



WORD & WAY

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IF YOU'RE NOT HARVESTING, YOU'RE NOT FOLLOWING

John 4:34-37 “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work,” Jesus told them. “Don’t you say, ‘There are still four more months, then comes the harvest’? Listen to what I’m telling you: Open your eyes and look at the fields, for they are ready for harvest. The reaper is already receiving pay and gathering fruit for eternal life, so the sower and reaper can rejoice together.” CSB

I encourage you to refresh your memory regarding this Bible story by reading John 4:1-42. For now, let me catch you up on some pertinent information. Jesus, being led by the Spirit, takes His disciples on a long hard walk into the heart of Samaria. They are tired, hungry, thirsty, and in need of some rest by the time they reach Jacob’s Well. The disciples head into the local village on a mission to purchase some food while Jesus stays at the well. As it turned out, Jesus was also on a mission to get food.

His food had been ordered ahead of time and was being brought to the well by special delivery as a divine appointment set up by the Holy Spirit. A spiritual Uber Eats or Door Dash if you will. As this woman arrives at the well, Jesus recognizes His Father’s activity in her life just as easily as He did with Zacheus up in the tree. The Spirit reveals that the harvest is ripe and that it is greater than just this one woman. The whole town is ripe for a great harvest of souls.

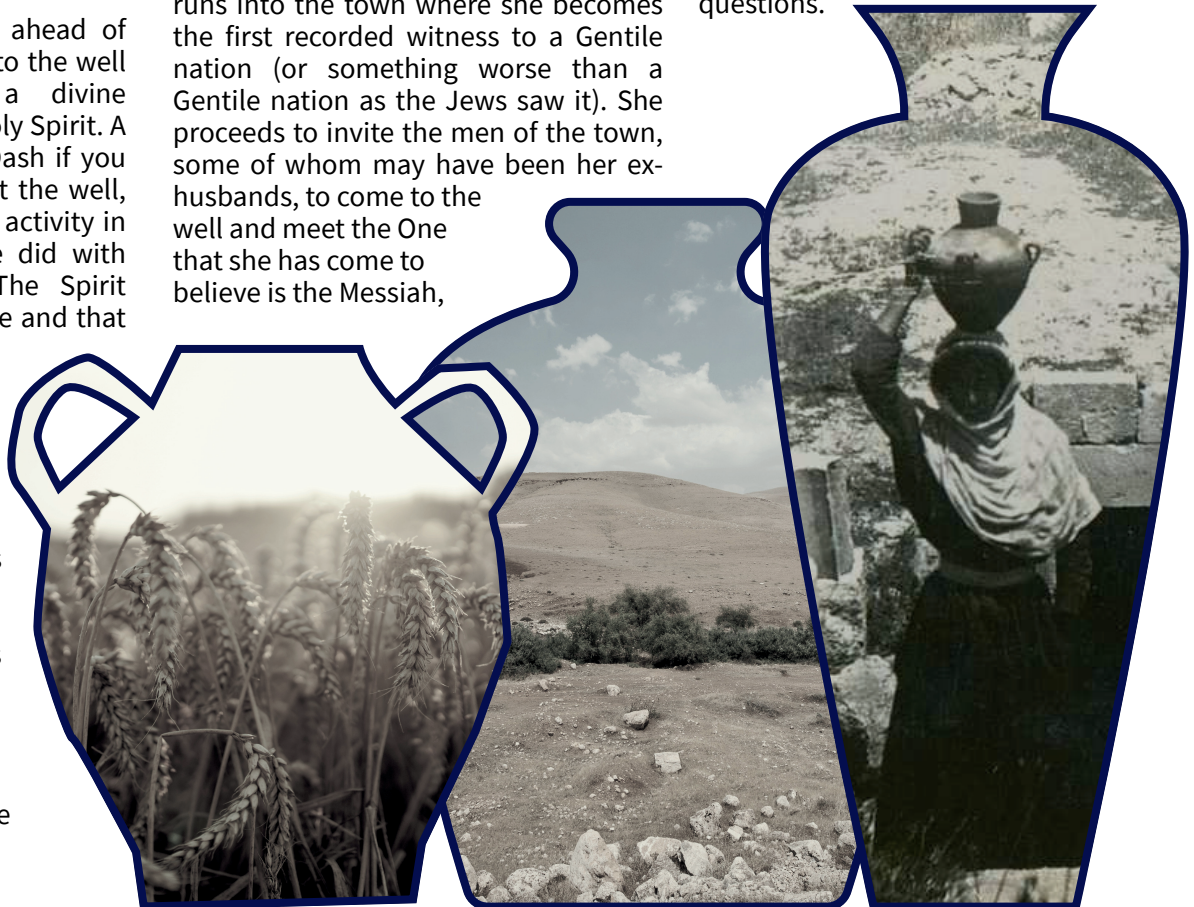
Jesus begins the harvest work by cutting through the barriers of social and religious tradition, racism, distrust, sin, and the limited vision of physical eyes and appetites driven by fleshly desire. Her spiritual eyes open and she sees Jesus for who He really is, the Messiah, the “Savior of the world,” (v. 42). All the while

