



March 2025



# MID LAKES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

**BOLIVAR, MO (POLK, CEDAR, HICKORY, AND GREENE COUNTIES)**

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## **Missions and Ministry Together**

**By John Rhodes, AMS (Associational Missions Strategist)**



Greetings from Mid Lakes Baptist Association.

Over the past month we have all experienced the force of nature when it comes to feeling like we were in an ice box covered in snow. For those who love snow, it was great. My grandkids loved being out of school. However, for many, the cold winter months bring about a feeling of captivity and depression. I also know our churches can go through times when we feel discouraged and depressed. I personally have been there and understand these feelings.

Last Sunday (2/23/25) I visited Caplinger Mills Baptist Church and listened to Bro. Harry Morre share a message dealing with these very issues. For in 1 Samuel 30, David and his men return to Ziklag and found their families had been taken captive by the Amalekites and Ziklag had been burned by fire. These men found themselves feeling defeated. Verse 4 says, *"Then David and the people who were with him lifted up their voices and wept, until they had no more power to weep."* I would expect I would do the very same thing. However, Bro. Harry brought out something in this passage that I had not really thought about. In verse 6 David was very distressed, and so were the people. Some even thought about stoning David. However, in the last part of that verse we see something that is amazing in itself. *"...But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God."* Somewhere David had to have a serious conversation with himself, look at things from God's perspective, listen to what God had said and was still saying, and you might say he reached down and picked himself up by his own bootstraps! Sure it was with God's help, but it had to start with David refocusing himself on God's directions.


Just recently I spoke with someone concerning a situation, and all I heard was the words, "but what I want is..." . Never once was their mention of what God's will was. Be sure not to fall into the "I" trap. For "I" is the center of "s(i)n". God is still on the throne, and He still has a plan. Sometimes (actually, oftentimes) His plans do not look like our plans, but that's OK. Follow His plan. Focus on God, pull up your spiritual bootstraps, and strengthen yourself in the Lord.

Now just a reminder, even though it may feel like winter (discouraging times) will never end, spring is coming. A fresh look, fresh perspective, and fresh filling of the Lord can take us in to spring, especially the spring of service and seeking God's will.

Thank you Bro. Happy for reminding me to talk to myself, and for all of me to seek the Lord in all things.

We love dwelling together with the churches of Mid Lakes Baptist Association!

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

<b>Dwelling in Unity 2025</b>	
	Behold, how good and how pleasant <i>it is</i> For brethren to dwell together in unity! Psalm 133:1

# Church Spotlight

*Join us this Sunday to worship our risen Savior!*

## WELLSPRING BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.



Wellspring Baptist Fellowship exists to glorify God, teach Scripture and equip disciples. We are a Southern Baptist church in Bolivar, Mo., and a member of the Missouri Baptist Convention.



Wellspring has applied for membership in the Mid Lakes Baptist Association.

### **Our commitment is to:**

- Worship God in Spirit and in Truth
- Reach the lost with the good news of salvation
- Minister to people at the point of need regardless of race, religion or social standing
- Equip the saints of God (all believers) for the work of the ministry
- Encourage each believer to exercise his or her spiritual gifts in a manner that builds up the body of Christ
- Instruct each believer in the disciplines of prayer, meditation on God's Holy Word, personal evangelism, fellowship with other believers and obedience to the principles and commandments of scripture
- Develop in each believer a desire to participate in local, state, national and international missions



**March 4th & 18th at 8:30 AM**

**Men's Breakfast and Fellowship**

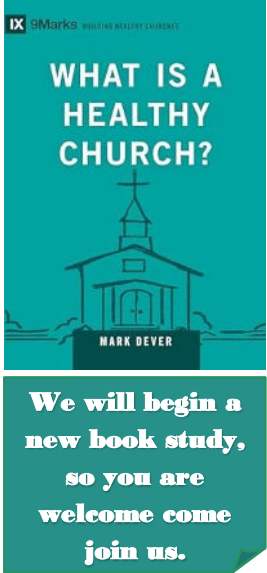
**1st and 3rd Tuesday each month at 8:30 AM.**

