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Volume 57, Number 9

Michigan's Baptist Beacon



REKINDLE

THE GIFT OF GOD THAT IS WITHIN YOU*

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION OF MICHIGAN
Tuesday, October 29 – Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Hosted By
Cedar Street Church
1705 Cedar Street,
Holt, MI 48842



Convention Hotel
Best Western, Lansing 517.694.8123
Special Rate: \$92.50 (Baptist State Convention Rate Until 10.7.13)

For More Information
www.AnnualMeeting.bscm.org - www.MichiganBaptists.org - 810.714.1907

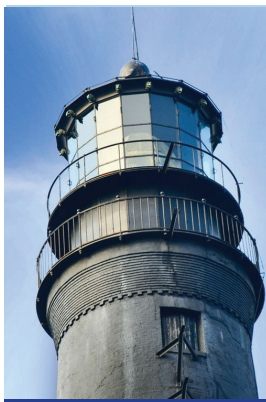


**BAPTIST STATE
CONVENTION of
MICHIGAN**

#Rekindle13



*2 TIM 1:6



Baptist BEACON

'Rekindle' Annual Meeting set for October 29-30 in Holt

Everything you need to know about the 56th annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan: schedule, hotels, and more!

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Newsjournal of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan •

Volume 57, Number 9 •

October 2013 •

www.MichiganBaptists.org

CEC provides resources for Michigan Church Leaders

BY JONATHAN GUENTHER
Managing Editor

ROSEVILLE — Michigan Baptist ministers and lay leaders participated in the second annual Church Equipping Conference, which was held on Saturday, September 14 at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Roseville.

The eight-hour event was designed to provide training and guidance in a variety of areas of ministry.

"As a convention of churches, we want to resource the vision of our churches to be more effective reaching their communities," said Bobby Gilstrap, Lead Missionary and Executive Director of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan. "The Church Equipping Conference is just one of the ways our churches have partnered to accomplish this task."

The conference featured keynote speaker Dr. Jeff Iorg, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, California. Dr. Iorg shared insights from Acts on the church at Antioch and how this early church relates to Michigan churches today.

"What does it mean to be a church that is healthy, growing, and making an impact on the world?" Iorg asked during his keynote.

Iorg followed his question with practical advice and encouragement for attendees.

"When the Holy Spirit speaks through a worship service, it's not always through the preacher," Iorg said.

Emphasizing the need to be

empowered by the Holy Spirit, the ability to change and be open to new things, and the need to prioritize winning the lost to Christ, Iorg began the CEC with an empowering message.

"My excitement in ministry was taken to an even higher level!" Kevin Hester, pastor of The Shore Church in St. Joseph wrote on Twitter.

"Thanks so much for your powerful messages and wisdom," Hester wrote to Iorg.

Following the keynote, over 50 workshops were offered in five sessions. Topics included missions, evangelism, prayer, childhood and student ministries, leadership, church health, administration, worship, church starting, and more. Twenty-three leaders from nine states traveled to Michigan for the conference.

"This year's Church Equipping Conference provided... practical workshops by top caliber leaders from across the nation," Gilstrap said.

"I loved seeing our church leaders from Michigan and workshop leaders from other states getting together after the workshops and sharing ideas and contact information for ongoing communication," said Bob Wood, State Church Strengthening Missionary and primary organizer of the conference. "I was encouraged to see leaders from all over Michigan come together with a common goal of being better equipped to advance God's kingdom."

"The Church Equipping Conference is quickly becoming the premiere training event for Michigan

Baptist Churches," Gilstrap added. "Michigan Baptists' leaders were resourced to be more effective in their roles to serve their churches."

Iorg shared in his sentiment regarding the conference.

"CEC is an outstanding event that helps churches improve in a variety of areas - from practical methods for evangelism to legal protections for ministry volunteers," Iorg said. "The menu of training opportunities offers something for every church, no matter the size or cultural background."

Plans for the 2014 Church Equipping Conference are already underway. The conference will return to Cornerstone Baptist in Roseville, and will be held September 13, 2014. Tom Elliff, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board, will be the keynote speaker. ■



Dr. Jeff Iorg, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, during the Church Equipping Conference keynote.

Annual Meeting to be held in October

BY JONATHAN GUENTHER
Managing Editor

HOLT — In just a few weeks, Baptists from all over Michigan will convene for "Rekindle," the Baptist State Convention of Michigan's 56th annual meeting.

The two-day convention, held at Cedar Street Church in Holt, will focus on celebrating church starting, church strengthening, and church mobilization.

The theme for this year's convention is Rekindle, inviting attendees to rekindle the gift of God within them.

"We need a time of rekindling, of revival, in Michigan," said Bobby Gilstrap, Lead Missionary and Executive Director of the Baptist Convention of Michigan. "We need a fresh move of God now more than ever before. This will be our focus at the Annual Meeting as we celebrate what God is doing."

The meeting will feature several guest speakers; testimonies from those involved in church starting, strengthening, and mobilization; networking opportunities; congregational worship; and more.

Several items of business are also on the agenda. New officers will be elected and messengers will vote on a proposed constitution and the 2014 budget.

Speakers include Gilstrap; Michael Collins, former BSCM Execu-

tive Director; Larry Allen, Pastor of Warren Woods Baptist Church in Warren and BSCM President; and Scott Blanchard, Pastor of Lakepointe Church in Clinton.

