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THE GREATER WABASH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

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Volume 48 Issue 1

Briefs from Brent

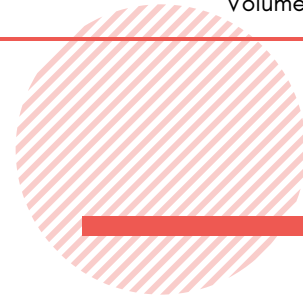
Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." At the Southern Baptist Convention in 1978 our SBC president, Jimmy R. Allen reminded us that the opposite is also true by preaching a sermon entitled "Where there is a vision, the people flourish". His sermon preached 47 years ago from a proverb written 3000 years ago is as true today as it was then.

We live in a world that is perishing because it lacks the faith and desire to see and follow God. We are so focused on ourselves that we can only see ourselves and even though we may be floundering in our pursuits we keep following them. Or perhaps worse still, we are following the propaganda of others whose desire is to use us to accomplish their visions of power, and passions, and economic success. It does not matter to them if we perish so long as we help their dreams to flourish. That is the history of mankind. It is a vicious cycle and the only way to stop this centrifugal force is to discover faith in and to follow an eternal and loving God.

That is why Jesus came into our world. Jesus was God himself. He was Emmanuel which means "God with us." The coming of Jesus was God dwelling among us in grace and graciousness. The world into which Jesus was born was every bit as wicked and harsh as ours. It was a world controlled by the powerful who not only had little regard for the weak but who often dealt viciously with the weak. It was an unfair world in which human weaknesses were exploited. Jesus looked at this world and said that the people "were like sheep without a shepherd" which means they were perishing rather than flourishing.

Jesus confronted this world in both word and deed. He spoke truth both in the streets and in the synagogues. When people balked at the truth, He told stories and asked questions that pointed out their sin and caused them to take account of their lives. Jesus found ways to help those who were perishing to flourish. He cast out demons. He healed the sick. He fed the hungry. He was honest with people about their sins, but He did not ostracize them. Rather He called them to repentance and offered them forgiveness. In a world that was full of greed Jesus was sacrificial. Jesus loved everyone, even the worst of sinners. In an act of tremendous love Jesus sacrificed His own life by execution on a cross so that lost and sinful people of all ages could experience life abundant and eternal. Jesus died so that those who were perishing could flourish.

I think that in 2025 we need to grasp a fresh understanding of Jesus and obtain His vision of helping people to flourish.



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Baptisms

It is wonderful to see how the Lord continues to work in our churches.

FBC Fairfield

First Baptist Church of Fairfield celebrated the baptisms of Shirley Meyers and April Coleman on Sunday, December 15th. This was not only a day of spiritual celebration but also a significant family moment as mother and daughter were baptized on the same day. April is Shirley's daughter.



Olive Branch



The Olive Branch Baptist Church is rejoicing with a new believer and new church member Karla Kurtz. Karla is pictured being baptized by Pastor Steve Hamson.

If your church has baptism pictures to share,
please send them to us so we can rejoice with you.

GWBA Missions Day

We are Missionary Baptists and we believe that every Christian can be involved in missions. We are looking forward to GWBA Missions Day which will be held on Saturday, March 22nd. We envision this being a day when people of all ages can be involved in a mission project. First Baptist Church in Fairfield will be our host church. Registration will begin at 8:30, with mission assignments beginning at 9:00. Everyone will return to the church by 12:00 where a meal will be provided and we will have a time of missions sharing.

Our hope is that we will have mission projects in several of our local church communities. To make this come to fruition we need our churches to identify projects in their communities that a group of people could help with. These projects need to be something that can be completed in a two or two-and-half hour time span. This could be a service project. It could be helping a particular family with a need they have. We need you to think broadly and think creatively.

In addition to the teams going out into our church communities, there will be one project done within the walls of First Baptist Church. That group will be assembling food boxes. At the conclusion of the Missions Day those boxes will be sent home with the participating churches to distribute in their communities.

Therefore we need each church to consider and plan who they might take food boxes to so we can assemble the correct number of boxes.

Our Missions and Ministry team is working on this event and we will be communicating more about this. For now, we need you to communicate with us about a project in your church that a missions group can help with.



A Word of Thanks

The GWBA staff would like to express our appreciation for the Christmas bonuses we received. As always, we have a great love for our association and enjoy serving the great people and churches.

Please let us know if your church is having a special event so we can share the information with the GWBA audience.

GWBA Camp Month



February is Camp Month!

GWBA's Church Camp at Lake Sallateeska in July is our biggest event each year! During the month of February, we are asking churches in the association to take a special offering for church camp. The offering will help offset the rising costs for campers and staffers as well as providing scholarships for campers who may not be able to afford the camp fees.