this encounter is going on, Jesus is feasting from His Father’s table. His obedience to the Father’s will brings the greatest satisfaction and fulfillment that any life can know on this side of heaven. When the disciples get back with food, they are puzzled that Jesus is talking with a woman and that He is no longer hungry.

The woman is apparently no longer thirsty, having consumed the “living water.” She leaves her water pot and runs into the town where she becomes the first recorded witness to a Gentile nation (or something worse than a Gentile nation as the Jews saw it). She proceeds to invite the men of the town, some of whom may have been her ex-husbands, to come to the well and meet the One that she has come to believe is the Messiah,

the “I am” (v. 26). Over the course of 2 days, there’s a massive harvest of souls as many personally come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, and accept Him as their Savior.

Now watch how simple this really is! The woman literally went to the men stationed around the gate of the town, told her testimony regarding meeting the Christ, pointed to the well where Jesus was sitting, and said, “Come and see!” Now let me ask you some questions.





Where did the disciples, these followers of Jesus, go to get food? Right. They went into town.

But what town? Yep! That's right. They went into this woman's town. The town that was prepared and ripe for harvest.

What did they bring to Jesus? Food. Most likely it was some bread and dried fish.

What was their mission? To be fishers of men!

Here's the problem. These men who should have known the heart and mind of God, and hence His will to seek and to save the lost, walked through this town where they did their business of getting food. They never saw the ripe harvest of souls. When they left, nothing changed.

Apparently when asked at the gate by the town leaders what their business was in town, they must have asked where they could go to buy some food.

The disciples walked through this town that was ripe with harvest and when they left, nothing changed.



BRO. CHARLES STOOPS; ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONARY

I believe this because if they would have answered something like this, "Well, you see, we're with the Messiah, the Savior of the world. If you look down there at the well, that's Him sitting on the stone. We're out of food and were hoping ..."

I don't think they would have gotten much further that that before the townsmen would have stopped them and said something like, "Wait! You know the Messiah? We've been looking for Him! Please take us to Him so we can know Him too!"

For application's sake, let's ask this question: What might be the problem if we can live next to neighbors whose lives are in crises, go to a school filled with students starving for purpose and direction in life, work a job next to coworkers being crushed by the weight of sin and lostness—and nothing ever changes? What about a church that's struggling to survive while being surrounded by a town filled with souls that are ripe for harvest? The answer might be many faceted, but I'm providing a list of what I call Harvest Facts pulled straight from Jesus' example in John 4 and the passage above. Here's a great starting point to diagnose the issue of fruitless lives and churches when it comes to the harvest of souls. Pray through this list and see what the Spirit says to you.

