



April 2026



Celebrate Our Risen

# MID LAKES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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

## Missions and Ministry Together

Bro. John Rhodes, AMS (Associational Missions Strategist)



Hello Mid Lakes Family.

This past month, I completed my fifth year as your Associational Missions Strategist. It is hard to believe that five years has already passed. I am looking forward to what year six has to offer. I want to thank you for allowing me this privilege. I get to work with so many wonderful, faithful people who love the Lord and love serving Him together as an association.

Over the past five years, I have done my best to help support and minister to our churches. I have tried to walk beside you, encourage you, and be there for you. Sometimes it is hard to get around to everyone when I invest extra in some churches who are without pastors, but you have always been gracious in allowing me to do that. Currently we have six churches looking for a pastor. This has kept me busy, but it has also allowed others the opportunity to step up and fill pulpits. Please pray that God will send each of these six churches the pastor they need. Also, pray that God will start raising up young men to answer the call to preach and pastor.

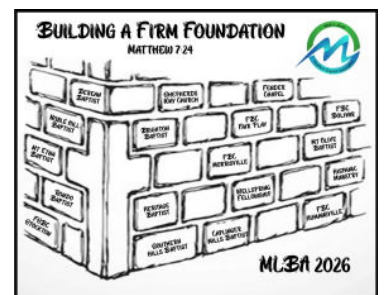
It is hard to say what has been the highlights for me over the past five years. The building of friendships, and of the kingdom of God has been the most important. The way God has provided has been amazing. One example is the block party trailer. It has been an absolute blessing to our churches. We also watched as a hail storm destroyed our office siding and roof, yet God used that to give our office a facelift. Slowly we are finishing remodeling inside the building. Camp is always a highlight. The way our camp committee works together, and to watch God work is wonderful. I am just glad to have a small part. (BTW, the camp fundraiser yard sale is the last Saturday in April.) Then last year, we had an 18 year old preach our annual sermon.

The Semi-annual Fellowship Meeting hosted by Noble Hill has been a highlight each year. It has featured most of our pastors, several youth pastors, some DOM's, and this year we have the President of the MBC, Wesley Vance, and MBC Church Renewal Team Leader, Buddy Funk who will challenge us. I hope you will join us Sunday evening, April 26th at Noble Hill and bring your church. The meal is at 5 PM, and the service at 6 PM. It should be great.

Sadly we have lost a few churches over the past five years, but we did gain Shepherd's Way and Wellspring Baptist Fellowship into our fellowship. We are so glad to have these churches in our ranks. The most unusual thing that happened was Mt Olive Church rearranged their schedule in order for me to be their pastor and the AMS at the same time. So far, it is working well. Mt Olive is growing and God is blessing.

Again, thank you so much for allowing me to serve, and if we can be a help, please let us know.

God bless and we love you,





# Journey to the Cross

**An Easter Experience for Families**

**Friday, April 3rd | 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm**

**Walk the Journey:** 5 multisensory stations exploring Jesus' sacrifice and our need for a Savior.

**Play & Hunt:** Inflatables and an Easter Egg Hunt.

**Eat Together:** Free dinner provided for all families.

**Little Ones Welcome:** Special preschool-friendly area!

# SPRING Revival



**April 12-15, 2026**

**Sunday 8:45 AM**

**Monday - Wednesday 6:30 PM**



**Evangelist:**

**Bro. Charles Jackson,**

**Ozark , MO**

**Come be our Guest!**

**Mt Olive Baptist Church**  
**4079 Hwy D,**  
**Bolivar, MO**  
**Call 573-579-5993**  
**John Rhodes, Pastor**



**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**  
*Breakfast*

Bring your own Breakfast and a Bible.



**April 7th & 21st 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.**

**April 21st Meeting  
will be at Smith's  
Restaurant**

**Hosted by the MBC  
Resound Network**

**(Rescheduled  
from March)**



**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 Executive Board Meeting will be April 21st  
at Mt Olive Baptist Church at 7 PM**



**Guest Speaker will be Omar Segovia, MBC Missions  
Mobilization Liaison for our region.  
He will be sharing about a recent Africa Mission Trip.**

# TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

# MODR

Spring 2026 Opportunities:

*Monett*

New Site Church

March 6-7

*Maryville*

Laura Street Baptist Church

April 10-11



**REGISTER**

Visit Our Website

[www.modr.org/training](http://www.modr.org/training)



*Bringing Help, Hope, and Healing*

You must Register. There are some changes so please check out their website. Orientation is going to be online.

**<https://modr.org/disaster-relief-training-sign-up/>**

# Children's Workers Invite!

FBC, Bolivar invites all Children's Workers from all our churches to join them in a Children's Ministry Leader's Group.

Thursday, April 16th at noon.

At FBC, Bolivar Rose Building.