**at Mid Lakes Baptist Association Office.**

**We will provide the coffee!**

**All men are invited to join us.**

**722 E. South Street, Bolivar, MO**



**MID LAKES ASSOCIATION  
WMU GROUP MEETING**

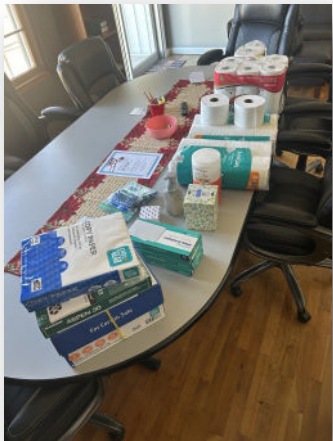
**Last Monday of each month at 2 PM.**

**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.**



Special Thanks to the WMU Ladies Group for these donated items for the association office.

**NOBLE STUDENTS**  
**PICKLEBALL**  
★★ **TOURNAMENT** ★★



Scan to  
Register:



MARCH 1ST 2-4 PM  
**NOBLE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
3285 W FARM ROAD 36, WILLARD

**WINNING TEAM GETS TWO \$25  
AMAZON GIFT CARDS!**



BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

# MISSIONS MONTH 2025

## Why Missions Month?

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“In Matthew 4:19 Jesus said, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ Missions Month reminds us that we are to follow Christ with all our heart, and in so doing, we are then motivated to point others to Him as well.” -Pastor Derrick Lewright

**GRIEF  SHARE<sup>®</sup>**

**NEW ROTATION  
STARTING TUESDAY  
NIGHTS**

**FEB 18 | 6:30 PM**

# Fostering Churches Back To Health

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A Manual for  
Church Fostering

**Replant**  
|>> NAMB

**Please Contact the Association Office  
for more details.**



The Week of Prayer for North American Missions is March 2–9, and our 3,000+ missionaries need your prayers.

Partner with us in this Great Commission work by:

- ➔ Sharing the stories all week long from our social channels
- ➔ Mobilizing people in your ministry to pray the daily prayer points
- ➔ Sending letters of encouragement to our missionaries through <https://bit.ly/4hqiOUj>



**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.



# STEP INTO THE STORY



Kevin Ezell, President  
North American Mission Board

*2025 promotional resources are now available at [AnnieArmstrong.com](https://AnnieArmstrong.com)*

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 un-reached 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](https://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,

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

# WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

## Mommas of Miracles

If you are a special needs momma  
or just love these kids, this is a  
night for you!

**Relate, Relax,  
Rejuvenate**



### EVENING AGENDA

- Multiple speaker sessions
- Music
- Dinner
- Meeting other mommas
- Door Prizes & More

**MARCH 29  
2025**

5:00 pm - 8:30 pm

**FIRST BAPTIST BOLIVAR**

316 N Main Ave Bolivar, MO 65613

### GUEST SPEAKER

**MARY ADA YODER**

*Special Needs Momma*

Mary Ada and her daughter  
will be sharing with us about  
their family's journey through  
love & loss, joy & sorrow,  
fear & peace,  
disappointment & surrender

Scan to  
register



SPECIALIZED CHILDCARE IS PROVIDED



# BRANSON STARS

April 5, 2025

Benefit Concert & Silent Auction

Benefit Concert & Silent Auction

**10 am to 12 pm (Silent Auction starts at 9 am)  
Clay Cooper Theater  
Branson, MO**

**Branson Stars is a fun, high-energy show featuring a variety of Branson's best performers. An additional feature of this annual event is a silent auction featuring over 70 items. Clay Cooper generously donates his time as event emcee and the use of his theater and his wife, Tina Cooper, works to arrange for an amazing variety of Branson entertainers to perform in the show. All proceeds go to support the many different programs of Missouri Baptist Children's Home.**

