



Update from Administrative Team

As you know, with the passing of Dr. Phillip Shuford on December 29, we find ourselves with a huge void to fill. Phillip faithfully served our Association for over 12 years and will be greatly missed. He was a pastor to pastors, a visionary leader, and a friend to all. Please continue to pray for Elsy, Andrea, and Andrew and our Association as we posture to search for our next Director of Missions.

Since the new year began, the Administrative Team has met twice in January. The Team approved a Grant request from a sister church, have updated the job description for our next Director of Missions, and are forming the search committee (almost done) which will be presented for approval at the Executive Board meeting on February 23rd at 11:00 am. Additionally, they have finalized an Association-wide survey to aid the search committee in developing a profile for their search. In the future, and in addition to the survey, each church and pastor will be contacted to support our search efforts. We are looking forward to having those conversations and gaining many insights from everyone involved.

Tri-County's NEXT STEPS:

Pastor Jody Kilburn, of Real Life Church, Hollister, has been selected to serve as the Tri-County Baptist Association's Interim Director of Missions (DOM). Jody has previously served as a DOM in Western Kentucky; he is a certified church consultant and a NAMB-endorsed church planter with over twenty-five years of ministry experience.



As you know, our association was unable to hold our annual Ministry Appreciation Dinner in December, but we will gather our Pastors, Associate Pastors, Youth, Children and Worship leaders and their spouses or guest on February 23. This will be a time of fellowship and it is a gathering that Dr. Shuford desired us to have. We need it! So let's gather together friends.

Please RSVP by Tuesday, February 17. The information and registration link are on our website (www.tcsba.com).



VBS Preview



Tri-County's VBS Preview for Pastors & VBS Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 7:00-8:00 p.m. at the Tri-County Association Office ([239 Downing Street, Nixa](#)). We will cover the basics of [Lifeway's 2026 curriculum](#) and touch on curriculum from [Group Publishing](#) and [Answers in Genesis](#).

This is for VBS Directors and pastors... and is a GREAT way to get a jump start on how we can use VBS this year to spread the Good News about Jesus that our communities so desperately need!

Mark your calendar: Tri-County will again this year pay for any Tri-County VBS worker who would like to attend the state training. That training will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2026 at First Baptist Church Ozark from 9:00 am-2:30 pm. Please contact Debbie at Tri-County if you are interested in attending. Tri-County will pay your registration fee!

debbie@tcsba.com / 417-725-8825

How Can You Help the BCM Ministry?

Baptist Collegiate Ministry Director Nathan Sharon reports that the new semester at College of the Ozarks is off to a great start! Branson First Baptist teamed up with BCM and held an event during the first week which introduced new incoming students and returning students to the Baptist Collegiate Ministry.



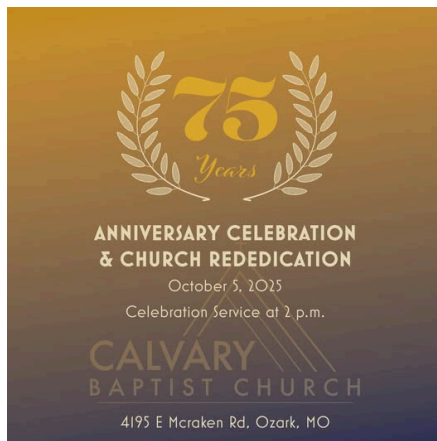
BCM meets every Monday at 8:30 p.m. in the basement of the campus chapel for music, message, food and fellowship. You are welcomed and encouraged to join them anytime you can and bring snacks for the group. Donations of snacks or gift cards for giveaways (i.e., \$10 ChickFilA) or toward the cost of those would be greatly appreciated! Please contact Nathan at nathan@bcmcofo.com or Debbie

at the Association office at debbie@tcsba.com or 417-725-8825. Stay up to date with the Ministry at bcmcofo.com

As always, all donations to the BCM ministry are welcomed and will be put to great use to help spread the Gospel to students on the CofO campus. You can give to the ministry by mailing a check to the Association at PO Box 370, Nixa, MO 65714 or clicking [HERE](#). Please make checks payable to *Tri-County Baptist Association* and indicate *BCM* on the memo line.

FALL CELEBRATIONS IN OUR ASSOCIATION

Calvary Baptist Celebrates 75th Anniversary



Clever First Baptist Breaks Ground for New Building

Dear Church Family,

Wow—what a night! Worship Night on the Land was such a special time. Standing together in prayer and worship, right on the ground where God is building something new, was something truly so special!

Thank you for showing up—not just physically, but spiritually. Praying over the land and this building project was more than just a moment; it was a declaration of faith. We aren't just constructing a building—we're joining God in building something eternal.

I truly believe the next 18 months will be an incredible season for FBC. I'm so honored to walk this journey with you, and I can't wait to see all that God will do through our church as we follow Him together.

--Pastor Luke



Real Life Hollister Church Celebrates 4 Years



Pray for churches between pastors:

Fairview Baptist (Sparta), Ponce de Leon (Galena), Smyrna Baptist (Rogersville)

The Last Word

Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of

us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

Philippians 3:13-16 ESV

TRI-COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION | 239 East Downing Street PO Box 370 | Nixa, MO 65714 US

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