

# MISSIONS & MINISTRY

The Newsletter of The Blue River-  
Kansas City Baptist Association



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## AN HONEST CONVERSATION ABOUT MONEY AND THE STATE OF COOPERATION AMONG SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCHES (PART 2)

*By Gregg Boll, Executive Director of Missions*

I am always keenly aware that my mission as your Director of Missions is to help our pastors start well, pastor well, and finish well. Equally important is to help our churches accomplish their God-given mission and to bring our BR-KC churches together in partnership to plant new churches and revitalize (replant) declining churches. While this article is heavy in data, it is incredibly important for pastors and church leaders to consider as they develop their missions/ministry strategies. In my next article (part 3), I will share several recommendations for how pastors should interpret this data in determining the strategy and culture of their church in a way that is proactive, gospel centered, and hopeful, rather than reactive and driven by fear or anxiety. We should not be afraid or threatened by any of the information below, even the bad news, because I know that we “overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us” and that the “gospel is powerful unto salvation to everyone who believes”.....



## FINDING JOY IN THE CHAOS

By Brian Grout, Associate Director of Missions

Every December, I feel the tension you probably feel too—the beauty of Christmas mixed with the busyness of ministry. The calendar fills, expectations rise, services multiply. Add family to the mix and suddenly the season that promises “peace” can feel anything but peaceful.

But in the midst of that swirl of activity—**there is joy & peace to be experienced.**

I’m reminded of how much God desires not only our service, but our hearts. The angels announced “good news of great joy,” not more pressure or performance (Luke 2:10). Christmas is meant to bring peace—not because our calendars calm down, but because Christ has come.

Here are a few simple ways to reclaim joy in ministry during this season:

### 1. Slow down long enough to remember the story.

Christmas has a way of realigning our hearts with the wonder of the incarnation.

*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...”*—John 1:14

Jesus entered into a world that was already chaotic, burdened, and broken. If God is not afraid of chaos, we do not have to be either. But before we preach it, we need to appreciate it.

### 2. Celebrate what God is doing, not what you wish you could accomplish.....

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## Financial Update - October Overview

MTD Budget - \$40,020.87

MTD Actual Income - \$31,404.22

MTD Actual Expenses - \$33,535.92

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