



February 2025

Happy Valentines Day!

MID LAKES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

BOLIVAR, MO

Missions and Ministry Together

By John Rhodes, AMS (Associational Missions Strategist)



Ephesians 3:20-21 says, “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever, Amen.”

It is amazing to look back and see how God has worked in the past. Through the cooperative effort of God’s people working through Him, God has truly blessed us. I am a firm believer, that when God’s children join together with a purpose and focus of obeying and serving Him, that great things will happen. I know sometimes we think if there is not a explosion of activity and increase of numbers, that we have failed, but understand, sometimes God does His best work quietly in the hearts of His children. When we make a difference in the life of one person, we never know what may come of it. That person may become the next Billy Graham. I’m sure the folks who invested in me, never thought I would become a pastor and work with pastors. Yet God used them to influence me.


One thought about this verse that I think we often overlook, is we underestimate what God wants to do in us, which in turn is underestimating God Himself. He is the One who does exceedingly abundantly in all things. He just lets me come along for the ride. Yes He uses us, but He is the One Who makes things happen. Whenever we serve the Lord, what do we imagine? Do you ever think outside the box? Do we dream larger than what we can accomplish? That’s where our faith comes into play. So step out on faith, follow God’s lead, and see what God can do in and through us. This works for churches too! Be the hands and feet for Jesus this year!

I would ask that we lift up our leaders in our churches. We have had several who have faced losses of family members recently, and I would ask you to remember them. Before Christmas Bro. Charles Jackson from FBC Morrisville had a brother pass away; Bro. David Cloud from FBC, Humansville lost his dad, and just within the past week, Shane England’s (Fender Chapel) father-in-law passed away. Bethel Church also had a loss in January. Mrs. Trudy Webb passed away. She and Bro. Richard have served as Executive Board Members of the association for years, and they have served faithfully at Bethel.

Remember, it time to start making block party, mission trailer, kayak trailer, and shuttle reservations for the year.

We love you all and are praying for you,
Bro. John & Mrs. Gayle

Dwelling in Unity 2025



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

Church Spotlight

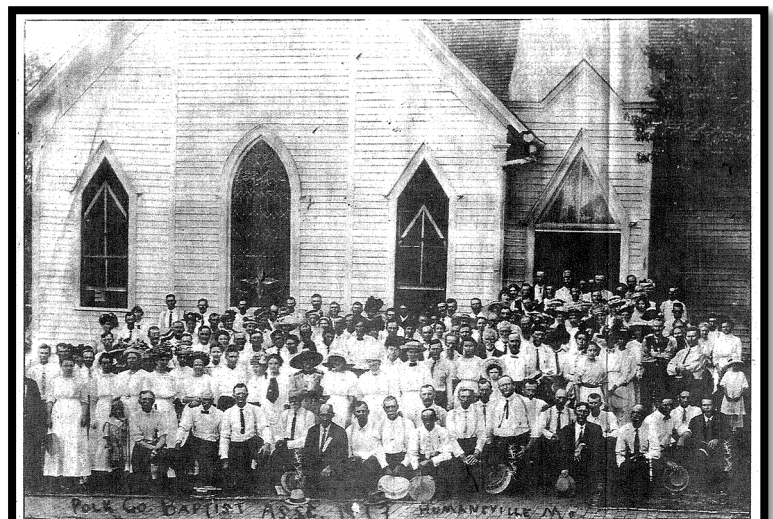
We have a couple of churches who will get us a church spotlight for next month. For this month, I thought I would share a brief section from some of the historical documents we have for our association. Since 1840, many changes have occurred within what is now our association. There is no way for me to share this in a brief format. However I will share one section for our historical documents that I found interesting.

At the 1987 annual meeting, the Historical Committee found and reproduced a historical sketch up to the year 1949. Copies were made available to officers and churches of the association.