On Wednesday, October 30, special lunch sessions for minister's wives and church starters will be held, presenting a networking opportunity.

The annual meeting begins on Tuesday, October 29 at 5:45 p.m. and continues through 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 30.

Those interested in attending are eligible for a discounted lodging rate at the Best Western in Lansing. The Baptist State Convention rate of \$92.50 is available to those who reserve a room on or before October 7. Reservations may be made by calling the hotel at (517) 694-8123 and requesting the special Baptist State Convention rate.

For those unable to attend in person, most of the proceedings will be broadcasted online at www.AnnualMeeting.bscm.org.

To follow the convention on Twitter, use hashtag #Rekindle13 or follow the Michigan Baptists Twitter account, @MichiganSBC. ■

For more information on the Annual Meeting, see the editorial columns on page 5 and conference schedule on page 9, or visit the annual meeting website at www.AnnualMeeting.bscm.org.

Michigander makes America's Got Talent

BY GRACE THORNTON
Baptist Beacon

Sean Panikkar wanted to be an engineer. He didn't really want to sing — he just saw it as a way to pad his resumé to get in good with the University of Michigan.

He also didn't have much pull toward Jesus, or spiritual things in general for that matter.

So imagine his surprise when he got swept away by singing — and by Jesus.

Now, more than a decade later, Panikkar has been praying for Christ to shine through him as he has competed as part of an opera trio on the

hit TV show *America's Got Talent*. The tenor trio Forte — made up of Panikkar, Josh Page and Fernando Varela — came in fourth in the competition, which ended Sept. 18.



SEAN PANIKKAR

Sean was "invited to be a part of a very large stage, which happens to be cast with shadows and darkness," said Bert Spann, pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church, Saline, where Panikkar is a member. "I believe that is strategically where the Lord wants the brightest lights. Sean is a mouthpiece, a voice, for the Savior He

See PANIKKAR on page 3



Above, Darrell Whipple leads a session on church worship. Below, Christy Hudson leads a session on raising healthy children.



Above, Mark Jones leads a session on children's ministry. Below, conference attendees discuss the day following the Pastor's Lunch.



Above, Nathan Platt and the Cornerstone Baptist Worship Team lead worship for over 400 attendees in the morning session.



Above left, Dr. Jeff Iorg talks with Pastor John Coin. Above right, Darryl Gaddy and Roberto Santos meet after the Pastor's Lunch. Below, Gary Frost leads a session entitled "Building a Praying Church."



THE BAPTIST BEACON

Official publication of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan,
in association with the Southern Baptist Convention

Editor: Bobby Gilstrap – bgilstrap@bscm.org

Managing Editor: Jonathan Guenther – beacon@bscm.org

The Baptist Beacon:
Telling the stories
of what God is doing
through His people
in Michigan and
Around the World,
plus
Helping Resource
the Vision of your
Church!

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CEC Tweets #2013CEC

John Botkin @johnbotkin

With an easy style & soft voice @Jeff_Iorg is taking apart common, ineffective evangelism & providing something better #2013CEC

David Bond @DavidBond72

Having a great time teaching for Michigan Baptists...powerful equipping conference for churches #2013CEC

Carlos Liese @liese1000

If u do ministry in obscurity, remember God values the people that nobody sees.

James Augustine @PastorJim1970

A great day of training at the Church Equipping Conference in the Detroit Area! #2013cec

Tony Lynn @SECONDHANDfaith

@Jeff_Iorg @bobby_gilstrap Thank you for the Church Equipping Conference. Our people were inspired. New goals are being set. Praying 4 U!

Kevin Hester @Kevin_Hester

@Jeff_Iorg Thanks so much for your powerful messages and wisdom. My excitement in ministry was taken to an even higher level!

MI Disaster Relief @MISBDR

We all had a great time Friday and Saturday working and serving lunch at the Church Equipping Conference. A GREAT crew of 23 volunteers participated over the 2 days and it was a blessing being together for 'not' a disaster.

PANIKKAR

from page 1

for the Savior He loves.”

It's a “thrill,” Spann said, to know Panikkar's “beautiful singing brings glory to our Lord, even in the strangest places.”

Panikkar said he sees his new limelight as nothing but an opportunity to radiate Christ.

“None of this would be possible without God, and all this started happening after I accepted Christ,” Panikkar said. “One of the things that is commented about a lot online is how I smile while singing.”

It's a sign of something deeper — a marker of the joy he's been given, he said.

And he's grateful that it shows. After all, a good smile is the way he met Jesus in the first place — a smile on the face of Jane Arvidson, a fellow member of the University Choir at the University of Michigan.

She radiated the joy she had in Christ, and “I literally couldn't take my eyes off of her. The thing that struck me was that she was always really happy,” Panikkar said. “I finally got up the courage to introduce myself to her later that week, and I sent her a follow-up email telling her how refreshing it was to see somebody who smiled all the time.”

She responded with a short email that simply said she smiled because Jesus loved her.

‘I just broke down’

“I immediately thought she was a Jesus freak,” Panikkar said. His mother had grown up Hindu and his father Buddhist in Sri Lanka, so “nothing was really discussed extensively, so I didn't grow up thinking I needed to follow one way or another.”

