baptist Church. Michael Green became the college pastor for FBC, Bolivar, and Noah Taylor became the new youth pastor at Noble Hill Baptist Church.

I would like to express heartfelt thanks to Bro. Chase Wagner for his leadership as Moderator over these past two years, and welcome Bro. Charles Jackson into his new role as Moderator. A second thank you goes to Mrs. Dot Soldavini and the Finance Committee for their work at reorganizing our finances into very legible and easy to work with system. A job well done.

This next year, I look forward to seeing what God will do through the churches of Mid Lakes Baptist Association, and I will do my best to assist them in any way that I can.

Blessings,

Bro. John Rhodes, AMS

**Psalm 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is*
for brethren to dwell together in unity!**

FREE Dinner and Concert x2



1. Saturday Nov. 2nd - Paul Blake & Family

2. Saturday Nov. 9th - Ernie & Jason Couch



*First Baptist
Church Morrisville*

Both Events:
6:00 PM Dinner
7:00 PM Concert



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
5334 S. MAIN, MORRISVILLE, MO 65710
REV. CHARLES JACKSON, PASTOR
SUNDAY WORSHIP 11 AM
EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN US!



North American
Mission Board

2024 REPORT

At NAMB, it's all about the gospel, and we are here to serve and support pastors and churches as they minister on the front lines of pushing back lostness. Our more than 6,600 missionaries and chaplains were discipled, raised up and called out from local Southern Baptist churches, and we are grateful for each one of them. Thank you for giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® and the Cooperative Program.

Here are some highlights of how God is working through our partnership with Southern Baptists:

Our Evangelism Team is seeing great engagement from churches. In 2023 more than 10,000 copies of NAMB's new **Evangelism Kit** were distributed to churches. The kit is designed to help pastors create a culture of evangelism in their church that will endure even as programs and emphases come and go. We had the opportunity to train more than 1,300 pastors and ministry leaders who plan to implement the training in their churches. Our **Refresh Retreats** give ministry leaders a chance to be equipped, encouraged and re-energized, and in 2023 we were able to provide this experience for more than 1,200 pastors and their wives. Since launching our **Youth Leader Coaching Network** in 2021, more than 800 youth leaders have attended the in-person gatherings, and more than 1,500 youth leaders have participated in the online sessions. Our Collegiate **Coaching Network** launched in the spring of 2022, and since then has had more than 260 collegiate leaders participate in the in-person gatherings and more than 400 engaged through the online sessions. Both networks equip leaders to engage students in evangelism, discipleship and missions.

Send Network, our church planting arm, is helping Southern Baptists start new churches everywhere for everyone. In 2023, we celebrated as Southern Baptists surpassed more than 10,000 new churches started since 2010, an incredible testimony to God's faithfulness and the Great Commission commitment our churches have. Under Vance Pitman's leadership, more than 400 church planters attended Send Network orientation at NAMB in 2023. In addition, we hosted five **Send Network Gatherings** throughout North America where church planters and their wives received training, coaching and encouragement as they met with fellow planting couples and Send Network leaders. Also in 2023, we launched the new **Mobilization Pathway** which helps churches take their next step in church planting.

Send Relief, the compassion ministry we lead in collaboration with the International Mission Board, is meeting immediate needs for thousands of people while also pointing them to salvation in Christ. In North America, Send Relief engaged more than 33,000 volunteers from more than 3,300 churches in 2023. We also added new resources designed to help churches start and sustain gospel-centered compassion ministries in their local communities. Send Relief has launched seven new video courses as part of its **Church Guide to Ministry**, with expert practitioners in each of their respective fields. We have also cultivated a network of **Affiliate Ministry Centers** over the last year, allowing Send Relief to walk alongside other like-minded ministries in the hope of elevating their presence and sharing their best practices as they seek to serve their communities and resource SBC churches.

NAMB-endorsed Southern Baptist Chaplains number more than 3,300 as they serve and minister all over the globe, reaching people that churches often cannot access. This includes more than 1,100 military chaplains who serve men and women in the United States Armed Services stationed on military bases throughout the world. In addition to endorsing chaplains on behalf of Southern Baptists, NAMB **provides training, resources and encouragement** to chaplains serving in hospitals, prisons, in disaster settings, law enforcement and as first responders. In 2023, Southern Baptist chaplains presented the gospel 95,627 times, resulting in 18,408 professions of faith and more than 1,600 baptisms.

