

Blood River Baptist Association
Rev. Mark Sickling, Director of Missions
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Newsletter deadline for September 2026 is August 20th

EMAIL US AT:
bloodriver@bloodriverassoc.org
Remember to limit your words to 175.

Mark's Memos

As I sat and stared at my computer screen thinking of what I could write in this month's newsletter, it dawned on me that come the first Sunday of August, I will be celebrating my 9th anniversary as your Director of Missions. A lot has transpired in those nine years. Many of our churches have had pastors come, while others have seen pastors leave. Furthermore, we have had several pastors go on to their heavenly reward.

In the spring of 2018 Bags of Hope was forced to move from our Hardin location to our Benton location. But that move proved to be providential, in that God provided a larger building, which allowed us to consolidate our food and clothing ministry in one location. It also allowed us to expand our ministry by providing chaplains to pray with each client that came through the doors. As a result, praise the LORD, Bags of Hope has seen dozens of people pray to receive Jesus Christ as their personal LORD and Savior.

Our Disaster Relief Team and Equipment has also expanded during my tenure as Director of Missions. While we disbanded our kitchen, primarily because the state didn't need the unit, under Larry Doughty's leadership we have added a chainsaw unit; a flood recovery unit; a shower unit; and a laundry unit housed and operating out of Blood River Baptist Association.

Furthermore, because of the faithful giving of our churches we have had pastors and missionaries receive scholarships to complete ministry degrees; we have been able to financially partner with missionaries in AZ; NYC; and Guatemala, as well as send teams to assist these missionaries in their ministry.

As I look back on what God has done in these 9 years, I am humbled and honored to be a part of what He is doing in Blood River Baptist Association and I am excited to see what He is going to do in the coming months and years.

Serving Him Together,

Bro. Mark E. Sickling



August 2026

July 31st-August 1st		Cultivate @ Little Flock Baptist, Shepherdsville, KY FMI: https://www.kybaptist.org/cultivate/
1st		Begin Freeda Harris Toy Drive
1st	10:00 am	Spring Creek Baptist Cruise In
1st	2:00 pm	Hooked on Promises @ Owens Chapel, Kirksey, KY
2nd	10:30 am	Oak Level Baptist Homecoming
2nd		Send Relief Sunday
4th	10:00 am	Evangelism Committee Meeting @ BRBA Office
4th	5:00 pm	Scholarship Committee Meeting @ BRBA Office
7th-8th		LAUNCH Retreat @ Louisville, KY FMI: www.kybaptist.org/event/launch-retreat/
8th	8:30 am	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
9th		SBC Serve Sunday
10th	5:00 pm	Nominating Committee Meeting @ BRBA Office
14th	8:30 am	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
15th	6:00 pm	Deacon/Pastor Wives Dinner @ BRBA Office RSVP: (270) 437-4203 by August 10th
19th	1:00 pm	Budget/Finance Committee Meeting @ BRBA Office
21st	8:30 am	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
23rd		Global Hunger Sunday
28th	8:30 am	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
September 2026 (mark your calendar)		
1st	10:00 am	Evangelism Committee Meeting @ BRBA Office
4th	8:30 am	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
4th	4:00 pm	Senior Adult Rally @ Hazel
7th		Labor Day (Office Closed)
9th	1:00 pm	Budget/Finance Committee Meeting @ BRBA Office
10th		DEADLINE FOR ALL ACP'S TO BRBA OFFICE
11th	8:30 am	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
11th-12th		Disaster Relief Training @ Shelbyville, KY FMI: www.kybaptist.org/event/disaster-relief-volunteer-training-6/
13th		Grandparent's Day
13th-19th		Eliza Broadus Offering and Week of Prayer
15th		DEADLINE FOR BOOK OF REPORTS TO THE BRBA OFFICE
16th	noon	Pastor's Luncheon @ Habanero, Draffenville, KY
18th	8:30 am	Pastor Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
19th		Children's Missions Day
23rd		First Day of Fall
25th-27th		Converge @ Crossings Cedarmore FMI: www.kybaptist.org/event/converge-2026/
25th	8:30 am	Pastor Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
27th		Caring Well Sunday



Bags of Hope Ministry

In June, we were able to help **377** people, of which **52** were new. We gave out **3,080** food items, **458** bread, and **203** personal hygiene items. Thank you and may God Bless our donors and clients!

Bags of Hope

Hours for Food & Clothing: Monday & Thursday 1 - 4 p.m.
Food donations can still be donated at the Association Office
Monday-Thursday 8:00 am - 2:00 p.m. if more convenient.

