

: REMISSION Conference Update

From: M Bret Blackford (bret_blackford@yahoo.com)

To: bret_blackford@yahoo.com

Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 at 10:38 AM CST

Some additional thoughts and takeaways (some of my notes):

As a church (faith tradition) have we lost our mission?

- we went from - we are the only ones saved
- to - no one is lost (people don't need saving)

do we have overprepared ministers (do we only hire people with masters of divinity)?

do we have underprepared elders (leaders with limited guidance and clear expectations)

Do we have people converted to a church and not to Christ (the name on the building is most important)?

Do we have people converted to Christ and not the Church (campus and Youth ministry)?

You can't spend 5-minutes with God in the morning and then spend 2 hours on cable news and expect to have a balanced perspective. You will have a masters-level understanding of American politics but an elementary understanding of Christianity.

We often read the book of Acts to remember how powerful God used to be.

Our faith tradition has often taught the Trinity as: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Bible.

Having a rational faith is good and necessary, but not sufficient without an understanding of God's Spirit.

Conferences such as these also allow us to meet others in our faith tradition we can discuss topics and learn from. Example, Dr. Evertt Hufford from Harding, Dr. Carson Reed, and others. Knowledgeable men we respect who are available for discussions and questions, like the prior divorce of an elder.

Conferences allow us to socialize with others in our faith community. Example, Jason Mundie, prior Lead Minister candidate.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: M Bret Blackford <bret_blackford@yahoo.com>

To: MX MXElders <mxelders@mcknightcrossings.org>; Mxministers Blackford <mxministers@mcknightcrossings.org>

Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 03:18:51 PM CST

Brad, Dave, Steve W.,

The McKnight leadership team (minus you three) is returning from two days at the [REMISSION](https://www.remissionconnect.org/) seminar/conference (<https://www.remissionconnect.org/>), hosted by the Pleasant Valley Church of Christ in Little Rock, Arkansas.

I feel comfortable speaking for those who attended (ministers Andrew Owens, Nathan Stricklan, Devin Daniel, and shepherds Bret Blackford, Jeff McGlawn, and Steve Awtrey) in saying that this was a very positive experience and well worth the time and expense. It has been years since I've participated in anything similar, and it was truly a blessing to spend time with brothers and sisters learning, worshiping, and encouraging one another.

Just as meaningful was the extended time together—especially the car time with Steve Awtrey and Jeff McGlawn—which allowed for good conversation, reflection, and fellowship. **I would strongly recommend that we try to do something like this every couple of years.**

There is much for me to process and pray about and I hope we can find ways to build on the vision, joy, and conviction that those who attended experienced.

Our God is good, amazing, and worthy of our praise.

— Bret

P.S. For the record, here's the playlist I *forced* McGlawn and Awtrey to suffer through 😊 ...

- [Schubert: 4 Impromptus](#) performed by Mitsuko Uchida
- [Grey Street](#) by Dave Mathews
- [Planet Claire](#) by the B-52s
- [Shaking the Tree](#) by Peter Gabriel
- [Du måste finnas](#) by Helen Sjöholm <== this one always makes me cry

