



**BLUE RIDGE**  
**BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

Partnering together to reach our Communities for Christ



Winter Edition



**SEND >>**  
**BCMD**

**PRAYER**  
**GATHERINGS**

Praying from the Harvest,  
for the Harvest

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH**

11am | Hagerstown Church, Hagerstown, MD

**SEND LOCAL PRAYER GATHERINGS**

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells us that the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Then, he commands us to pray that the Lord of the harvest would raise up more laborers. So, that is what we're asking you to do: Join other local church leaders and the BCM/D SEND team so we can pray together that God will raise up more laborers! Let's seek God and His will for church planting and church revitalization in our region.

The prayer gathering is open to all – pastors, ministry leaders, church members, church attendees. Anyone can be part of church planting and revitalization.

No registration required!

**FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS:**



*Recently the Blue Ridge Baptist Association discovered that some checks sent from BRBA churches to support local missions were intercepted by a thief, and were fraudulently cashed or diverted to an outside account. I am personally doing an investigation, and asking ALL of our church treasurers and bookkeepers to check in with me providing records of your giving to BRBA during 2024. If your church treasurer has not contacted me yet - please ask them to call me ASAP so we can get the needed information to complete our investigation. Maryland State Police as well as U.S. Postal Service investigators are also involved in this case, because interception of mail is a Federal crime.*

*We ask that you pray for whomever is responsible for this theft, and for all who are looking into the details of these events - asking God for justice to be done, and for future thefts to be thwarted by the work we are doing now.*

*New safeguards are already in place, and we will report more on our findings as they become available. To date we have tracked down over \$3,300. that was intercepted and stolen in the calendar year 2024.*

*Blessings,  
Bruce M. Conley; DOM*

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# Pastor's Breakfast



**Pastor's Fellowship Breakfasts:**

**(Thursday) February 27th**

9 AM Bob Evans 1505 Garrett Drive - Frederick, MD

(Saturday) March 22nd

9 AM Hub City Diner 190 Railway Lane - Hagerstown, MD



## **PAYING IT FORWARD .... mission plant helps mission plant**

When Hagerstown Church started as a mission church plant - they were a "portable church" that literally backed up a trailer at the elementary school where they rented space on Sunday mornings, and unloaded everything they needed to have "church".

A few years back, that mission church merged with 1st Baptist Church of Hagerstown, MD and that union was a gift from God for both churches as they united into one body. That move left the church with a trailer then that went largely unused.

In January the leaders at Hagerstown Church decided to bless [Emmaus Church](#) (a new church plant in Baltimore) with their church planting trailer from 2019. Pastor Josh McClain said: We're thankful for these brothers and sisters (and dear friends),

as they plant in Baltimore, and we want to help them in any way we can!" Emmaus Church had their first gathering on February 9th.

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### **HISTORIC BELL REMOVED FROM FIRST BAPTIST of BRUNSWICK**



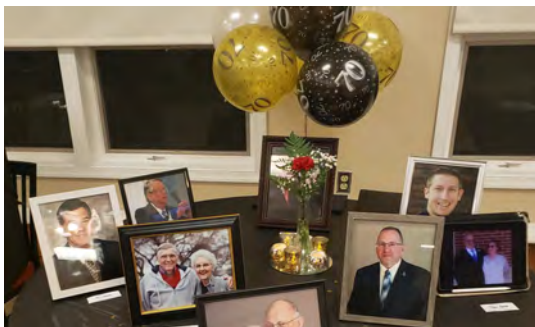
The bell was removed from the historic bell tower today at the First Baptist Church of Brunswick, MD. The property is being sold to a developer, but the bell will remain in memory of all who worshiped and built the church for over 100 years. The church is re-branding as [The Crossings Church](#) , and they are now worshipping at the American Legion in Brunswick until they can find land and build a new church 🏗️ building.