Thank you, Southern Baptists, for the privilege to serve you and to partner with you in taking the gospel to North America.



November 5 and 19th

Men's Breakfast and Fellowship

1st and 3rd Tuesday each month at 8:30 AM.

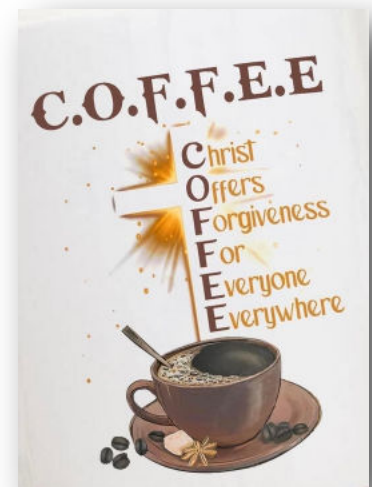
at Mid Lakes Baptist Association Office.

Bring your own Breakfast and a Bible.

We will provide the coffee!

All men are invited to join us.

722 E. South Street, Bolivar, MO



**MID LAKES ASSOCIATION
WMU GROUP MEETING**

Last Monday of each month at 2 PM.

All ladies are invited to join in.

Mrs. Leidra Stunkel is leading the group.

The meeting will be at the Association Office.

722 E. South Street, Bolivar, MO.

New Time

MLBA Church News

Berean: Taking a Mission Trip to the country of Columbia at the end of October.

Bethel: In the process of collecting resumes for a new pastor.

FBC, Bolivar: Live streams their 9:30 and 11 AM services on their Facebook page.

FBC, Humansville: Beginning a search for a new pastor.

FBC, Morrisville: Free Dinner and Concert x 2. Saturday, Nov. 2nd - Paul Blake & Family, Saturday, Nov. 9th - Ernie and Jason Couch 6 PM Meal and 7 PM Concert both nights.

Fender Chapel: Attendance has been picking up, and there is a great spirit of unity in the church.

Heritage: Taking resumes for a new pastor. Heritage is also hosting the middle school and high school grades of the Polk County Christian School.

Mt Olive: Looking forward to getting their sanctuary repaired soon.

Noble Hill: Is hosting the MLBA Youth Fall Retreat on Saturday, November 2nd from 2-8 PM.

Southern Hills: Hosted the Monday Evening session of our Annual Meeting

Camp Committee: Hosting Fall Youth Retreat November 2nd from 2-8 PM at Noble Hill Baptist Church.

Hispanic Ministry: Bible Study every Monday evening at 7 PM at the Rose Building.



Dates to remember:

11/2 Youth Fall Retreat, Noble Hill 2-8 PM

11/3 Time Change

11/5 Election Day

11/5 Men's Fellowship 8:30 AM

11/11 Veteran's Day

11/12 Men's Fellowship 8:30 AM

11/25 MLBA WMU Meeting

11/28 Thanksgiving Day

12/1-8 Week of Prayer for International Mission Board Missionaries

12/3 Men's Fellowship 8:30 AM

12/7/24 Bolivar Christmas Parade

12/17 Men's Fellowship 8:30 AM

12/20 MLBA WMU Meeting 2 PM

12/25 JESUS BIRTHDAY (Christmas Day)

12/31 MLBA Youth New Years Eve Party



NOTE: Camp Dates for 2025

Kid's Camp: July 26 - 29 Youth Camp: July 30 - August 3



Hispanic Bible Study

Each Monday Night at 7 PM
at FBC, Bolivar Rose Building

Help us invite our Hispanic neighbors to attend.

Berean Baptist; Bethel Southern Baptist; Brighton Baptist; Caplinger Mills Baptist; Fender Chapel Baptist; First Baptist, Bolivar; First Baptist, Fair Play; First Baptist, Humansville; First Baptist, Morrisville; First Southern Baptist, Stockton; Grace Fellowship Baptist; Heritage Baptist; Mt Etna Baptist; Mt Olive Baptist; Noble Hill Baptist; Rondo Baptist; Shepherd's Way Church; Southern Hills Baptist; Wellspring Baptist Church (in the process of joining)



Mid Lakes Baptist Association

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Website: www.midlakesba.com

Email: midlakessba@gmail.com

Facebook Page: *Mid Lakes Baptist Association*

Office Hours

Monday—Wednesday

9 AM - 4 PM