## **Ticket Information**

**For more information or questions contact MBCH Special Events: 417.410.9033 or email [specialevents@mbch.org](mailto:specialevents@mbch.org)**



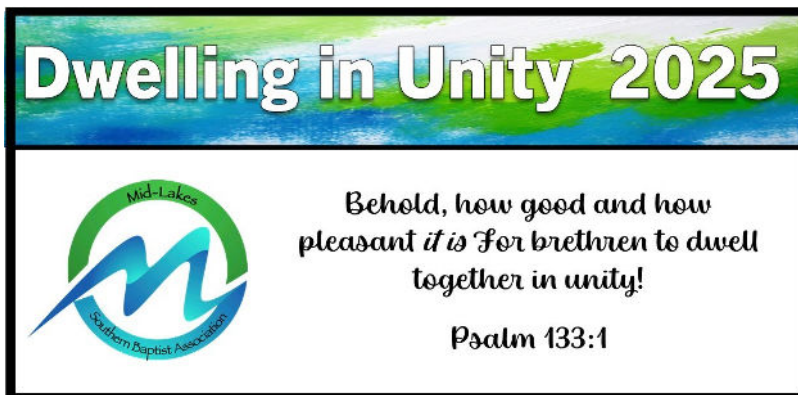
# **Mid Lakes Baptist Association 4th Semi-Annual Fellowship Meeting**

**Sunday, April 27th**

**Location: Noble Hill Baptist Church**

**Meal 5:00 PM**

**Service 6:00 PM**



## **GUEST SPEAKERS**

**DR. ALAN BROCK - THE PRECIOUSNESS OF DWELLING TOGETHER**

**REV. JOSH HALL - THE IMPORTANCE OF DWELLING TOGETHER**

**REV. BILL JETTON - THE EXPECTANCY OF DWELLING TOGETHER**

**ALAN BROCK - RETIRED DOM FOR SHOAL CREEK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, , NEOSHO, MO**

**JOSH HALL - DOM FOR GREENE COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

**BILL JETTON - DOM FOR OSHAGE PRAIRIE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, LOCKWOOD, MO**

**MUSIC LEADER: RON GEORGE JR.**

**PLEASE BRING YOUR CHURCH FAMILY AND JOIN US AS WE  
DWELL TOGETHER FOR CHRIST KINGDOM.**

# 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](mailto:www.sales@protectmyministry.com)

# MLBA Church News

**Berean:** March is Mission Awareness Month

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

**Fender Chapel:** Enjoying great fellowship

**Grace Fellowship:** Bro. David Chapman has left as pastor.

**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:** Now has the brick and metal roof 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:** March 4th & 18th

**MLBA Camp Committee Meeting:** Sunday, March 2

**MLBA WMU Meeting:** Monday, March 28th at 2 PM

## Dates to Remember in 2025

March 9 Time Change

March 18 Men's Fellowship

March 31 WMU Meeting

March 8 MLBA Youth Game Day at Berean Baptist Church

March 22 - Winter Jam

April 15 - MLBA Executive Board Meeting (FBC Bolivar Rose Building.)

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

April 28 - MLBA WMU Meeting

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:

March - Time for Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

3/4 Men's Fellowship

March 8 MLBA Youth Game Day at Berean Baptist Church

March 9 Time Change

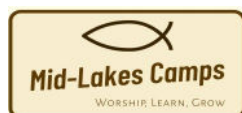
March 18 Men's Fellowship

March 31 WMU Meeting

**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**

## Dwelling in Unity 2025



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

Psalms 133:1

### Ephesians 4:22-24

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

<sup>23</sup> And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

<sup>24</sup> 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

722 E. South Street, Bolivar, MO 65613  
Associational Missions Strategist: John Rhodes  
Office 417-326-4667, AMS Cell 573-579-5993

Website: [www.midlakesba.com](http://www.midlakesba.com)

Email: [midlakessba@gmail.com](mailto:midlakessba@gmail.com)

Facebook Page: *Mid Lakes Baptist Association*

John Rhodes, AMS