



**August
2025**

MID LAKES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

BOLIVAR, MO (WITH CHURCHES FROM POLK, CEDAR, HICKORY, AND GREENE COUNTIES)

Missions and Ministry Together

By John Rhodes, AMS (Associational Missions Strategist)

Hello Mid Lakes Family,

I am writing this a little late due to the fact that last week, when I normally do the newsletters, I was at camp. So with camp fresh on my mind, I would like to share a little with you about camp. This year we only had around 30 kids for youth camp, and I believe it was around 83 youth for youth camp. I am not sure why kids camp was down, but next year please help us get that number up.



For most of our Mid Lakes Churches, it would be impossible for them to put on a church camp all by themselves. Most do not have enough youth and the churches are not large enough to support that type of ministry all alone. That is why it is wonderful to be part of an association of churches where we can come together as a group and do this type of ministry, and Mid Lakes does it well. So many people are such great supporters of camp, and for that we say THANK YOU!!!

It takes a lot of work to put on an associational camp. No one person could undertake this by themselves. However we are blessed with a camp committee and our Children and Youth Directors who work well together and spend countless hours of their time to make this possible. Tim and Jana Cossins and Breanna and Ezra Piper have spent years pouring time and energy into camp. The camp committee is on a three year rotating basis and work right along side our directors to make camp possible. Bre puts in countless hours organizing, dealing with the finances of camp, making schedules, and this year she even planned the meals. I want to give a special thanks to her.

Yet beyond those charges with camp responsibility, there are many who faithfully attend camp planning meetings, and give of their time to participate in camp. Many of these grew up attending camp here, and are now leaders helping oversee everything that happens at camp. We also don't want to forget those who serve faithfully in the kitchen preparing food, and refreshments for the many campers. It can be early mornings, and sometimes late nights of hard work, but they just smile and continue to serve.

This year we did see several campers come to Christ as their Savior, and there were some who made other decisions for Christ. Scott Pruitt, Derrick Lewright, and Braden Jones did a great job in leading us in God's Word, and a group of young people from FBC, Bolivar blessed us in leading worship in youth camp. For kid's camp, Emilia Hogan did a wonderful job leading the kids in song. One of the greatest blessings for me last week, was watching youth go down to the altar, and I watched as Dodge Hogan (who did a great job leading our recreation time), noticed one young man in the altar and he immediately rushed from the other side of the room just to pray with him! What a blessing that was. I also appreciate the camp committee for trusting me with the privilege to preach to the youth for the last service at camp. Things last week ran smoothly, and God was honored and glorified. Praise the Lord. Thank you to everyone who had a part in praying, giving, going, and doing. God is good!!!

God bless and keep on serving!

Bro. John and Mrs. Gayle
Phil 1:6



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP
Breakfast

Bring your own Breakfast and a Bible.



August 5th & 19th 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
at the Association Office.

722 E. South Street, Bolivar, MO.

**MLBA Budget
Committee Meeting
Monday, August 18
At the MLBA Office**

**MLBA NOMINATING
COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 15TH
AT THE MLBA OFFICE - 5 PM**

MLBA Church News

Bethel: Still searching for a new pastor.

FBC Bolivar: Dr. Adam Hughes has resigned as Senior Pastor. He will stay through the month of October. He is returning to the New Orleans Seminary as a professor of ministry students.

FBC, Fair Play: Had a great VBS

Fender Chapel: Is seeing God bless. Had another well attended baptism service at the Sach River.

Heritage: Called Gary Urich as interim pastor.

Hispanic Ministry: Bible Study every Monday evening at 7 PM at the Rose Building. Average attendance around 25. Still searching for a pastor to lead in worship services.

Mount Olive: Called John Rhodes to be their new pastor. He also still serves as the MLBA AMS. The church will move to an 8:45 AM early service on August 10th, and Move Wednesday evenings to Thursday evenings at 6 pm.

Noble Hill: Pastor Dennis and his wife Emily are expecting their third child 8/6/25.

Rondo: Had a great VBS. More students than expected.

Wellspring: Just had a mission team return from Guatemala.

MLBA Men's Fellowship and Breakfast: August 5th and 19th

MLBA WMU Meeting: Monday, August 25th at 2 PM at the MLBA Office.

Dates to Remember in 2025

August 18 - MLBA Budget Committee Meeting

August 25 - MLBA Nominating Committee Meeting

September 24 - See You at the Pole

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

October - 13 & 14 MLBA Annual Meeting Heritage (Mon) / Shepherd's Way (Tue)

October 18 - Pastor's Family Event

October 27-28 MBC Annual Meeting, Branson

MINISTERIO HISPANO HISPANIC MINISTRY

Update

The Hispanic Ministry is still going strong. Each Monday, Pastor Hazael Rodriguez, continues to teach the Bible study as they continue to search for a permanent pastor for this group. They are averaging 25 in their Bible study.