But as Panikkar got to know Arvidson, and as she backed up her strong convictions with solid answers to



Sean Panikkar, a member of Fellowship Baptist Church, Saline, joined Fernando Varela and Josh Page as part of the opera tenor trio Forte, which has progressed to the semifinals of ‘America's Got Talent.’ He says it is an opportunity to influence others for Christ.

his questions, his false ideas of who Jesus was began to crumble, he said.

He even went to church with her at Fellowship Baptist — and saw other people there who smiled like she did.

Finally over Christmas break of their sophomore year, Panikkar sat in his apartment and opened a children's tract she had given him.

“I opened it, and I just broke down,” he said. “After all the debates and the different books, this little tract explained how simple it was to accept the free gift of Christ. I knelt down and accepted Christ into my heart.”

That's when things began to change, Panikkar said.

“Shortly after that, I started to be recognized more and more for my singing ability and I began to feel led in that direction,” he said. “Doors began opening for me, and even though I had never dreamed of pursuing music, I began to be given opportunities.”

It's something he never would've imagined as a shy kid whose parents accused him of lip synching in choir concerts — they had never

heard him sing. “I was embarrassed to sing, so to avoid practicing at home, I just had a voice lesson every day,” Panikkar said.

One lesson led to another, which led to the next thing and the next. He was accepted to the University of Michigan's music program as a dual major in music and civil engineering — his lifelong dream, after all, was to own a construction company. Music was just a resumé builder.

But after he met Arvidson and opened the door of his heart to Jesus, Julliard came knocking, too — as well as the Manhattan School of Music and the Academy of Vocal Arts.

Panikkar turned them all down to stay and get his master's at the University of Michigan — and stay near Arvidson.

Not too long after, the two were married. Eight years later, they have two children — Maria, 4, and Mark, 1.

Jane is the music director at Fellowship Baptist.

And whenever Panikkar performs, Jane prays the words of a hymn over him — “Take my voice and let it be consecrated Lord to thee,” substituting his name in the lyrics.

Singing to glorify God

“My wife has been my prayer warrior from the beginning,” Panikkar said. “Every time I open my mouth to sing, I pray that God would be glorified and that I would give my best for His glory, not my ego.”

His relationship with Christ has enabled him to sing to glorify God rather than focus on himself, he said. That's helped as he's been thrust even more in the limelight through “America's Got Talent.”

Panikkar had just gotten home from singing “La Boheme” in Texas when he got a “very strange” email that a crossover tenor group

on “America's Got Talent” was interested in him. The trio, Forte, had advanced to the next round at their audition then learned one of their members was ineligible to compete because he wasn't a U.S. citizen.

They found Panikkar while scouring the Internet, and he flew to New York to meet them.

“This was about a week before the second round of ‘America's Got Talent,’” he said. “They invited me into the group, but I waited to fly home and pray with my wife before eventually saying yes.”

After praying about it, they believed it would put him in a position where he could influence more people for Christ, so he said yes.

“I don't know what the competition holds for us in the coming rounds. We may be eliminated in the semifinals,” Panikkar said.

Spann said it has been thrilling for Panikkar's friends and family to hear him sing on a national stage but that the “greatest thrill” is when he sings as part of the praise team at Fellowship Baptist.

“We get to hear what the world pays top dollar to hear, and the words are directed to His Heavenly Father,” he said.

Panikkar said he sings for God, and anything else that comes along is just icing on the cake.

“Anything that happens with Forte and ‘America's Got Talent’ is an added bonus,” he said. “God has blessed me with an incredible opera career that takes me to places I never dreamed of going, an amazing wife and two beautiful, healthy children. I look at them and just think, ‘God is so good.’” ■

CHURCH UPDATE

Tell us about your new Pastor, an evangelistic outreach event, a mission trip, or something else that you'd like to share with our convention of churches.

Send updates about your church to:
beacon@bscm.org



ESTATE PLANNING FOR NEW PARENTS

You've thought of all the details in preparing for the birth of your new baby. The birth of a new child is a good time to create or update an estate plan.

The Foundation helps hundreds of families each year with their estate plans, which allows parents to name a legal guardian for their children.

The Foundation also has a legal fees reimbursement plan if you want to leave a gift in your estate plan to a Southern Baptist Ministry.



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BOBBY'S BITS

From CEC to Rekindle

We had another great Church Equipping Conference. Look at what some are saying:

- The CEC "...offered knowledgeable presenters and a variety of subjects." – Ginger Tracy, Children's Worker, Anchor Baptist, Grand Rapids
 - "It is a great experience and I highly recommend going annually." – Brandon Awrey, Evangelism, Community Baptist, Hastings
 - "A must for every church leader" – Frank Draganic, youth leader, Raisinville Baptist, Monroe
 - "This conference is the best I have attended, especially for the price. The content of every workshop was first rate. There was something for just about every spiritual need." – Pastor Jordan Germando, The Master's Bible Chapel, Southfield
 - "I feel that is vital that anyone working in their church, on any level, should attend for a new fresh perspective and if nothing else an uplifting experience!" – Kathy Feltner, Treasurer, Youth Leader, North Prospect Baptist, Ypsilanti
- Our keynote speaker, Jeff Iorg, presi-



BOBBY GILSTRAP
Lead State Missionary
Baptist State
Convention of Michigan

dent of Golden Gate Seminary, wrote me with his impression of the conference. He said,

"The CEC is an outstanding event that helps churches improve in a variety of areas – from practical methods for evangelism to legal protections for ministry volunteers. The menu of training opportunities offers something for every church, no matter their size or cultural background. In a social media world, actually getting together with hundreds of other committed Christians is encouraging and builds momentum for the future."