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**BAPTIST ANNUAL CELEBRATIONS A HUGE SUCCESS!**

BRBA and the BCM/D celebrated annual meetings in October and November 2024, with record numbers attending each event. The BCM/D is selling the Baptist Center in Columbia, MD to gather more resources for missions and ministry among our churches. Congratulations to BRBA for celebrating **70 YEARS** of local missions and ministry in our region.

DOM Bruce Conley also announced the creation of our new **LEGACY FUND** that will honor so many of our devout local pastors and shepherds who have gone on to their heavenly reward. Funds donated to the BRBA legacy fund will be used to help young pastors and church planters with seminary education, and other church revitalization needs. Donations can be made to BRBA LEGACY FUND - 20810-A National Pike, Boonsboro, MD 21713 Be sure to name the pastor you want to honor with your gifts.





## DAVE'S CORNER



Hello .... I am Dave Hays, and I am here to assist your church with various loaner vehicles and equipment that are available to you as a participating church in the Blue Ridge association.

I wanted to let you know about the latest addition to the BRBA fleet. We have a shuttle bus that we hope will allow us to better serve our churches. It has a wheelchair lift and can seat a total of 17 people. This does bring additional requirements for who can drive it however. Your driver must have a CDL license with a passenger endorsement to drive the shuttle. Because of insurance regulations, there can be no exceptions to this rule. We're working on getting together a list of potential volunteers from our churches who do have a CDL who might be willing to help if your church has no one to serve as driver. Even if the driver has no passengers, he/she must possess a valid CDL.

Another change that we are implementing in 2025 is a suggested donation for using our vehicles. Maintenance costs and depreciation on all shuttle, wheelchair lift and

our vehicles. Maintenance costs and replacing an old shuttle really hit our budget hard in 2024. We are suggesting that when your church uses a BRBA vehicle - you contribute \$50 for using a trailer (block party / concession) and \$100 for using our buses. These funds will assist us with maintenance, cleaning, MVA fees, and the purchase of parts and new equipment as needed.

If your church can not afford the suggested donation please still reserve and use our vehicles. We will never refuse a church because it cannot cover the recommended donation. These fees are only a suggestion and are not required.

If you have any questions or would like to make a reservation, please contact me at [dave@blueridgebaptist.org](mailto:dave@blueridgebaptist.org) or (301) 991-2084.

*(On a side note: Congratulations to Dave's church - Battlefield Bible Church. The church family there is praising God for how He allowed them to begin 2025. The first Sunday of the year, five young people and one adult were BAPTISED!! Please pray for them all as the church family seeks to disciple these new Christians in their continued walk with Jesus!!)*

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The graphic is split into two panels. The left panel features a sunburst icon above the word "revive" in a large, brown, serif font, with "CONFERENCE" in a smaller, brown, sans-serif font below it. The right panel features a circular logo for the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware (BCMD) Women, with the text "MARCH 7 & 8" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below this is the phrase "Nothing Is Impossible With God" in a cursive font, and the address "Riva Trace Baptist Church, 475 W Central Ave | Davidsonville, MD" in a small, black, sans-serif font. A dark grey banner at the bottom of the graphic contains the text "REVIVE CONFERENCE 2025" in a bold, orange, sans-serif font.

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The graphic is split into two panels. The left panel features the Lifeway logo, which includes a stylized purple flower and a honeycomb pattern. The right panel features the BCMD youth&kids logo, which includes the text "BCMD | youth&kids" in a white, sans-serif font on a dark green background.





## MAGNIFY YOUR VBS THIS YEAR!

Attend a VBS preview/training event! Several locations to choose from where you'll 'zoom in' on the theme, content, and material for VBS 2025! Connect and learn from other VBS leaders as you prepare to impact the next generation this summer!

## VBS Preview & Training

*The cost is only \$10 per person*

*Several dates and locations to choose from.  
(see link below for details)*

Get ready to MAGNIFY your Vacation Bible School experience this year! Join us for an inspiring event where we'll unveil the VBS content, explore creative ways to bring the theme to life, and provide valuable training to equip your team for success.