Pastor Rodriguez is working with NAMB and the MBC in starting a year long intern program for 7 young men who feel called into the ministry. They will meet twice monthly for intensive training to prepare them to be pastors in Hispanic Churches. Our Executive Board approved giving \$600 to help support this minister training program.

Please continue to pray that God will raise up a pastor for the Bolivar group that meets on Monday nights at 7 PM, so they can begin regular worship services. That is when we will all be able to participate with financing this ministry.

Special Thanks to FBC, Bolivar for hosting the Monday night Hispanic Bible Study. Also special thanks to Don Hodson and Gustavo Nix who are there each Monday as hosts. Both men speak Spanish and have a heart for this ministry.

Bro. John



Annual Church Profiles are due.

If your church has not turned in their ACP, please do so.

This information helps us plan trainings and gives us some important statistics which can be very helpful.

If you have any questions, please give Bro. John a call.

The background is a solid dark green color. It is decorated with several pink flowers and buds. On the left side, there are two large, fully bloomed pink flowers with yellow centers, and several buds of varying sizes. On the right side, there are also pink flowers and buds, some partially visible. The overall aesthetic is soft and natural.

WMU®

EQUIP Conference

The Missouri WMU invite you
to the 2025 EQUIP Conference.

Saturday, August 16, 2025,
8:30 am - 3:00 pm, at First
Baptist Church of Bolivar, MO.

BSAAM Conference

Our Cups Runneth Over

“And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work.”

2 Corinthians 9:8 CSB

September 15-16, 2025

*The Baptist Building
400 E. High St.
Jefferson City, MO*

**Keynote Speaker:
Tara Fowler**

with

**Worship Music Led By:
Brad and Janis Newbold**

*Breakout Topics: Microsoft 365 Advanced,
“I’m New Here - What they didn’t tell you”,
Spiritual Disciplines and More!*

Register online at www.bsaamisouri.org



BAPTIST HILL ASSEMBLY
9519 HWY V, MT. VERNON, MO

ADULT RETREAT

MONDAY 9:30-THURSDAY 11:00
SEPTEMBER 22-25, 2025
REGISTRATION FEE \$90.00

TUESDAY EVENT

SEPTEMBER 23, 2025 9:00-4:00
(FREE FOR SENIORS)

BIBLE & MISSION STUDIES
WORSHIP & PRAISE HOUR
CHOIR & SPECIAL MUSIC
MEALS & FELLOWSHIP

**Mid Lakes Association has a
special invite to join
in this event.**

MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US

REGISTER ONLINE AT baptisthillassembly.com or

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM TO PO BOX 491 MT. VERNON, MO

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL BAPTIST HILL
AT (417) 466-3034



Project Leader Workshop

It's time for the annual Project Leader Workshop hosted by the East Springfield Area Team.

Date: September 13th

Time: 9am-12pm

Location: Crossway Baptist Church

2900 N Barnes Ave

Springfield, MO 65803

RSVP HERE

This is a great opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of Operation Christmas Child. Volunteers will be equipped through key messages, project ideas and updates as well as strong, local relationships.

New modules, displays, and break-outs will help expand knowledge and develop new ideas and strategies for the upcoming shoebox packing season.

There will be light refreshments, fellowship, and resources. Each project team will receive a case of 50 pre-printed shoeboxes to pack (depending upon supply).

*Matthew
7:24-25*

**GOOD NEWS
GREAT JOY**



THANK YOU to everyone who supported and prayed for camp this year. We can't wait until next year!



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OUR CHURCHES WHO FAITHFULLY GIVE TO THE MINISTRY OF THE MID LAKES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION. WITHOUT YOU, THIS MINISTRY WOULD NOT EXIST.



Hispanic Bible Study

Every Monday Evening at 7 PM
At FBC, Bolivar's Rose Building.
Everyone is invited.

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; Heritage Baptist; Mt Etna Baptist; Mt Olive Baptist; Noble Hill Baptist; Rondo Baptist; Shepherd's Way Church; Southern Hills Baptist; Wellspring Baptist Fellowship (in the process of joining).



Office Hours
Monday - Wednesday
9 AM - 4 PM

Mid Lakes Baptist Association

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Facebook Page: *Mid Lakes Baptist Association*
John Rhodes, AMS

Dwelling in Unity 2025



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

MLBA Annual Meeting

Monday October 13 - Heritage Baptist Church, Bolivar



Tuesday, October 14 - Shepherd's Way Baptist Church, Pleasant Hope

Everyone is Invited to Attend.

The Annual Church Profiles (ACP) are due by the end of August. PLEASE ask your church clerk to fill this out and send it in. It helps provide important information along with statistics.