HARVEST —FACTS—

-  ▶ The Spirit wants to lead you from one ripe harvest to another.
-  ▶ You may miss the harvest that's ripe now if you put it off until the future.
-  ▶ You can't reap a harvest from unsown fields.
-  ▶ Whether you sow, grow, or reap—it's work.
-  ▶ You get to eat from God's table while you labor.
-  ▶ Your pay gets direct deposited into heaven's account.
-  ▶ Those working in the harvest field have the greatest joy.
-  ▶ You can't harvest what you can't see.
-  ▶ If you're not harvesting, you're not following.



FRIENDSHIP

WHERE CHURCHES COME TOGETHER FOR MINISTRY

Friendship Camp is a ministry of the churches.

Campers are amazed and fascinated when they make this connection. Whether it comes because they learn that churches provide the snacks, how many churches supplied counselors, or that the Association has prioritized this ministry for 72 years, these campers realize that they are loved by complete strangers who also love God.

Friendship Camp is not a traditional summer camp program. One of its greatest strengths is how its people join together to see God work. The teamwork begins with the Association.

Day Camp Director Gabrielle Register captured this well in one of her statements: “One of the most encouraging things this year was welcoming so many new volunteers to our Day Camp team. They came with ready hearts, learned quickly, adapted when plans changed, and loved our campers well.”

Friendship Camp grows stronger when more people are directly involved.

STATISTICS AT-A-GLANCE

275 CAMPERS

5 SALVATIONS

1 REDEDICATION

1 OTHER DECISION

13 AIMM MEMBERS

31 VOLUNTEERS



DAY MISSIONARIES LEAD NEW PROGRAMS

When Luke Fendley stepped down from Momentum Youth Camp, the void was filled not by any one person but by a team of three former Advancing in Missions and Ministry (AIMM) members. Trent Mays, Wesley Melton, and Bailey Oller worked together to start planning the camp, but they were thrown an additional curveball when all agreed that God was leading Ignite 33:3 to also join the youth camp as a specialized training track for young people. This meant that the new directing team also began to coordinate with Rev. Rodney Powe of Central Baptist on offering band training in the regular camp schedule.

Both Trent and Bailey mentioned Thursday night's bonfire as a powerful moment. The music campers showed off some of what they'd learned, creating an atmosphere of worship. Bailey called it a “beautiful thing to see.”

“God moved at Friendship Camp this year by bringing the community that God has blessed us with closer together,” said Trent.

That same spirit of teamwork with the larger Association enabled Lauren Moye, the Blaze Girls' Camp director, to add missions programming to her schedule.

“I noticed last year that several of my older campers were already experiencing God in a deeper way and were interested in serving Him,” explained Lauren. “This year, I wanted them to leave understanding that God can use their skills and interests to serve Him.”

To make that a reality, Lauren turned to Mrs. Cindy Schaeffner, WMU Representative, to create two lessons. Cindy, in turn, leaned on a friend to bring in his therapy dog on Tuesday as an example of how even dog training can open doors for gospel conversations.

CAMP 2026

CAMP FEATURES WRITTEN BY LAUREN C. MOYE

“Velocity Boys Camp had a small group time after worship that allowed for camper’s personal struggles to be addressed and a time of coming together to pray for each other and their home, life, and families.”

-WAYNE ROGERS

TEAMWORK WITH FBA CHURCHES

While it is fun to share the stories that happen on the ground at Friendship Camp, it would be a mistake to believe that those things just happen.

The camp is not a traditional program. God uses the camp year after year because it is faithfully passed from one generation to the next. Friendship Baptist Association churches who prioritize supporting the summer camp program are the ones who make the ministry possible.

There was one sweet moment this summer made possible because of the ordinary church members who donated funds for scholarships and other needs. Bailey described it as a “total God thing.”

A long-time Friendship camper was not on the Momentum Youth Camp registration list, prompting Bailey to pray. That camper then ran into a counselor at the Plains, Trains, and Fireworks festival days before camp. The counselor put the camper in touch with Bailey, who helped the camper secure a camp scholarship so she could attend.