We have gone back to the First Baptist Association organized in the Polk County in the year 1840 and have included available information in the historical table of Polk County Southern Baptist Association. Not all items in the table were found. It will be noted that the original organization in 1840 was known as Liberty Association of United Baptists. In 1856 Sac River Association united with Liberty to form Union Association. In 1858 the Freedom Association on United Baptist was formed. From 1860 to 1865 the Civil War prevented the assembly of the association. In 1865 the Freedom Association reassembled. By 1889 only churches in Polk County were members and the name was changed to Polk County Baptist Association. In 1950 a motion was passed which stated, "That we exclude the Cooperative Program and all organizations connected with it from our associational programs". This resulted in the existence of two associations - Polk County Missionary Baptist Association, which does not support the Cooperative Program, and our Polk County Baptist Association, which does support the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Also in 1987, Mount Olive Baptist Church completed a new church building where this annual meeting was held. The association also operated for the first time The Polk County Youth Camp and Polk County Children's Camp.

Polk County Baptist Association officially became Mid-Lakes Baptist Association on October 7, 1986 when they adopted their new Constitution and By-laws.



Baptists in 1913

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This photo of the 1913 Polk County Baptist Association that met in Humansville was brought back from Florida last week by Dean Winfiel. He and his wife, Verna, along with his mother, Helen, and brother and wife, Charles and Edith Winfiel, visited relatives in Florida including Helen Winfiel's only remaining first cousin, Dorothy Rennison. Her parents were Benjamin and Golden

(Sims) Scroggins, formerly of the Slagle community. Winfiel said that while his mother's memory, at age 91, is keen enough, her vision is too dim to identify any of those in the photo. He appeals for any of the newspaper's "more mature subscribers" to see if they recognize any of those pictured.



February 4th & 18th at 8:30 AM

Men's Breakfast and Fellowship

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

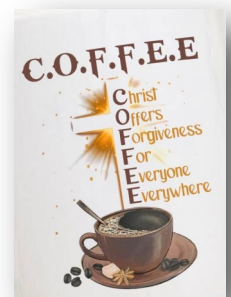
at Mid Lakes Baptist Association Office.

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.

How MMO Helps Associations

Ten percent of your church's gifts to MMO is returned to your association to support missions.

Here's how several associations are investing these returns.

Bethel Baptist Association (Al Groner) traveled to Montana and El Salvador to help with evangelism and construction projects.

Concord Baptist Association (Alan Earls) provided a summer missionary to serve churches with VBS, children's camp, backyard Bible clubs, and other ministries. Concord also uses MMO funds to assist with partnerships between CBA churches and multicultural churches in Columbia, Mo.

Gasconade Valley Baptist Association (Trent Young) supports the collegiate ministry at the State Tech Lighthouse.

Greene County Baptist Association (Joshua Hall) equips and cares for pastors and ministry staff members, including an appreciation banquet and a Leader Care fund.

Laclede Baptist Association (Bradley Jemes) sponsored a mission trip to Whitehall, Mont., which involved Rodeo Bible School, neighborhood evangelism, and even putting up a new fence.

Lawrence County Baptist Association (Wade Rogers) hosted FORGED, a men's event that resulted in nine professions of faith.

Meramec Baptist Association (Walter Heyer) hosted an annual Men and Boys Wild Game Dinner, with more than 300 in attendance.

Mid-Lakes Baptist Association (John Rhodes) is refurbishing a trailer for churches to use on mission trips and has established a Hispanic Bible study with hopes of launching a new church within three years.

Phelps County Baptist Association (Bruce Wade) supports its associational youth camp and last year purchased much-needed equipment for its new DOM.

Shoal Creek Baptist Association (Alan Brock) plants churches in Noel, Mo.

Spring River Baptist Association (Kirk Baker) began a Revitalization cohort, providing resources for pastors seeking to revitalize their churches in the association.

St. Louis Metro Baptist Association (Darren Casper) assists Faithful Men, an associational ministry to discover and develop more African American pastors and churches in the St. Louis Metro area.