Literally hundreds of other church leaders have made similar comments about this year's event. Michigan Baptists can be proud of their missionaries and the Mission-Action Teams that were so vital in planning such a dynamic training event.

Plans for next year's event are already underway. When next September 13, 2014 arrives, we will enjoy another great equipping event. Our keynote speaker will be Tom Elliff, the president for our International Mission Board. Mark your calendar today to bring a load of church leaders to next year's event on September 13, 2014.

Celebrating What We Value

This year's Annual Meeting of the

Baptist State Convention of Michigan will be a celebration of the great things that God is doing across our state. Each of the three sessions will focus on one of our three priority resourcing areas.

The entire celebration will be under the theme of "Rekindle: The Gift of God that is Within You" based on 2 Timothy 1:6. It would be hard to argue that we do not need a rekindling or revival in Michigan. We need it individually and we need it in our churches. I

am convinced that we need a fresh move of God among our churches. We need revival more than ever in our history.

I want to encourage you make plans to join us for this year's annual meeting. Get all the

details that you need at www.Annual-Meeting.bscm.org. If you can't make it, remember we will be streaming almost the entire meeting on the internet.

It is a joy to be your "Partner in Advancing God's Kingdom!" ■

Bobby Gilstrap



bobby_gilstrap



BobbyGilstrap



Make plans to attend the BSCM Annual Meeting

"State Convention? You're going to the State Convention Annual Meeting?" Well, yes, in fact, I am.

Why, you might ask? I go to the Baptist State Convention of Michigan Annual Meeting for a variety of reasons.

First of all, I go because my church and I believe in the Great Commission and we realize it is so much bigger than just us. We realize that in order to see the Great Commission fulfilled here in Michigan, it's going to take a lot more than Warren Woods Baptist Church.

That's why we decided years ago to partner

with the BSCM, in part, for the fulfillment of the Great Commission. At the Annual Meeting, we will celebrate how well we have done with this task in the past twelve months and we will receive challenges to engage in the work more heartily in the future.



LARRY ALLEN
State Convention
President

I go to the BSCM Annual Meeting because it demonstrates unity of the body of Christ. Jesus, when he prayed in John 17, stressed unity in the Body of Christ. He asked that we all be one just as he and the Father are one.

He said the reason for that unity was related to His mission, so that the world would know

that God had sent Him. Unity of the church is a really big deal, and every time I have the opportunity to display it I love to do so. When I am with you at the Annual Meeting we are demonstrating unity.

I go to the BSCM Annual Meeting because I like you guys. Well, at least most of you. No, really, I do like you, and I enjoy the fellowship that is experienced during the Annual Meeting of the State Convention.

There are few things that are better than fellowship with others of God's

family. I enjoy hearing what God is doing in your lives and churches. I love the comradery that is shared in the hallways, in the bookstore, and during meals shared with brothers and sisters.

I love to go to the Annual Meeting of the BSCM because I am fed there. I am fed by your fellowship, but I

am also fed by the preaching I will receive there. I am fed by challenges from our Missionaries both local and international. I even find myself being fed by the reports

and celebration of what God is doing through the ministries of Michigan Baptists around the state.

Finally, I'm going to the Baptist State Convention of Michigan Annual Meeting this year because I'm looking forward to seeing you there. ■

"I go because my church and I believe in the Great Commission and we realize it is so much bigger than us."



TALKING POINTS

@secondhandfaith:

This AM, launching our preparation for <http://harvestamerica.com> on Sept. 28-29.

How do you prepare for revival? Outreach event of the year!

Tony Lynn

@Tentmaker1320:

At BSCM State Office hearing great reports from the Church Starting, Church Strengthening and Church Mobilizing Missions Teams

George Fountain

@PastorJESmithJr:

Imagine how crazy Noah looked building a new thing for something that had never happened before. Be encouraged Pastor!

John Smith

@robfreshour:

\$884 raised for Children's Hunger Fund by auctioning off the art our kids created at The Experience - CRAZY COOL!

@Kevin_Hester:

Very grateful to have the support of @MichiganSBC, @NAMB_SBC Cooperating together we can truly advance God's Kingdom!

Kevin Hester

@johann316:

Ps119:93-i will never forget Your statutes because by them You have saved my life.

Josh Windeler

COOPERATIVE
PROGRAM



'Then I beg you' to send someone to warn my family

In Luke 16:19-31 we read of the Rich Man and Lazarus. Space prevents me from lengthy commentary, but let me mention verses 22-23, "the rich man also died and was buried. And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment ..." Then in verse 27, "And he said, then I beg you, Father, that you send him (Lazarus) to my father's

house that he may warn them, lest they also come to this place of torment."

In Hades the rich man began to pray as he cried for his brothers, that someone would go to them and warn them so they would not come to this terrible place as well. It was too late for him — his eternal destiny was fixed. He couldn't escape the torment,

and no one could come to bring him comfort. While there are a number of truths found in this text, the one truth that rings with clarity and conviction for me today is the cry of a man who is in torment, begging for others to go to his family. Those words pierce my heart and resonate in my mind. I wonder what it will take for me and for us to have that kind of passion for reaching people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Recently a good friend of mine was hospitalized. His family had been called in, being warned that he may not survive the night. I was in the room listening to one of the most impassioned pleas I have ever heard as my friend "begged" his children and grandchildren to be saved. He said, "Listen, this is a win-win situation for me. Either I will get better and go home to Carleton or I will not get better and go home to heaven. I need to know that I will one day see you there

with me. You cannot save yourself. Only Jesus can save you. You must turn to Him in faith, seek His forgiveness of sin, and receive Him as your Savior. There is no other way. He is the only way."