Bring your own lunch or take out and join them.

Contact Julie DuVall for more information.

## Children's Ministry Luncheon

JAN. 15 | NOON | ROSE BUILDING  
114 N Springfield Ave  
Bolivar, MO 65613

You're Invited to be a part of a Children's Ministry Leader Group! Connect, support & share vision for how to reach children in Polk County. Bring your own brown bag lunch or take out!



TO:

FROM:

ADDRESS:

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Julie DuVall

**FBC BOLIVAR CHILDREN'S MINISTER**

417-326-2431



KNOW GOD | SHOW LOVE | GO SERVE

# **MID LAKES CAMPS FUNDRAISER YARD SALE**

**Saturday, April 25th**

**7 AM - till ?**

**All funds go to the Mid Lakes Camp  
Fund and Scholarship Fund.**

**722 E. South Street, Bolivar, MO at the  
Mid Lakes Baptist Association Office**

**To donate items call the office at  
417-326-4667.**





# MLBA 2026 CAMP DATES

**KID'S CAMP - \$160**

**JULY 25 - 28TH (SATURDAY - TUESDAY)**

**YOUTH CAMP - \$170**

**JULY 28 - AUGUST 1.**

**(TUESDAY-SATURDAY)**

**START TELLING YOUR KIDS AND YOUTH,  
AND THEIR PARENTS TODAY!**

**CAMP LOCATION: CAMP NIANGUA OUTSIDE MARSHFIELD, MO.**

**PLEASE PRAY ABOUT VOLUNTEERING.**

**WE WILL NEED CABIN LEADERS, HELPERS, AND KITCHEN HELP.**

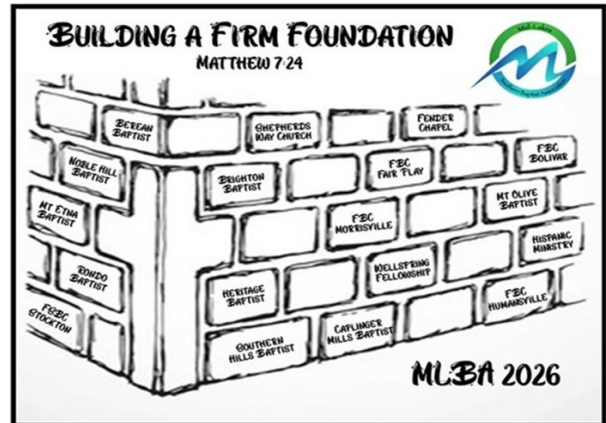
**WE ALSO HAVE A SCHOLARSHIP FUND YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO,  
AND WE ALWAYS TAKE DONATIONS FOR THE CAMP FUND  
WHICH HELPS US KEEP THE COST DOWN.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE ASSOCIATION OFFICE.**



# Mid Lakes Baptist Association 5th Semi-Annual Fellowship Meeting

**Sunday, April 26th**  
**Noble Hill Baptist Church**  
**Meal 5:00 PM**  
**Service 6:00 PM**



## Guest Speakers



**Wesley Vance**  
MBC President &  
Associate Pastor at  
Crossway Baptist  
Church

### **Buddy Funk**

MBC Church  
Renewal  
Team Leader



## **Music:**

**Brad & Cindy Hall**



**Please be sure to invite your  
whole church to join us.**

Missouri Baptist Convention  
**PRAYER & EVANGELISM**

mobaptist.org/prayer-evangelism

# CALLED TO THE HARVEST

MATTHEW 9:37-38



**Date:** April 27-28, 2026 |

Monday 6:00pm - Tuesday 4:00pm

**Location:** Second Baptist Church, Springfield  
(3111 E Battlefield St, Springfield, MO 65804)

This conference is **FREE** through the Cooperative Program and Missouri Missions Offering.

- *If you wish to stay on-site during the lunch break, you can select the \$5 Chick-Fil-A option by April 22nd to receive a box lunch.*
- **Please Register**—<https://mo.sbcworkspace.com/pub/event/register/55238474>

# SILENT AUCTION

AT MISSION CELEBRATION

APRIL 10-11

SOUTH HAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH, SPRINGFIELD, MO

We are looking for

**75 GIFT BASKET DONATIONS**

this year to help raise

**\$3,000 FOR THE ALBERTA GILPIN FUND**

**MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW TO:**

✓ Bring a GIFT BASKET OR TWO

✓ Bid on some of the amazing baskets!