Tri-County Baptist Association (Phillip Shuford) hosts a Ministry Appreciation Christmas Dinner for pastors, elders, deacons, and other church ministry leaders.

West Central Baptist Association (John Brittain) provides scholarships for GAP Institute students who plan to go into ministry; financially supports church plants in the association; and offers training in evangelism.



THE TIMOTHY PROJECT INVITES YOU
TO ATTEND...

Her Story

AND THE LOVE OF THE FATHER

FEBRUARY 14 AND 15, 2025
10-2 ON FRIDAY, 9-2 ON SATURDAY

JEFFERSON AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

316 E SUNSHINE, SPRINGFIELD MO

Who is invited? Widows, family members, church leaders and friends

Singing the Doxology in the Darkness

The Redemption of Our Pain

Comfort Others and Receive Comfort

Table Top Discussions

For more information contact Teresa Flora @ 417-808-0454



Friend,

Seminary training isn't only for the future. **It's for the church where God has called you now.**

"As a church planter, I have a heart for the many unchurched regions of the Midwest," said Midwestern Seminary graduate Joel Vancil. Through the Global Campus, Joel completed both his undergraduate and master's degrees while serving in pastoral ministry. "The Global Campus at Midwestern Seminary allowed me to interact with professors and classmates while continuing to serve my local church," he said.

Like Joel, you can complete one of 50+ degrees and concentrations online where you're called, through 4 flexible class formats and 10 new start dates every year. Through your courses, you'll connect with local ministry partners and mentors in your area to help you **contextualize and apply your coursework to your unique Kingdom assignment.**

"Pastors, we have been called to the great task of proclaiming the wonderful riches of our infinite God," Joel shared. "Let us never become weary of going deep into the mine and doing the hard work of theological education so that we may come forth every week to our people and say, 'Look what I have found! Look at the infinite treasures of Christ!'"

Request information about our Global Campus to learn how you can prepare for ministry tomorrow while you serve your church today.

For your church,
Midwestern Seminary

STEP INTO THE STORY



Kevin Ezell, President
North American Mission Board

2025 promotional resources are now available at AnnieArmstrong.com

Dear Mission Leaders,

We are surrounded by gospel opportunities. It's estimated there are 286 million lost people in North America. **Reaching that mission field is why we unite and generously give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering every year.**

Last year, our Southern Baptist family gave the highest Annie offering ever—\$74.7 million. That outpouring of support went to work immediately fueling the ministries of more than 3,000 missionary families as they plant churches, meet physical needs, and share Christ with unreached people across the U.S. and Canada.

These missionaries have inspiring stories of how God is at work transforming lives from Provo, Utah, to Flint, Michigan, and beyond. **In this new giving season, I ask you to step into these stories. You can find 2025 promotional resources and missionary features at AnnieArmstrong.com that will help you do just that.**

Thank you for your faithful support and for your advocacy that is leading many others to join this mission. Together, let's step into the story that God is writing right here in North America.

Serving together,

Annie Armstrong
Easter Offering®

FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

STEP INTO THE
STORY



North American
Mission Board

Every gift to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering – 100 percent – goes to train, resource and send thousands of missionaries involved in church planting and compassion ministries across the United States, Canada and their territories. The partnership of the North American Mission Board with Missouri Baptist Convention churches and individuals makes this work possible.

World Vision

WINTER JAM '25

**\$15 DONATION
AT THE DOOR**

No Tickets Required!

MORE INFO @

JAMTOUR.COM



SKILLET

ANNE WILSON

KB



COLTON DIXON

NEWSONG

MICAH TYLER

**ZANE
BLACK
SPEAKER**



Great Southern Bank Arena
Springfield, MO

Saturday, March 22, 2025

FROM PROTECT MY MINISTRY

(This is the organization we do background checks through.)



**COMING
SOON!**
New Child
Safety Training

Empowering **Safe** Environments for Churches

We've been hard at work revamping our Child Safety Training Program to ensure it meets the highest standards and addresses key safety concerns.