GEORGE FOUNTAIN
BSCM Consultant
Bivocational
Ministries

I listened as Bill pleaded and pleaded. I watched a nurse come into the room caring for Bill and hearing him plead with his family and then leave the room in tears. It was a holy moment as Bill shared the Gospel.

Why Bill was broken-hearted

I stepped to the bed and said to them all, "What is most important to Bill is what you hearing. Our hearts are broken over the possibility of him not being with us at home. Bill's heart is broken over the possibility of you not being with him in heaven."

I wonder to this day, what it will take for us to have this kind of passion to rescue sinners from an eternity in hell? When is the last time you preached or heard a sermon preached on hell? When

was the last time you invited lost people to repent of their sin? Could it be we are more concerned about people occupying seats then we are about people occupying hell? Could it be that we are distracted with such trivial things as worship style, kind of music, appropriate dress, Bible translation, etc.? Could it be that we are ready to fight over such things that have gained even greater attention than presenting the Gospel and pleading with people to "repent and be saved"?

In Hades, he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, "... I beg you ... send him to my father's house — for I have five brothers — that he may warn them."

God break our hearts, bring us to repentance, give us boldness to preach the Gospel and compassion to plead with those listening to repent, believe and be saved. There is hell to shun and heaven to gain, and we are sent to warn them. ■

tentmaker 1320

Tentmaker 1320

ADVERTISING

Youth pastor needed

Oakland Woods Baptist Church, Clarkston is searching for a part time youth pastor to lead, pastor, and disciple our Junior and Senior High school youth. As a church, we are looking for someone who has a heart for the Word of God and a heart for teenagers and their families. Applicant must also pass a background check prior to hiring. For more information or to submit a resume, contact John Phebus at cpcande@att.net.

Church seeking van to purchase

Galilean Baptist Church, Flint, is looking to purchase a church van. The Lord is really blessing the church, and they are in need of a van so they can get those without transportation to Sunday School, worship service and Bible Study. **If you have a van available, please contact Pastor Sean Payne at pastorspayne@yahoo.com.**

Free LifeWay curriculum available

Merriman Road Baptist Church, Garden City, has LifeWay-produced Bible study curriculum from previous quarters that they would like to give to another church or ministry that could use them. Most of the materials follow the Adult Bible Studies for Life series (with guides for young, middle and senior adults), but there are also Explore the Bible and Masterwork series included. There are also materials from the preschool Bible study lessons Bible Teaching for Kids and the youth series called Fuel. **If you are interested in these materials, please contact Dave Ferraro at dave@mrbc.us or call 734-421-0472.**

The Clothes Closet

Faith Baptist Church of Durand
520 Kent Street

Open Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
We have clothing from infant to adult sizes and are available to all those who have a need in Durand and surrounding areas.

For further information, call the church office at 989.288.2117 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday.
Bill Bramlet, pastor

Church Information Packets

are mailed to every staff member once per month and posted online. These contain promotional posters, sign-up sheets, informational articles and more. See: www.MichiganBaptists.org

Did You Know?

You Can Submit your items for publication to the Baptist Beacon by emailing beacon@bscm.org by the 5th of each month for publication in the next issue

Renovated chapel becoming church start in Oscoda

Fresh Start Fellowship is just that: a fresh start with Christ. Pastor Jason Livixx is very excited about the new work in Oscoda. They have received the keys to the old Air Force Chapel, a 20,000-square foot facility, and have begun renovations. The story doesn't end with the building, however; lives are being changed. They have already had a baptismal service and had 55 in attendance last Sunday. Jason and his family have moved into a new home which he has had to remodel, rewire and re-plumb! Wow, talk about one busy guy. He does have an intern missionary



DARREN GREER
Church Starter
Strategist

from Alabama, Ms. Lindsey Moore, who is in the process of canvassing, teaching Bible Study, and planning to start a WMU group. She is a great help to the church plant and to the Livixx family. Lindsey plans to continue her education and is praying about full time missions.

God is doing some amazing things in this little resort town, but you can be a part. Funds are always a necessity for a new plant, but especially here with the major repairs the chapel needs. An example is a portion of the roof must be shored up before winter, which for northern Michigan is just around the

corner. Another major need is for a heating system. There are needs for work teams to clean and do minor repairs. This is one of our own and not too far away. If you or your church feels led to be a part of this ministry please contact Jason at 989 569-3248 or give me (Darren) a call at 989-329-0307. If you feel led to help in other ways there are many needs. Bible study material, WMU magazines or youth and children's supplies would be welcomed and greatly appreciated.

As always, the greatest way we can help is to pray for Jason, his wife Tracy their family and Lindsey. Pray for their stamina, health, and wisdom as they move forward doing God's will in northern Michigan. ■

Motor Cities Metro Association, a newly formed network of Southern Baptist Churches in the northern suburbs of Detroit, now invites applicants for the position of Associational Church Strengtheners/Mobilizers. The MCMA is an autonomous Southern Baptist association not funded by NAMB (North American Mission Board) or any other SBC entity while in cooperation with all including the Baptist State Convention of Michigan. See a detailed job description and résumé submission information at <http://applications.mcmba.net>. Deadline for all résumés is October 30.