Bags of Hope Pantry list for August

Altona – Tuna & Mac 'n Cheese
Bethel – Spaghetti & Spaghetti Sauce (no glass jars)
Bethlehem – Canned Chicken & Chicken Noodle Soup
Briensburg – Chili & Rice
Cherry Corner – Pancake Mix & Syrup
Elva – Vienna Sausage & Canned Potatoes
Flint – Cereal & Canned Pinto Beans
Gilbertsville – Peanut Butter & Mixed Vegetables
Grace – Instant Potatoes & Pork 'n Beans
Hamlet – Tuna & Canned Black Eyed Peas
Hazel – Pancake Mix & Syrup
Holly Hills – Chili & Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix
Kirksey – Spam & Canned Green Peas
Lakeview – Canned Chicken & Canned Tomatoes
Ledbetter – Tuna & Ramen Noodles
Locust Grove – Ravioli & Canned Red Beans
Memorial –Canned Carrots & Chicken Noodle Soup
New Bethel – Vienna Sausage & Ramen Noodles
New Harmony – Spam & Canned Tomatoes
New Mt. Carmel – Chili & Canned White Beans
New Zion – Peanut Butter & Instant Potatoes
Northside – Ravioli & Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix
Oak Grove – Vienna Sausage & Mac 'n Cheese
Olive – Canned Chicken & Chicken Noodle Soup
Owens Chapel – Cereal & Canned Tomatoes
Pleasant Hope –Spam & Instant Potatoes
Salem – Peanut Butter & Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix
Spring Creek – Tuna & Rice
Sugar Creek – Ravioli & Instant Potatoes
Union Ridge – Mac 'n Cheese & Bars of Soap
West Fork – Spaghetti & Spaghetti Sauce (no glass jars)

Bags of Hope is needing volunteers!!

Volunteer Hours Needed:
Mondays & Thursdays
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
(sort and fold clothes)
AND/OR
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
(distribution of items)
Contact Marvin Gore (270) 252-4051





Blood River Review

AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER OF BLOOD RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION



August Pastor's Prayer Times
BRBA Office @ 8:30 am
7th, 14th,
21st, & 28th

ISRAEL
Our Leaders
Our Youth
Our Schools
Each Other
Our Pastors
Churches without Pastors

THE LOST
Sister Churches
Our Country
The Sick
Missionaries
Our Teachers



Churches Currently without Pastors

Bethel	Cherry Corner	Ferguson Springs
Holly Hills	Locust Grove	New Providence
Oak Grove	Owens Chapel	Poplar Spring



FMI: <https://www.kybaptist.org/event/launch-retreat/>

a student ministry leader & spouse retreat

Deacon & Wives/Pastor & Wives Dinner

August 15th @ 6:00 pm

BRBA Office

RSVP: (270)437-4203

By August 10th



August Birthdays

1st	Scott Sheppard, Altona (Youth)
4th	Chrystie Chapman, Scott's Grove
18th	Larry Simmons, Oak Grove (I)
21st	Brandon Shropshire, Bethlehem
21st	Michelle Logsdon, Oak Level
22nd	Ginger Severns, Memorial
23rd	James Oates, Lakeview
29th	Randy Kuykendall, West Fork
31st	Phillip Bazzell, Sugar Creek

August Anniversaries

1st	DeWayne & Lori Chadwick, Holly Hills (I)
2nd	Brad & Robin Walker, Briensburg
9th	Joshua & Deidra Hodges, Elva
13th	Jonathan & Erin Clark, BSU
23rd	Doug & Sarah Sanders, Spring Creek

August Church Anniversaries

1st Sunday
Mark Sickling, BRBA (2017)
2nd Sunday
Joshua Hodges, Elva (2025)
Todd Dotson, Olive (2013)
Mike Farmer, Vanzora (2016)
3rd Sunday
Calvin Bryant, New Zion (2023)

ATTENTION!

ACP'S ARE READY!!!!

DUE TO BRBA OFFICE SEPTEMBER 10TH

If you have not received your ACP, please make arrangements to do so with the BRBA Office. Please be sure to complete them and return to the BRBA Office. If you plan to complete them online, please notify the BRBA Office once you have submitted it. Call the office @ 270-437-4203 with any questions. Thank you and God Bless.

Please let the BRBA Office know if you are having a Fall Revival!!

LET US KNOW!

HAZEL

Serve Day for the Hazel community was a great success, and we are thankful for each person who volunteered to help those in need. Our kids and youth programs are coming close to schools starting back so they will be having end of summer parties. Our annual ice cream social is planned for August 16th. We will be having a special prayer service for all our kids and youth as they return to school. Homecoming is on the horizon in September. We were extremely blessed to have missionaries, Jason and Kelly Hart, who shared what they are doing in Guatemala. Please keep them in your prayers as they work to lead others to Christ. Prayers for each church body in our association, especially those without pastors.