**LAUREN SULLENS**  
KEY NOTE SPEAKER

Missouri WMU

Missions Celebration

April 10 & 11 2026

South Haven Baptist Church

Springfield MO

*What Joy!*

Silent Auction, Mission Projects,  
Exhibit Hall and more

REGISTRATION OPENS AT 8AM ON FRIDAY APRIL 10TH  
8:30 OUR FIRST MISSIONARY BREAKOUT  
9:30 OUR SECOND MISSIONARY BREAKOUT  
10:30 FIRST GENERAL SESSION - LED BY HEATHER KELLER & STEPHANIE NEWTON FROM NATIONAL WMU IN BIRMINGHAM AL  
1:00 PM WORSHIP SESSION  
3:00 - 5:00 BREAKOUT SESSION  
6:30 PM WORSHIP SESSION  
REGISTRATION OPENS AT 8:30 AM ON SATURDAY APRIL 11TH  
9:00 PRAYER CCELEBRATION  
9:45 FINAL BREAKOUT SESSION  
11:00 MWMU 103<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MEETING BUSINESS SESSION AND WORSHIP CELEBRATION  
**NEW IN 2026 MEN'S TRACK, SPOUSES, PASTORS, DOM'S, DRIVERS COME ENJOY YOUR OWN CALL TO MISSIONS BREAKOUTS**



*Ms Pearlene Breshears is the new SW MO Region WMU Consultant. She attends FBC, Bolivar. 417-399-2918*



## MISSIONS CELEBRATION MISSION PROJECTS

3 partnerships for 2026

### Freeway Ministry

- \*Shoes, purses or belts
- \*New underwear - all sizes for adults and children
- \*Backpacks
- \*Shower curtains
- \*Bibles or Christ-centered devotionals

### Grand Oak Missions Center

- \*Double or queen size sheets
- \*Towels for bath or kitchen
- \*Shampoo
- \*Detergents
- \*Nonperishable food items

### OCC

- \*washcloths
- \*school supplies
- \*clothing
- \*balls
- \*match box cars

\*\*Can use as a whole church collection and drop off at Missions Celebration South Haven Baptist's Church Springfield Missouri



Youth and Collegiate

Missions Conference

\$20 per person

Groups of 5 or more:

\$15 per person

*The Persecuted Church*

April 24 6:00pm - 8:30pm  
South Haven Baptist Church  
Springfield, Missouri

Speaker: Zach Doolittle





# Baptist Heritage Scholarship

Southwest Baptist University (SBU), Missouri Baptist University (MBU), and Hannibal-LaGrange University (HLGU) and Spurgeon College at Midwestern are cooperating with the Missouri Baptist Historical Commission to offer one \$2,000 scholarship to one student at each school.

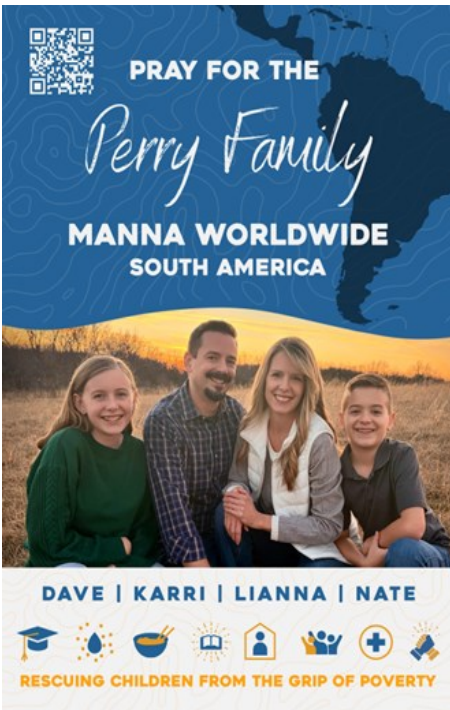


Each \$2,000 scholarship will be established through a \$1,000 donation from the MBC Historical Commission and a \$1,000 match from the school.

Applicants must do research and write a paper **on some aspect of Missouri Baptist history**. The guidelines and application for the scholarship are available in the links below. All papers must be submitted by no later than April 22 for the fall semester of that same year.

To submit your paper, attach it to an email (in .DOCX format) to Janis Newbold ([jnewbold@mobaptist.org](mailto:jnewbold@mobaptist.org)).

My name is Dave Perry. I have been a member of a Mid-Lakes church, Berean Baptist Church in Bolivar, for many years, and I recently joined MANNA Worldwide. “What is MANNA Worldwide?” you might ask. I’m so glad you asked. MANNA is a mission organization designed to be a complement and support to local churches across the globe. It has partners in over 40 countries who launch and sustain programs that feed, educate, and care for children in need. This includes nutrition, education, clean water, orphan care, medical care, training programs, and summer camps. **Every program is connected to a local church or missionary so that every act of service proclaims the hope of the Gospel.** MANNA also mobilizes volunteers, churches, and donors across the United States to help fund, visit, and support these programs. It currently has 240+ projects with plans to start more.



