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for you, your church, or your ministry

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I feel sorry for those poor people who live in Hawaii. All of that sun and those perfect temperatures, they never get to experience “real” weather to really know exactly how good they have it! How sad! But not for us. After this long, cold, dark and snowy winter, I am so thankful and appreciative for warmer temperatures and the earth budding back to life.

Just like the weather has seasons, we all have seasons in our life. Some of them are warm and sunny, others dark, cold and lonely. While I cannot magically transport you from one season to the other, I can assure you that even in the cold, dark, rainy seasons, the Lord is still at work and He has not left you.

I am reminded of this trust when I recall years ago, I was a young eager pastor, looking to make my mark on the world. I equated that to being a pastor at a “big” church. When that church came calling, it was the current senior pastor of that church on the other end of the line. He was planning on retiring soon and wanted me to become the associate pastor for a few months and then I could step in his place.

Now this was never official, the church never voted on the transition; it was just a gentlemen’s agreement. One that apparently the Lord did not ratify. Within a matter of months it became clear he did not want me to succeed him (and looking back, I was probably not ready.) Nonetheless, I kept holding on, believing the Lord had called me to become pastor, but after a couple of years, I resigned and moved on.

That season has haunted me for almost twenty years. I have always looked back wondering, “What did I do wrong?” “Where was God in that season?” Just a few weeks ago I finally received a partial answer.

I was invited to preach back at First Baptist Church of Branson, the church I had served as senior pastor for ten years before joining the Foundation. As I entered, the building was buzzing with excitement as the church had entered a new phase of growth since my departure. The growth was the result of the new pastor, the one who had been my associate there for five years.

You see what I experienced 20 years ago was about preparing me to be ready to step away as the “older” pastor rather than me being the “younger” one. Those dark days for me back then, led me to a bright future today.

This life is truly just the beginning of the beginning. So hold on tight; another great season is upon us all.

  
Dr. Neil Franks



## ATTENTION ALL MISSOURI BAPTISTS!

The Missouri Baptist Foundation recognizes the importance of your call and our call to Advance the Gospel. This is why it is our goal that **every Missouri Baptist have an estate plan that remembers a Gospel advancing ministry**. One of the ways the Foundation accomplishes this goal is by assisting you with Estate Planning strategies. We will present to your church or have a one-on-one private conversation with you as you steward the resources entrusted to you. Call us today to schedule an appointment.

## ATTENTION ALL MISSOURI BAPTIST CHURCHES!

As a former pastor, Dr. Neil Franks, President of MBF, recognizes that a Financial Strategy Design may be just what is needed to move your church from holding resources to being responsible managers. Dr. Franks will meet with the Church Pastor or Church Stewardship Team to discuss opportunities to **Advance the Gospel Today, Tomorrow, and Ten Thousand Tomorrows**.



## Financial Planning Strategy Tools



**The Missouri Baptist Foundation** was founded in 1946 to “strengthen the mission and ministry efforts of Missouri Baptists.” Today, MBF has never been more committed to that purpose. Governed by a Board of Trustees elected by the Missouri Baptist Convention, the MBF team is available to meet with any Missouri Baptist church, individual, or ministry across the state who is interested in making a Kingdom impact. As a ministry of the Cooperative Program, there is no charge for utilizing our planning services. You can learn more by visiting [www.mbf.org](http://www.mbf.org), emailing [mbfoundation@mbfn.org](mailto:mbfoundation@mbfn.org) or calling 573.761.0717 or 1.800.776.0747.

## MBF BOARD MEMBER FEATURE

### Bill Friese, Jr. - 2nd Vice Chairman

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Every quarter we want to introduce you to a member of our wonderful Board of Trustees. This month we highlight the service of Mr. William (Bill) Friese. Mr. Friese serves as Second Vice Chairman of the MBF Board of Trustees and as Chairman of the Foundation's Development and Promotions Committee.

Bill married his wife, Sharon, 45 years ago and they have been blessed to have two children, Jennifer and William, II. He is even more blessed by having two of the best grandchildren around. If you don't believe it, just ask him.

Bill serves as a bi-vocational pastor, and is employed by Executive Financial Group where he serves as a financial services representative specializing in insurance. He is also a Navy veteran having completed two tours of duty in Vietnam during his ten years of service to our country. He is active in his church and in his neighborhood.

Just recently he began helping a neighbor child with their bicycle, which led to a conversation with their family, which led to a conversation about Jesus, which led them to receiving Jesus as their Lord and Savior and led them to church membership. All because of a bicycle.

Not surprisingly, Bill likes mechanical things like restoring old cars, and building race engines for cars and boats. He loves fishing, has been known to enjoy a good swim, and is truly a people person.



## MBF STAFF MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

### Charles Miller, Accountant

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A new face to join Missouri Baptist Foundation is Charles Miller. He began with MBF in November 2018 after relocating to Missouri from Illinois. Charles brings a substantial amount of experience in finance with a bachelor's degree in Accounting from Greenville University. He has worked in the banking field for 31 years with the last nine years as an internal auditor of a bank in Hillsboro, Illinois. During his years in banking, Charles performed accounting and reconciliation duties for the administration.

Charles, and his wife, Deb, have been married for 30 years, with two grown children, Kayla (24) and Ron (21). They also have three grandchildren, whom they love to spoil. Charles and Deb are active members of their church, singing in the choir, leading a small group Bible study, and assisting their pastor with special projects. They recently returned from participating in a mission trip their church took to Costa Rica where they assisted in worship and construction projects with a local missionary in San Jose and remote villages.

After living their entire lives in Illinois, God opened the door for them to move to Jefferson City. Charles appreciates the opportunity to serve clients of the Missouri Baptist Foundation.

If you have any accounting questions, please feel free to reach out to Charles; he will be happy to assist you! He can be reached at extension 523.



# HOW WE CAN HELP

FINANCIAL STRATEGY DESIGN

ESTATE & GIFT PLANNING

ASSET GROWTH

TRUSTEE SERVICES

CHURCH LOANS

GENEROSITY EDUCATION



## CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

### THIS DONATION GENERATES INCOME



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