(CONT. ON PG. 6)



FAVORITE CAMP MOMENTS

- 1** The bonfire and worship night! The Ignite 33:3 campers played that night.
-Youth Camp Directing Team
- 2** Morning walks and tiny frogs with the early bird campers!
-Lauren Moye
- 3** Seeing campers build friendships, ask questions about Jesus, and leave excited to come back the next morning was a wonderful reminder of the impact camp can have.
-Gabrielle Register
- 4** During the renewed “build your boat” race, we learned that it’s not enough to build a quality boat. It’s just as important to know how to paddle in the boat!
-Wayne Rogers

SUMMER 2026 PHOTO DUMP



TEAMWORK WITH FBA CHURCHES CONT.

Unknown to Bailey, Lauren Moyer had already spoken to the camper's parent in a store about a camp scholarship three weeks earlier! The parent didn't have the FBA office number, though, so the connection fell through until God reconnected the family with camp volunteers.

Without the support of our churches and their members, however, there would have been no scholarship to offer. God used faithful giving to the summer camp program to make the divine appointment possible!

Sometimes church members may not realize the impact they have on these

campers' lives. For many children and youth, Friendship Camp is a second home during June where they are surrounded by people who love them. Campers age out of programming and become helpers. From there, they become church leaders.

Friendship Camp is a ministry of the churches. While it is impossible to perfectly track every way that the churches step up to help, every camp director is grateful for the support. Every volunteer, scholarship, snack, and prayer becomes part of what God is doing in the lives of these young people.

You're Invited!

**FRIENDSHIP
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

**ANNUAL
MEETING**



SEPTEMBER 20, 2026



**NEW PROVIDENCE
BAPTIST CHURCH**



5:00PM



A family of churches

UPCOMING EVENTS



Focus on Christian Service

3	<i>Send Relief Sunday</i>
5	Minister's Prayer Time Plains BC @ 10am
6	Nominating Committee FBA Office @ 10am
9	<i>SBC Serve Sunday</i>
12	Minister's Prayer Time Central BC @ 10am
13	Personnel Committee Central BC @ 10am
19	Minister's Prayer Time Whitewater BC @ 10am
23	<i>Global Hunger Sunday</i>
26	Minister's Prayer Time FBC Butler @ 10am



Focus on Next Gen Ministries

1	Ephesians 4:12 Leadership FBA Office @ 10am Acts 1:8 Missions FBA Office @ 6:30pm
2	Minister's Prayer Time Plains BC @ 10am
3	Camp Development Friendship Camp @ 6pm
7	<i>Labor Day</i> <i>FBA Office Closed</i>
8	Friendship Council FBA Office @ 11:30am (lunch served)
9	Minister's Prayer Time Central BC @ 10am
13	<i>SPARK Conference</i> <i>Central BC @ 3:45pm</i>
16	Minister's Prayer Time Whitewater BC @ 10am
18-19	<i>Women on Mission Retreat</i> <i>Pinnacle Retreat Center</i>
20	FBA Annual Meeting New Providence @ 5pm
23	Minister's Prayer Time FBC Butler @ 10am



Focus on Cooperative Program

4	<i>Cooperative Program Sunday</i>
7	Minister's Prayer Time Plains BC @ 10am
14	Minister's Prayer Time Central BC @ 10am
18	<i>Day of Prayer for Associational Missions</i>
21	Minister's Prayer Time Whitewater BC @ 10am
25	<i>Student Baptism Sunday</i>
28	Minister's Prayer Time FBC Butler @ 10am

Please pray for our churches without pastors

Amazing Grace BC
Cedar Valley BC
Cheek Memorial BC
Eastside BC
Ebenezer BC
Faith BC, Butler
FBC, Butler
New Life BC