NEW BETHEL

Our Children's Church for kids aged 4-8 was back in session during the morning service on June 28th. July 4th was the United States of America's 250th birthday. We celebrated the greatest country that God has ever allowed to exist, Land of the Free, Because of the Brave, and God's Blessings and Grace. On July 9th, our Young at Heart Seniors went to Duncan's Market & Grill for their monthly outing—great food and fellowship. Joey Harrison has been accepted as a Deacon here at New Bethel, as he was an ordained Deacon at his former church. On July 12th, Corey Belcher was ordained as a new Deacon—congratulations to Joey and Corey. On August 2nd, during the evening service we will be observing the Lord's Supper, an ordinance instituted by Jesus Christ. The Freeda Harris Toy Drive begins on August 1st. Please keep our Country, our Leaders and our Armed Forces in your Prayers.

II Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

SALEM

SBC received blessings with another baptism, and another lady joining by letter. VBS was a huge success again this year. Brother Frankie has started sermons staying on course with our junkyard theme. Our youth nights are Saturdays 4-8 p.m. Join in the fun, food, fellowship, and faith each week. We were blessed with Brother Frankie and Mrs. Kristina's mission trip photos and experiences with 14-15 saved. We celebrated Brother Frankie and Mrs. Kristina's five year anniversary with a meal on July 19th. Before we know it, school will begin another new school year. We need to keep all involved in prayer for safety. Galatians 6:2 KJV Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

CRUISE IN

AUGUST 1, 2026

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

FREE FOOD & DRINKS

SPRING CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
995 SPRING ROAD
ALMO, KY 42020



God's Promises

I X X D S L N P D F T X Y Z R T U O X S X B P Y
C W T W P P K Z T B A T M U T Q T C W P U R T B
F V J Q Z F H L S N L T O X A A X M G A L P E M
E C N E I D E B O A A M H H S O I J N H O E W M
N C T I V U I R Y F W C T E R R D K I R V A X F
Q K R S S L T O O W A X C W R U R S N O E W S E
W I H S A N L Z B F P L V S Y N O Y U V F W H W
I Q Y E P R O V I S I O N G M Q W E M W K J M R
P Q G N I M J Q B L E S I N G S P M W A U J V
D Y K L V S M E K O M M R J X Q D O O M R O L Q
R D Y U J K Y F S G Q O Q O E B O H C C P H H T
L F N F U N Z O V U N Y O P N V J J V D L W Z B
M D J H U P X Z R Q S I M O U J Y A G B A T E N
P U C T A M U B M M I I R J N O I T A R O D A Y
R E J I T F E Q M C V S N E X C Y Q Y G H T X D
O K G A S Y S T R E N G T H V J G O V N V F Z Y
M N E F U C Z E P O W E R R R O Z K I H H K F
I U C A U W T G S R G Q Z M T A C H W L U H J Y
S R L X Y G O U K W W H F C O B N M B A W C O O
E Y B O L U U C W K Z I O L X Y M M Z E O K Y M
S H Y P E A C E Y R O O B P H M I Y V H J B V Y
K W I N O K V D E Y T A S L V F F E S K X A X Q
Z A C C H X N W N H M R C M M E Y M U I Z F J P
E H A P P I N E S S P W V O D H Z B B O D G W Q

FAITHFULNESS	GOD'S WORD	PROVISION	OBEDIENCE
COMMUNING	ADORATION	HAPPINESS	BLESSINGS
STRENGTH	COVERING	PROMISES	HEALING
LOYALTY	FATHER	POWER	PEACE
JESUS	HOPE	LOVE	JOY

Freeda Harris Toy Drive

August 1st thru October 25th

New toys for boys and girls

Ages 6 months to 16 years old

DO NOT WRAP!!

Toys due @ churches October 25th

Toys due @ BRBA Office November 1st

Packing Party @ BRBA Office November 4th 9 am

NEED WRAPPING PAPER, TAPE,
& MEDIUM MOVING BOXES (18X16X18)

AUG 18 Paducah



equip

First Baptist Church,
Paducah, KY
5 pm–9 pm

EQUIP will cover training in each of the following areas: Assimilation, Children's Ministry, Cooperative Program, Deacon Ministry, Discipleship, Evangelism, Finance, Missions, Revitalization, Social Media, Students, Sunday School, WMU, Women's Ministry and Worship and Music.

FMI: <https://www.kybaptist.org/equip-2026/>