**Discover:** Get a sneak peek at this year's curriculum and dive into the theme designed to engage and excite kids.

**Learn:** Participate in hands-on training to sharpen your skills and bring out the best in your VBS planning.

**Connect:** Network with other ministry leaders and volunteers, share ideas, and be encouraged as you prepare to impact the next generation.

Let's **MAGNIFY** God's love and truth together through VBS in 2025—don't miss out!

### ***Lexington Park Baptist Church***

46855 S Shangri-La Dr.  
Lexington Park, MD 20653

**March 15, 9AM-Noon**

### ***First English Baptist Church***

136 E. Main St.  
Frostburg, MD 21532

**March 28, 2025, 5:30-9PM**

### ***Georgia Avenue Baptist Church***

19505 Georgia Ave

12525 Georgia Ave.  
Silver Spring, MD 20906  
April 5, 9AM-Noon

[More Information & Registration Available Here](#)

HOSTED BY:

**BCMD &**



**North American  
Mission Board**



**MARCH 18, 2025**

10:30AM - 1:30PM  
CROWNSVILLE, MD

# NAMB EVANGELISM TRAINING

REGISTER AT [BCMD.ORG/EVANGELISM](https://bcmd.org/evangelism)



**North American  
Mission Board**

[Summary](#)

[Register Now](#)

NAMB Evangelism Training | Maryland |  
March 18, 2025

March 18, 2025  
10:30 AM-1:30 PM ET

South Shore Church  
725 Herald Harbor Road  
Crownsville, MD 21032

Get ready to ignite your passion and transform your community with the power of the gospel! Join us at our NAMB Evangelism Training designed to equip you with the tools and resources to create an evangelism-focused culture in your church.

With renewed passion and a clear sense of purpose, you'll learn to fearlessly proclaim the gospel message and make a lasting impact on a world searching for hope and answers. You will also enjoy food and fellowship with like-minded leaders.

Don't miss this incredible opportunity to deepen your evangelism focus and learn about the latest resources available to all churches.

#### **SPEAKERS**

NAMB Evangelism Team

#### **PRICE**

Training is free

#### **INCLUDES**

NAMB Evangelism Kit

Catered Lunch

#### **REGISTER NOW**

Each attendee must register separately. Register by March 18, 2025.

[Register Here](#)

**Annie Armstrong**  
Easter Offering™  
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

STEP INTO THE  
**STORY**

 North American  
Mission Board

**The Week of Prayer for North American Missions**

## The Week of Prayer for North American Missions March 2-9, 2025

The Week of Prayer is annually observed by SBC churches to specifically pray for missionaries on the field, the needs of their ministries and the needs of their families. Prayer is the fuel enabling God to spiritually and emotionally sustain missionaries in places where the gospel is greatly needed, but often opposed.

Prayer guides are available for your church to order or can be downloaded for individual use. You can also see how God is at work using your prayers and gifts by watching the missionary video stories. These and more can be found on the resources page. The official date for the annual Week of Prayer is the first Sunday in March through the second Sunday in March. Your church can choose this date or another time during the Easter season to participate.

The 2025 theme is "Step Into the Story."

The scripture verse is 3 John 1:7-8, "For they have gone out for the sake of the name... Therefore, we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth."

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The national goal is \$78 million. What will YOUR church's goal be this year?

Go to <https://anniearmstrong.com/resources> to order promotional materials for your church!

### SAVE THE DATE

SAVE

BCMD

WIM

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

03 MAY 2025

THE

WIM/Y-WIM  
CONFERENCE

THE

DATE



BCMD  
*Presents*

*A Man After*  
**GOD'S OWN HEART**

MEN'S CONFERENCE

Featuring - Jamaal E. Williams - Dan Hyun - Joel Kurz

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Riva Trace Baptist Church  
475 W Central Ave,  
Davidsonville, MD 21035

17  
MAY 2025  
8:30A

<https://bcmd.org/men/>



SAVE  
THE  
DATE

05/17/2025

MENS  
CONFERENCE

*The Whole Gospel For The Whole Man*

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A gathering for men to come and  
experience God's power and  
presence together

**BCMD**