Express lane to missions



IMB photo

A young missionary (right) shares the gospel with a man in Latin America. A new International Mission Board missionary program, the Macedonia Project, aims to help others called to long-term missions service get to the field sooner while obtaining the theological education they need.

IMB introduces Macedonia Project to help speed new missionaries to field

You've recently finished college — or maybe you're a mid-career professional — and you sense an urgent call to follow Christ into long-term missions service.

You have the practical skills to make an impact. You have the motivation. You're ready to respond to the Lord's call in obedience right now, as the Apostle Paul responded when he dreamed of the man pleading, "Come over to Macedonia and help us" (Acts 16:9). But you need the theological training required for career missionary appointment.

The Macedonia Project might be the express lane to missions you're looking for. It's a new category of missionary service being developed by the International Mission Board (IMB) in conjunction with Southern Baptist seminaries.

The three- to four-year missions assignment, to be offered under the International Service Corps (ISC) umbrella, will allow apprentice missionaries to live and serve overseas while pursuing theological education online with one of the participating seminaries.

Theological training

At the end of the field term, Macedonia Project missionaries will return to the United States and complete the remainder of their academic curriculum within a year, earning a master of arts degree while continuing to receive a financial stipend. After successfully completing the program, they will be eligible to apply for appointment as full-fledged career missionaries.

"They will be able to press excellent theological training through the grid of practical field experience while at the same time pressing their practical field experience through the grid of their theological training," IMB President Tom Elliff said.

"Those who qualify can complete a graduate degree, apprentice training and language study. The Macedonia Project will add to the ranks of our personnel who are viewed as some of the most passionate and skilled on the globe when it comes to effective missiological practices," Elliff said.

The approach will enable new missionaries to gain real-world experience while building the biblical foundation needed to undergird them for the long term. They will learn theology and missiology "in the laboratory of the field experience — essentially without delaying theological education in order to

gain field experience, nor delaying field experience in order to get theological education," according to the program's introductory statement.

IMB personnel and several Southern Baptist seminaries are talking together about how to design the program while specific field assignments are developed.

The projected time frame calls for candidates to be recruited through the rest of 2013 and early 2014. Qualified applicants will be invited to a special Macedonia Project Expo in summer 2014 for screening and job matching, with as many as 40 to be recommended for ISC appointment and orientation by the fall of 2014.

The IMB is seeking two types of candidates for the program:

1. People just out of college with a long-term missions calling who want to jumpstart their training and get to the field as soon as possible.

2. Well-equipped people already in the professional arena who have valuable skills to offer in missions service but who need seminary training.

The first group comprises "millennials who are moving from college into the professional world and really aren't of the mindset to separate their theological education from their practical experience," said an IMB strategist helping design the program.

"The other group is professionals who feel called to long-term missions. They maybe have professional expertise in teaching or dentistry or medicine or nursing and they want to come with IMB," he said. "They've got experience. They've got a professional degree. The only thing they lack is theological education. They can come via Macedonia and get the education while at the same time getting oriented to missions."

But the Macedonia Project won't be for everyone.

"It's going to be hard," he said. "We're going to give them field training, language training and theological education at the same time. So the bar is going to be high. We're going to assess you very carefully to see if you have the capacity."

"Second, we're going to match people to the right role, the right job. But what we hope to do is design the degree programs where for the first two years they're focusing on biblical studies, which will underscore their own walk with the Lord, their own personal discipleship."

Cooperating seminaries

Participants will work to complete one seminary course per semester, or two per year, while they're on the field. The most academically challenging courses likely will come at the end of the program, when they return to complete degree work on seminary campuses.

Cooperating seminaries will be asked to provide Macedonia Project missionaries a discount in regular tuition for online classes. IMB also will provide study funds to help offset tuition costs.

And the programs won't be identical at each school. One seminary might offer a unique angle on a program that would be attractive to a particular student. Program designers are looking to have a variety of programs a student could choose from to further enrich the type of experience that student receives.

For more information, call IMB initial contacts at 1-888-422-6461 or email initial.contacts@imb.org. Apply for the program through IMB's International Service Corps application process at <http://going.imb.org/2to3yr/isc.asp>. Indicate specific interest in the Macedonia Project. (BP)

"Those who qualify can complete a graduate degree, apprentice training and language study. The Macedonia Project will add to the ranks of our personnel who are viewed as some of the most passionate and skilled on the globe when it comes to effective missiological practices."

International Mission Board President Tom Elliff

World Hunger Sunday calls Baptists to meet physical, spiritual needs

BY JONATHAN GUENTHER
Managing Editor

Worldwide, an estimated 870 million people don't have enough to eat. When Michigan Baptists observe World Hunger Sunday on October 13, they will be invited to do something about it.

A new approach on the World Hunger Fund, known as Global Hunger Relief, seeks to take the WHF's unique "dollar in, dollar out" message to new and wider audiences and to challenge a new generation of believers to personally take Jesus' love to those who are starving, both physically and spiritually.