My role will be to advance MANNA’s gospel-centered mission by strengthening local churches in South America and throughout the world. It will focus on development, oversight, and assessment of projects, cultivating partnerships with US churches, fundraising, and leading short-term mission trips. I will continue to live in the area but I will get many opportunities to travel throughout the United States to advocate for MANNA and to travel abroad to lead mission teams.

I have an undergraduate degree in Pastoral Studies and a Masters of Divinity. I served Berean Baptist Church for 16 years (2008-2024) leading their college ministry and I have also been serving as a hospice chaplain with Haven Hospice in Ozark, MO, for over eight years (2017-current). My family and I are excited to continue following Jesus on this new path of serving people in need throughout the world. I get to be a part of rescuing children from the grip of physical and spiritual poverty.

This position comes with the responsibility and privilege for me and my family to raise our personal and operational expenses. This is teaching me to trust the LORD who provides through the generosity of others.

I am seeking three things:

- Prayer partners: 300 of them. Yes, I want that many or more praying for my family!
- Monthly financial partners: God loves a cheerful giver.
- Advocates: People who want others to meet me. I would like to be introduced to pastors, business owners, and generous followers of Jesus.

If you would like to meet up for coffee to learn more about my story, or if your church would like me to come present my ministry, please contact me at [d.perry@mannaworldwide.com](mailto:d.perry@mannaworldwide.com).



**July 6-10, 2026**

**Southwest Baptist University**

**1460 S Pike Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613, United States**



**For more information and to register:  
[https://centrikid.lifeway.com/camp/  
southwest-baptist-university-3/](https://centrikid.lifeway.com/camp/southwest-baptist-university-3/)**

# MLBA Church News

**Caplinger Mills:** Is in search for a pastor to lead them to reach their community for Christ.

**FBC, Bolivar:** Dr John Marshall is serving as interim pastor. Student Ministry Yard Sale to help fund students scholarships for camp and mission trips. April 15-18 in the Gym. Wed-Fri 8-6, 8-12 Saturday.

**FBC, Fair Play:** Pastor Stunkel is now our new Associational Moderator.

**FBC, Humansville:** Is beginning their pastor search.

**FBC, Morrisville:** . They are receiving resumes' for pastor.

**First Stockton:** Are now livestreaming their sermons on YouTube: FSBC Stockton  
**Heritage:** Still searching for a Senior Pastor. Gary Urich is their Interim. Will host "Journey to the Cross" on Friday, April 3rd, 4:30-7:30 PM.

**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. Will host a Thank You for Your Support meal and service at the at the Casa de Oracion Hispanic Church in Springfield February 21st.

**Mt Etna:** Please pray for Mt Etna as they search for a new pastor.

**Mount Olive:** Will be having a Spring Revival, April 12-15. Sunday 8:45 am, M-W 6:30 PM. Charles Jackson is the Evangelist.

**Noble Hill:** Will host the MLBA 5th Annual Semi-Annual Fellowship Meeting, Sunday, April 26th. Meal 5 PM, Service 6 PM.

**Rondo:** Rondo Baptist has begun a church history class on Wednesday evenings. Jeff Robidou is Pastor.

**Southern Hills:** Our Sunday sermons will now be uploaded as podcasts to Spotify in addition to the website!

**AMS:** Just completed five years as AMS and has begun his sixth year.

**MLBA Men's Fellowship and Breakfast:** April 7th at the Association Office, and 21st at Smith's Restaurant.

**MLBA WMU Meeting:** 2 PM April 27th at the Association Office.



# THE Pathway

Get the  
Pathway for  
**FREE!**

The Mo Baptist Convention's newspaper, "The Pathway" is available for everyone in your church to receive. There are two ways you can receive it. You can simply click on the link below and read the current E-edition online. For those of you who love to sit down, sip your morning coffee, and read a real paper version, that is available too. This is made possible by your Cooperative Program dollars. Check it out and see what God is doing in MO, and beyond! (Stories do hit the e-edition quicker than the paper version.)

**To sign up for bi-monthly paper copies mailed directly to you, visit:**  
<https://mbcpathway.com/contact-us/subscription-services/>

**To read the current E-edition click: <https://mbcpathway.com/e-edition/>**



## Hispanic Bible Study

Every Monday Evening at 7 PM

At FBC, Bolivar's Rose Building.

Everyone is invited.

**Reminder:** Churches are already beginning the process of reserving the Block Party Trailer for this year. As we do each year, for those using the trailer, we need a Certificate of Insurance from the church's insurance company listing Mid Lakes as a secondary insured. Your insurance agent can provide this document for you. He can also email it directly to the MLBA Office. [midlakessba@gmail.com](mailto:midlakessba@gmail.com)

Berean 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. Plus our Hispanic Ministry meets on Monday evenings at 7 PM at the FBC, Bolivar Rose Building.



### Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

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