LEADERSHIP

TRAINING LEADERS, STRENGTHENING CHURCHES

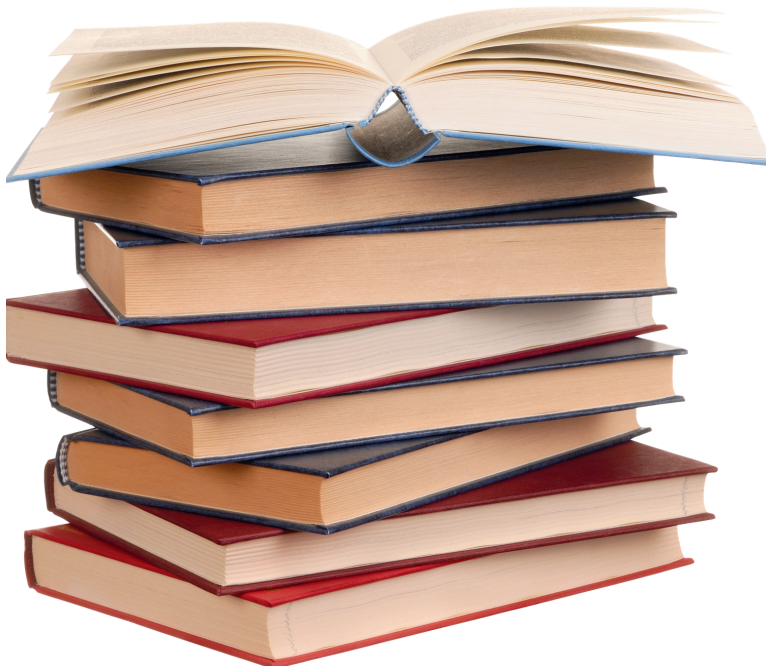
We have reached the point in the summer where summer camp season is in the books for most of us. If your church participated in a domestic or international short-term summer mission project or trip, it is likely also complete. If you have a future college freshman in your house, as we do, graduation season has grown dim in the rearview mirror, and it is time to start packing everything up for move-in day in August. Our freshman will be attending Brewton Parker Christian University to pursue an undergraduate degree in Christian Ministry. We would like to remind you that you can also sign up to attend Brewton Parker Christian University in the fall and sharpen your ministry skills through the GBBI program at the Friendship Baptist Association office. Also, be on the lookout for ministry training opportunities through our Ephesians 4:12 council later this fall.

GBBI (GEORGIA BAPTIST INSTITUTE)

Whether you are a pastor, deacon, Sunday school teacher/small group leader, women's or men's ministry leader, children's ministry leader, youth leader, worship ministry leader, or any other ministry or group leader in your church, you believe God might be calling you into ministry, calling you to deeper and more dedicated service in your church, or you simply desire to deepen your understanding of God and His word, the GBBI is for you!

Students can either take the classes for full college credit (up to 27 total hours) or "audit" them. Audit students get the full experience and learning environment of the college classroom, but are given the flexibility to participate in or skip any assignments and tests as they choose. The ultimate goal of the GBBI is to equip pastoral leaders, church members, and lay leaders with the biblical and ministry training required to strengthen our churches and, ultimately, the communities in which they reside. To that end, while we continue our Certificate in Ministry Leadership classes, this fall we will begin offering classes for our Certificate in Biblical Studies.

Don't forget, as we look forward to the fall semester, we also anticipate celebrating our first graduating class of men certified in Ministry Leadership at our annual meeting on September 20th. These men have completed 7 college-level ministry classes, including Introduction to Old Testament, Introduction to New Testament, Christian Theology, Christian Worldview, Hermeneutics, Biblical Preaching, and Biblical and Servant Leadership. It is a great accomplishment. We look forward to celebrating their hard work, and we hope you will join us!



GBBI SCHEDULE FALL 2026

MONDAYS

CHR 320 : SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

Provides an overview of the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke with a step-by-step walk through of Mark's gospel.

Instructor: Dr. Bryan Myers

THURSDAYS

CHR 102: INTRO TO NEW TESTAMENT

An overview of the entire New Testament that provides a foundational understanding of its content, context, and significance.