"Hunger strategies are one of the most effective tools we have in reaching people in need both physically and spiritually," said Jeff Palmer, executive director of the Baptist Global Response international

relief organization. "The simple act of helping people with their basic hunger need has shown over and over to be an effective compassion strategy that also gets us into heart conversations with people who do not know God's love."

In addition to bringing awareness to hunger needs around the globe and educating churchgoers about it, World Hunger Sunday offers several ways for individuals and churches alike to join in the fight against hunger.

Baptists will be encouraged to become involved in a local hunger ministry, to pray for boldness to reach someone in need, and to give to the World Hunger Fund. Designated offerings may be given

through a local church to Global Hunger Relief or through the Baptist State Convention of Michigan directly.

Several resources are offered to churches to help spread the word about World Hunger Sunday. The World Hunger Fund Website, worldhungerfund.com, offers downloadable bulletin inserts, videos, drama scripts, and more.

Baptist Global Response also can arrange for a speaker who has experience in hunger relief for world hunger events or hunger-focused church services. For more information, contact BGR through its website, gobgr.org. ■

"Hunger strategies are one of the most effective tools we have in reaching people in need both physically and spiritually."

Lake St. Helen Baptist Church holds revival and baptismal services

BY MARY LOU HALL
Special to the Baptist Beacon

Am I hearing God's voice? If I am, what am I doing with it?

Lake St. Helen Baptist Church (LSHBC), St. Helen, MI held its sixth annual revival meeting during the week of September 5, 2013. Bobby Gilstrap, Executive Director and Lead State Missionary, led the revival services and posed several questions for those present.

"What has God called you to do?" Gilstrap asked. "Are you refusing to hear God's voice? Have you sat there so long you quit hearing His voice?"

The first evening of revival was taken from Hebrews 3.

"What does God want us to hear?" Gilstrap asked the second evening.

He used Joshua 7 with the theme, Sin in the Camp. He admonished the people to come to God confessing and forsaking their sin so they are

not standing in between their church, community and the lost.

Using Psalm 126:5-6, the message was Cries for Justice – A Passion for Souls. Gilstrap asked, "Who is caring for the souls? Are there things in this world and in my life worth crying over?" He asked, "Is our heart broken (Matthew 9:36)? The harvest is ready to come in. The price has to be paid by brokenness. Tears will move us to toiling in His field."

Pastor Roger Green gave the invitational. The altar was filled with people on their knees, praying to God asking the Lord to make them a vessel, be broken over a lost person and to help them lovingly reach out to people and share Jesus.

Gilstrap ended his revival messages with Mark 11 – the withered fig tree. He titled his message with Why be Fruitful? In summary, the answer is simply because the Lord expects fruitfulness from his disciples, and because the Lord judges fruitfulness.

He said, "We don't want God



Pastor Roger Green baptizes Brian Morrison

saying to us about our lives and our church – 'They honor God with their lips but their hearts are all the time away from me.'"

He questioned, "I wonder how many times God wants to spit us out because of our rituals? Sometimes we get so caught up in our rituals that we don't even know God exists. Playing the game but God isn't in it."

There are fig trees with no figs on them – just leaves. Jesus is still seeking fruit from His people and for us to be fruitless is sin (John 15:16). He commented, "We can pretend, but God sees the heart."

The question is if actions speak louder than words, what are our lives saying about fruitfulness? What does God say about this church? Do people just see leaves or do they see fruit?"

"People are super-charged and ready to go!" declared Pastor Roger Green. He continued, "We had the altar full of people committing themselves to serving God."

The revival services culminated with the baptism of thirteen people, a church picnic and entertainment by the LSHBC Joyful Sound band.

What comes to mind when you visit "up north" in Michigan? Woods? Rivers and streams? When you live in the "north" country, you embrace your surroundings.

Over eighty people gathered on the banks of the AuSable River, located a half hour north of St. Helen, MI. Way back in the Huron National Forest, a baptismal service was held. The frigid waters of the river didn't deter those who came to be baptized, nor the youth and children wanting to swim.

Cindy Potts said of her baptism, "It was quite a humbling experience, and to have everyone witness it proves that no matter what we think or feel, we are not alone."

Those being baptized included a grandmother and her two grandchildren, a mother and daughter, and three generations of the Scott Rice family.

Pastor Green remarked, "These are the days for the foundation of our youth and young people." He prays their memories of the day left a lasting impression upon them.

Am I hearing God's voice? If I am, what am I doing with it? ■

Vacation Bible School JumpStart

LIFEWAY'S
Agency D3
DISCOVER DECIDE DEFEND | PETER 3:15

Saturday, December 7, 2013
9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Baptist State Convention Ministry Building
Fenton, MI

Special guest: Jerry Wooley, LifeWay VBS Specialist

Check out 2014 VBS resources.
Get a jump start on next year's VBS planning.

This is a free training event.
Register at <http://register.bscm.org>.

Boy Scouts or an alternative? Churches continue to deliberate

By DAVID ROACH

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP) — A 6,000-member Southern Baptist church in North Carolina has announced plans to end its 60-year sponsorship of a Boy Scout troop in light of the Scouts' vote in May to admit open homosexuals to membership.

Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., instead will sponsor a troop of the newly formed Trail Life USA, which requires adult leaders to sign a statement of faith and requires both boys and leaders to live by a code of conduct that defines "any sexual activity outside the context of the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman" as "sinful" and "inconsistent with the values and principles of the program."

