



A NOTE FROM YOUR DOM "The Ground We Walk On"

This past year has been a blessing, and Ellen and I are still adjusting. It's *Back to School* time and for consecutive years now, she was not a part of planning and preparing for the next several months of shaping the young minds of children. That's only happened once before in the 43 years we've been married. The reason then was to stay at home with babies. Now, it's different. Pray for her as she continues to adjust. Many of you already know what she's going through.

So, to keep herself busy, Ellen's been doing lots of things around our new home - that is, it's still new to us. She's shared with some of you about cleaning out the woods behind our house, planting a small raised-bed garden, growing flowers (her favorite things), and most recently she's been painting doors and trim - there are six entry/exit doors in our small house.

When it comes to physical things, perhaps one of the biggest adjustments for me has been the difference in the terrain. In North Missouri, where I grew up, we had rolling hills along with bottom grounds next to creek/rivers filled with rich, black topsoil that grew things fairly naturally. Sure, we had big rocks that would pop up occasionally in a recently plowed

field, but they were easily removed. Not so, in Barry County. Yes, there are fields with crops, especially hay fields, where the beauty of God's physical creation can be admired and enjoyed. But the rocks and red dirt are also very plentiful here.

Recently I read an article (<https://www.faithfreedomreport.com/what-scientists-just-discovered-about-the-ground-we-walk-on/>) that reminded me of the following truths.

No matter where it comes from, a single handful of soil contains billions of living microorganisms, making it one of the most complex ecosystems on Earth. Gravity keeps our atmosphere, water, and soil anchored to the planet, sustaining all life as designed by the Creator. The earth beneath our feet is far from lifeless - it teems with biological activity essential for food production and ecological balance.

When we touch earth, we are touching something deeply ancient and yet deeply alive. It may appear solid and unchanging, but just scoop up a handful of dirt. You are holding in your palm a living, breathing substance. Soil contains billions of microorganisms - bacteria, fungi, protozoa, and countless other forms of microscopic life working together in intricate harmony.

Without gravity, this remarkable system could not exist. Nothing would stay in place - not the atmosphere we breathe, not the water we drink, not the fertile ground that produces our food. Everything would drift away into the void of space.

These are not random accidents of nature,

but carefully orchestrated systems that point to divine design. The complexity found in even the smallest sample of soil reveals an intelligence and purposefulness that defies evolutionary explanations.

In our modern world of concrete, asphalt, and technology, we have become disconnected from the earth God created. We walk over it daily without considering the miraculous processes happening beneath our feet. We take for granted the invisible force that holds us securely to the ground.

Scripture reminds us that man was formed from the dust of the earth, and to dust we shall return (Genesis 3:19, Ecclesiastes 12:7). This connection to the soil is not merely poetic - it is literal and profound. The same elements that make up our bodies are found in the earth, a testament to our Creator's unified design.

As Christians, we are called to be stewards of God's creation. That stewardship begins with recognizing the gifts we have been freely given - gifts like fertile soil and the gravitational force that sustains all life on this planet. These are provisions from a loving Father who designed a world perfectly suited for human flourishing.

Let us not lose our sense of wonder at the ordinary miracles surrounding us. Remember that even the ground itself is evidence of God's provision and creative power.

God Bless You!

BRO. ALLAN ☺

See You At The Pole
September 23, 2026





No Workers' Conference
in September.
We will see you at the
Annual Meeting
on September 14-15,
2026



Associational Information
Phone #: 417-847-2820
(fax is the same)
Address: 3004 Main Street
Cassville, MO 65625
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A new session of GriefShare will begin
Tuesday, September 1st, lasting twelve
sessions, at FB Cassville from 6:00 - 8:00
p.m. and will be led by Mary Woods.



Roaring River Campers' Church
9:00 - 9:30 a.m.
Roaring River Amphitheater

September 6th - Pleasant Ridge
13th - Jerry Williams
20th - Kyle Snow
27th - Gerald Kirkpatrick

Attendance: 7/19-17, 7/26-34, 8/2-5,
8/9-23, 8/16-21, 8/23-10

Office will be closed on
September 7th for Labor
Day and then again on
September 16th.



One Hundred Forty-Third Annual Meeting
of the Barry County Southern Baptist Association
First Baptist Church Purdy

Session 1 - 6:15 p.m.
Monday evening, September 14th

Session 2 - 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday morning, September 15th
(carry-in lunch follows this session)

Session 3 - 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday evening, September 15th

BETTERMAN B
Men's Conference
8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
September 19, 2026
Neosho Civic Center
109 W Main Street
Neosho, MO

For more info email:
zwmartin54@gmail.com, avhouk@gmail.com or
danielshilling@gmail.com



*October Workers'
Conference is on the
15th at FB Washburn.

BAPTIST HILL ASSEMBLY
9319 HWY V, MT. VERNON, MO

ADULT RETREAT

MONDAY 9:30-THURSDAY 11:00
SEPTEMBER 14-17, 2026
REGISTRATION FEE \$90.00

TUESDAY EVENT

SEPTEMBER 15, 2026, 9:00-4:00
(FREE FOR SENIORS)

BIBLE & MISSION STUDIES
WORSHIP & PRAISE HOUR
CHOIR & SPECIAL MUSIC
MEALS & FELLOWSHIP

Make plans to join us.
Register online at
baptisthill1@aol.com
Or
Mail registration to-
Baptist Hill, PO Box 491
Mount Vernon, MO 65712
Call (417) 466-3034 for
more information

**TRUST IN
THE LORD**
PROVERBS 3:5