Instructor: Dr. Buck Kinney

DR. BUCK KINNEY ASSOCIATE MISSIONARY



EPHESIANS 4:12 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

The Ephesians 4:12 Council continues its work to build the framework to provide resources that strengthen Friendship Baptist Association and rural churches beyond our borders through our A.I.M.M. program (Advancing In Ministry and Missions). This fall, we will be conducting our first training sessions to equip worship and Next Gen leaders. These training sessions will be designed to equip both present and future pastoral leaders, as well as lay leaders, in these areas of ministry. Specifics will be announced soon. Be on the lookout, you won't want to miss it.

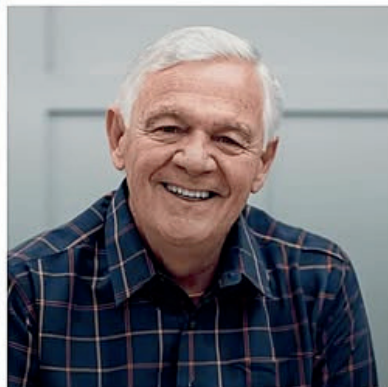
Want to know more about A.I.M.M., and/or how you can participate as an individual, or a church? Please contact us at the FBA Office!

Blessings in Christ,
Buck Kinney

SPARK
CONFERENCE



Central Baptist Church



Americus

Sunday, **Sept 13** | *featuring* **KEN WHITTEN**

Register at www.thesparkconference.com





THE CHALLENGE

Friendship Camp 2026 has closed, but with it comes a great challenge and invitation. The next generation of AIMM leaders is in process. The one after that is already dreaming of being old enough to serve.

Who will step into the lives of these young people to encourage them, teach them about living wholeheartedly for God, and to show them what it means to serve?

“My heart for the camp is a ministry of the churches. It’s got to be that way,” Colten said. “It’s a place where the churches get to focus on the students and know, ‘We have these students for this amount of time. Let’s pour into them.’”

Are you ready to see how God can use you?

SENDING OUT

While newcomers joined AIMM, it’s exciting to see how the former missionaries step into new ministries. These graduates serve God throughout the year. However, He also uses this sending out process to directly benefit Friendship Camp.

The trend started in 2024 when Gabrielle Register agreed to lead Friendship Day Camp in while still serving in AIMM 1. Trent Mays followed this path in 2025 with Velocity Boys Camp. In 2026, Trent, Wesley Melton, and Bailey Oller worked together as co-directors over the youth camp.

All these former AIMM Missionaries have agreed to serve again next year.

“I remember watching them in their senior years in high school, and now watching how they’ve grown as Christians and matured in their faith,” said Colten. “Normally when someone first starts directing, it’s rough. But they really ran camp like it was their second or third year.”

Other AIMM members give back to the camp by volunteering time as they are able.



WALKER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION BLESSES THE FBA

A mission team from Walker Baptist Association stayed at Friendship Camp from July 11-18. This mission team blessed our campground and our association with multiple projects. Here’s what they did in their time:

- Built a new storage shed for the Camp Manager to use
- Moved the new gym rooms one step closer to completion
- Led a VBS at Community Baptist in Buena Vista
- Led a VBS at FBC Montezuma
- Replaced some old plumbing lines at Friendship Camp



Friendship Baptist Association

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Together We Build Friendship as of 7/15/26

2026 Beginning Balance	\$110,939.84
Gifts Received	\$9,436.00
Expenses	\$110,380.28
Current Balance	\$9,995.58

Latest Gifts Given

IMO of Edmond Mayo by
Mack & Laverne Bentley

GIVE TODAY



You can make donations ***In Honor Of*** or ***In Memory Of*** someone. Make checks payable to **Friendship Baptist Association**. Write **TWBF**, who you are honoring, and **why** on the memo line. We will print your honorary/memorial donation in the next edition of the Word & Way.