On **January 21**, we will be releasing all new Volunteer and Staff versions of our Child Safety Training with updated statistics, graphics and guides.

Less than 38% of child victims disclose they've been abused. It is critical that our program empower churches to mitigate potential incidents by recognizing the signs of abuse and grooming early.

Our mission at Protect My Ministry is to provide you with the tools and services to make your church a safe haven for worship. Our employee training is approved by the Texas Department of State Health Services for child sexual abuse prevention. At the end of each training participants must pass a quiz with at least a 70% to earn a Certificate of Completion. An updated Spanish version will also be available.

Updated: Design; Statistics; New Content; Updated Guides

Need to Add Child Safety Training to Your Program? Contact us today!

Protect My Ministry: www.sales@protectmyministry.com



Celebrating CP's 100th Anniversary

The Cooperative Program (CP) is the funding process Southern Baptists have used since 1925 to support missions at the state, national, and international levels. Through CP, the ministry reach of your church extends around the world.

Our celebration kicks off at the Missouri Baptist Convention's Annual Meeting Oct. 28-29, 2024, in St. Charles and continues through the 2025 MBC Annual Meeting Oct 27-28 in Branson.

The MBC website shares 100 stories, testimonials from Missouri Baptists, videos, histories, maps, links to Southern Baptist Convention resources, and a whole lot more. Check back regularly for new features and updates.

Above all, thank you for your faithful giving to your church, and your church's generosity through CP. These webpages only capture snippets of the global impact Missouri Baptists are making for the sake of the gospel.

Consider sharing one video each month to promote the CP this year.

Happy 100th Anniversary, CP!

MLBA Church News

Berean: Spending February focusing on Missions with guest missionaries.

Bethel: In the process of collecting resumes for a new pastor. Mrs. Trudy Webb moved to heaven in January.

Fender Chapel: Pastor Shane's father-in-law passed away.

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: In the process of getting their buildings repaired.

Hispanic Ministry: Bible Study every Monday evening at 7 PM at the Rose Building. They hope to begin worship services soon.

Southern Hills: Off to a great start on this semester's Awana Program.

MLBA Men's Fellowship and Breakfast: February 4th & 18th

MLBA Camp Committee Meeting: Sunday, February 23rd

MLBA WMU Meeting: Monday, February 24th at 2 PM

Dates to Remember in 2025

January 21 - MLBA Executive Board Meeting

April 15 - MLBA Executive Board Meeting

April 27 - Semi-Annual Meeting, at Noble Hill Baptist Church

May 1 - National Day of Prayer

June 8-11 SBC Annual Meeting, Dallas, TX

July 15 - MLBA Executive Board Meeting

July 26 - 29 Children's Camp

July 29 - August 3 Youth Camp

August 12 - Nominating Committee Meeting

August 18 - Budget Committee Meeting

September 24 - See You at the Pole

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

October - 13 & 14 MLBA Annual Meeting

October 18 - Pastor's Family Event

October 27-28 MBC Annual Meeting, Branson

Dates to remember:

- 1/4 Men's Fellowship at MLBA Office
- 1/16 Focus on WMU Sunday
- 1/18 Men's Fellowship at MLBA Office
- 1/23 Camp Committee Meeting
- 1/24 WMU Monthly Meeting at MLBA Office

NOTE: Camp Dates for 2025

Kid's Camp: July 26 - 29

Youth Camp: July 30 - August 3

March is Pastor's Wives Appreciation Month



UPCOMING: YOUTH SPRING EVENT

MARCH 8TH

SEE

WWW.MIDLAKESCAMPS.WEEBLY.COM

Dwelling in Unity 2025



Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!

Psalm 133:1

Ephesians 4:22-24

²² That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

²³ And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

²⁴ And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.



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)



Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday

9 AM - 4 PM

Mid Lakes Baptist Association

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Email: midlakessba@gmail.com

Facebook Page: *Mid Lakes Baptist Association*

John Rhodes, AMS