



*Lake of the Ozarks Baptist Association*

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# *The Voice*

APRIL 2022

I had the opportunity to attend our statewide DOM Conference this past week in Jefferson City. One thing I learned – among many things – has helped me understand some of the struggles we have here in our association and our own churches. It was reported at the conference that though there are about 2100 churches affiliated with the Missouri Baptist Convention, on any given day about 700 of them are without a pastor. That is one out of three!

We are very fortunate here in the Lake of the Ozarks Association. We recently went about 18 months when all 27 of our churches has a pastor. Even now, we only have two pastorless churches – Spring Valley and Spring Garden.

These two churches have not been receiving very many resumes, though, which is making their pastoral search a bit more challenging. We also have not had any resumes or applicants for summer missionaries yet.

We have all seen in the broader economy of our day, that there is a shortage of workers – stores, restaurants, factories – everyone is short of the necessary personnel to function well. Perhaps that is part of the reason why there are so many pastorless churches. But perhaps there are other reasons as well . . .

When businesses have trouble getting employees, they often begin to offer more in the way of pay and benefits. Then they can attract worker from other places to come work for them. They pass this additional cost on to the customer, of course, by charging more for their goods and services. I know of many churches, however (some even in our own association), that have not given their pastor a raise in years. I don't mean just two or three years, I mean like years and years.....Some churches have said they cannot afford to pay their pastor more. Well, that just means the people in the church are probably not tithing. Wouldn't tithing more be the equivalent of a business raising its prices?

I know of very few men who are in the ministry for the money . . . but the Bible does say that a man is to take care of his own household, and if he doesn't he is worse than an unbeliever. And if a church doesn't provide as generously as they are able for their pastor they bear the guilt of him not being able to care for his family.

BTW – With one-third of the churches in our state not having a pastor, if your church has a pastor you have better take care of him cause he will be hard to replace.

Another matter consider is whether churches and pastors are engaged in calling out the called. Nearly every church has a time at the end of the service when lost people are invited to come to salvation in Jesus – yet few lost people attend worship services in any given week. On the other hand, when was that last time your church invited those already following Christ to surrender to His call to vocational service – as ministers, missionaries, etc.? Where do we think our pastors and missionaries come from? They come from the pews, from those who are already following Christ to some degree and just need to step up to His greater call on their life. Perhaps you are even among those . . . Is God calling you to do more?

Your Servant, Bro. Timothy



## Pastor's & Wives Breakfast

Saturday, April 9,

8:30 AM

Blue Springs Baptist Church

## MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITIES

Since many people need to inform their employer of when they plan to take time off, we want to make you aware of two ministry opportunities this summer.

First, there will be a mission trip to Rochester, MN **June 4 – 11**. If you are interested in participating as we help Rochester Community Baptist Church with some exterior work and also a block party, you may need to schedule that time off from work now.

Also, Camp will be **July 11 – 15**. We need folks to fill various positions at camp - kitchen help, cabin leaders, worship leaders, etc. If this is something you may be interested in you will need to mark your calendar and see about taking time off for that week. If you have questions about these events, or anything else the association does, please feel free to ask.

## ON MISSION CELEBRATION

SEPTEMBER 10, 2022

WATCH FOR LETTER EXPLAINING DETAILS

## Revival

New Home Baptist  
Hwy 5, Camdenton, MO  
April 3 – 8, 6:00 PM

## ANNIE ARMSTRONG

Matthew 28: 18-20. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying. All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

Missions should be the focus of each church and each Christian. WMU provides missions minded material for all ages. Training our children in the knowledge and understanding of missions and Christian service is the duty of Christian parents and the local church.

During the month of April Southern Baptist Churches will be taking the Annie Armstrong Missions Offering donations for Home Missions. The legacy of Annie Armstrong is a rich one. Annie Armstrong was elected as the first corresponding secretary of Women's Missionary Union and would fill the role (unpaid) for 18 years. All money collected would go to the mission board. She led women to build chapels on the frontier and home mission fields. Annie worked to help Native American women organize for missions and welcomed the first two Native American women as delegates to the WMU. SBC Annual Meeting in 1896.

The list of Annie Armstrong's accomplishments is very extensive and her biography is a very interesting read.

Please be in prayer as you decide on your gift to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering knowing that your giving will be helping missions in so many different ways.

Daphney Jeffries, LOBA WMU Director

### UPCOMING EVENTS

April 3-8 – Revival at New Home Baptist Church, Hwy 5 South, Camdenton, 6:00 PM

April 5 – Association Council Meeting, 6:30 pm, Association Office, 401 Champain Eldon

April 8 – Disaster Relief Training, Chillicothe

April 9 – Pastors & Wives Breakfast, Blue Springs Baptist Church, Z Hwy, 8:30 AM

April 10 – Palm Sunday

April 12 – Executive Board Meeting, Montgomery Baptist Church, 1125 Boot Drive,  
Camdenton – 7:00 PM

April 15 – Good Friday

April 17 – Easter

April 28 – Youth Council Meeting, 2:00 PM

April 29-30 – Rocky Mount Food Pantry Open



SEPTEMBER [MOBAPTIST.ORG/DR](http://MOBAPTIST.ORG/DR)

## MODR Training April 8-9, FBC Chillicothe

Just a reminder of our upcoming training at FBC Chillicothe on April 8-9.

Registration is open at [www.modr.org/dr-training](http://www.modr.org/dr-training)

This is a great opportunity to invite someone along to become part of the MODR family!



*He is Not Here He Is Risen*