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Donations can be mailed to or dropped off at the GWBA office. Please make a note that the gift is for camp ministry.

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Donating to GWBA's camp ministry will allow young people to experience God and have their lives changed!

618-599-5059 |

GWBA

| 101 NE 7th St, Fairfield, IL 62837

Thank you for supporting GWBA's Camp

Church Growth

Not all our churches publicize a record of their attendance and giving, but Sims Missionary Baptist Church still has a "scoreboard." I think it is good to note that three years ago the scoreboard displayed an attendance of 10-12 and an offering half this amount. We are grateful for the leadership of pastor Daniel Bradley and the renewed interest in the Lord's work in Sims.



GWBA - January Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 **Elizabeth Rhinehart** (celebrating 1 year at Carmi FBC)
- 5 **Drake and Alyssa Caudill**
- 6 **David Harl** (celebrating 5 years at Fairfield FBC)
- 12 **Joanna Harl**
- 15 **Steve Hamson**
- 15 **Daniel Bradley** (celebrating 2 years at Sims)
- 20 **Vanessa Kiser** (celebrating 5 years at Carmi FBC)
- 25 **Paxton Smith**
- 29 **Elizabeth Rhinehart**

Did You Know?

Greater Wabash Baptist Association has a website. Have you checked it out?

greaterwabash.org

We're also on Facebook.

Treasurer's Report			
November 2024			
General Fund Income		General Fund Expenses	
	Amount		Amount
Arrington Prairie Baptist Church	\$ -	AMS Health Life Retirement	\$ 1,907.83
Crossville Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 250.00	AMS Salary	\$ 2,885.61
Ellis Mound Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 384.16	Meeting Expense	\$ -
Elm River Baptist Church	\$ -	Office Expense	\$ 178.86
First Baptist Church, Albion	\$ 885.77	Office Supplies	\$ -
First Baptist Church, Carmi	\$ 575.00	Telephone	\$ 100.82
First Baptist Church, Fairfield	\$ 100.00	Utilities	\$ 146.63
First Baptist Church, Grayville	\$ 167.00	Administrative Assistant Salary	\$ 450.00
First Baptist Church, Mt. Carmel	\$ 250.00	AMS Hospitality	\$ -
Jasper Baptist Church	\$ -	Christmas Bonus	\$ -
Keenes Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 430.00	Convention Expense	\$ 308.71
Liberty Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 293.00	Payroll Taxes	\$ 53.56
Mill Shoals Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 291.00	Staff Mileage	\$ 557.44
Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church	\$ -	Treasurer Salary	\$ 250.00
North Side Baptist Church, Fairfield	\$ 454.20	Improvements Repair New Equipment	\$ 30.00
Northside Missionary Baptist Church, Grayville	\$ 250.00	Benevolence	\$ -
Olive Branch Missionary Baptist	\$ 300.00	Leadership Development	\$ -
Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist	\$ 325.00	Mission Development	\$ -
Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 150.00	Payroll Liabilities	\$ (179.71)
Samaria Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 889.00	Student Ministry/Camp	\$ -
Sims Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 323.96	WMU	\$ -
Stewart Street Baptist Church	\$ 147.80	Postage	\$ -
Ten Post Oak Missionary Baptist Church	\$ -	Associational Clerk Salary	\$ -
Wayne City Baptist Church	\$ 287.92	Insurance	\$ 391.02
Miscellaneous	\$ 50.00	Total General Fund Expenses	\$ 7,080.77
Misc. Transfer from Special Accounts	\$ 617.25		
Total - General Fund	\$7,421.06		
		Associational Missions Bank Balances	
Monthly Income & Transfers	\$ 7,421.06	General Fund Balance - Checking	\$ 729.86
Previous Balance	\$ 656.82	Special Gifts - Designated Savings	\$47,259.58
Expenses	\$ 7,348.02	Total	\$47,989.44
General Fund Balance	\$ 729.86		
Special Gifts Income		Special Gifts Expense	
Camp	\$ -	Camp	\$ -
Disaster Relief	\$ 150.00	Disaster Relief	\$ 267.25
Mission Fund	\$ -	Mission Fund	\$ -
New Equipment	\$ -	New Equipment	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 1.89	Miscellaneous Transfer	\$ -
Total	\$ 151.89	Total Special Gifts Expense	\$ 267.25

If you have used literature, please make arrangements to bring it to the office or contact Brent at 618-599-5059.

He periodically takes a load of these used materials to Love Packages where the items will be packaged and shipped to other nations that can use them.