Trail Life USA will accept boys who are experiencing same-sex attraction or gender confusion. It will not, however, receive into membership boys that are openly homosexual or transgendered.

"We've had very strong support from the existing families who were in the Scout program," Donald Mann, the church's associate pastor for stewardship, said, adding, "We've had a lot of support from within the community for what we're doing."

Calvary joined those churches that have ended their sponsorship of Boy Scout troops and opted to support alternative groups for boys like Trail Life USA and Royal Ambassadors, the Southern Baptist missions organization for boys in grades 1-6. The tandem Southern Baptist program Challengers engages young men in grades 7-12 in missions education.

Steve Heartsill, managing editor for Royal Ambassadors at the Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham, Ala., told BP there are some parallel elements to RAs and Boy Scouts, like an award system, camping and competitions using wooden racecars. However, WMU does not view Royal Ambassadors "as an alternative to anything" and does not take a position on whether churches should continue to sponsor Boy Scout troops, he said.

"With a rich history of 105 years, the purpose of Royal Ambassadors is missions education and involve-

ment," Heartsill said. "RAs is about leading boys to Christ, teaching missions and developing a Christ-like character. As boys are introduced to missional concepts, they learn they have an active part to play in God's plan for their lives and for the world. They come to understand that God can use them now -- even in their youth -- to share His love with others and make a difference."

Teaching biblical sexual morality is not specifically a part of Royal Ambassadors, Heartsill said, "but Christ-like character and virtues are emphasized." The RA pledge includes a promise "to keep myself clean and healthy in mind and body."

When Atlanta-area Roswell Street Baptist Church in Marietta announced its plan to sever ties with the Boy Scouts, pastor Ernest Easley, who also serves as chairman of the SBC Executive Committee, said Southern Baptists "really have an opportunity here to strengthen our RA programs and to get the boys in a program where they're going to be protected, where there's a high moral standard and where they will have an opportunity to learn about camping, missions, evangelism in the local church."

Royal Ambassadors and Challengers appear to be growing in SBC churches, with curriculum sales increasing, Heartsill said. He encouraged churches interested in starting an RA program to contact the RA department at their state Baptist convention or visit www.wmu.com/RA.

Word of warning

The Alliance Defending Freedom, an Arizona-based Christian legal group, has publicly circulated legal memo recommending that churches with Scout troops end their sponsorship. Otherwise, ADF stated, churches risk losing their First Amendment right to oppose homosexuality in hiring decisions and facility rental policies.

Others oppose the BSA policy change but believe churches should still sponsor Scout troops. The Association of Baptists for Scouting, for one, told Baptist Press in an email that Boy Scouts still "presents a viable outreach option for churches if done properly."

In addition to Calvary and Roswell Street Bap-

tist churches, the Atlanta-area Johnson Ferry Baptist Church has ended its Scout charter. Other Southern Baptists, meanwhile, have opted to remain with Scouting following the BSA National Council's vote to change the organization's membership policy effective Jan. 1, 2014.

An SBC resolution adopted at the convention's annual meeting in June expresses "support for those churches and families that as a matter of conscience can no longer be part of the Scouting family" and encourages "churches and families that remain in the Boy Scouts to seek to impact as many boys as possible with the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ" and "work toward the reversal of this new membership policy."

The resolution also expresses concern that "the current executive leadership of the BSA, along with certain board members, may utilize this membership

policy change as merely the first step toward future approval of homosexual leaders in the Scouts." Churches that sever ties with the Scouts are encouraged in the resolution to expand their RA programs.

Calvary Baptist, which had nearly 300 boys and adults involved in its Boy Scout troop, said in a statement on its website that the BSA's membership policy change "created a dilemma and required a thoughtful and patient response of our church leaders, scout leaders, and scout families." The church sent a delegation to Trail Life USA's inaugural convention in Nashville Sept. 6-7 and will launch its Trail Life troop Oct. 23.

"Calvary is definitely going forward with this," Mann said of the Trail Life troop.

The new troop will meet in a building that Calvary built for its Boy Scout troop. The church's nonprofit Provision Foundation set up a fund to receive gifts for the

new scouting organization.

Scouting-Type Alternative

Trail Life USA, founded by a coalition of opponents to the BSA membership policy change called On My Honor, announced its name and program details at the Nashville convention. Addressing more than 1,200 attendees, chairman of the Trail Life USA board John Stemberger said the group is not "anti-BSA."

"Our whole life is about the trail, both in the outdoors and in the journey of life as believers," Stemberger said. "So Trail Life is a way of life that is centered on following Christ in the outdoors."

Boy Scout alternatives like Trail Life are a good option for churches that used to sponsor BSA troops, according to the Alliance Defending Freedom memo, which says, "Under threat of litigation, a church that chooses to main-

See Boy Scouts on page 9

WOMEN'S HARVEST RETREAT

Running the Race

...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.

Hebrews 12:1

October 18-20, 2013

Bambi Lake

Event Fees Chart:

Meals/Lodge/Cabins - With Linens

5 per room	— \$100.00 per person less \$20 deposit = \$80 due at Check-In
4 per room	— \$106.00 per person less \$20 deposit = \$86 due at Check-In
3 per room	— \$114.00 per person less \$20 deposit = \$94 due at Check-In
2 per room	— \$130.00 per person less \$20 deposit = \$110 due at Check-In
1 per room	— \$150.00 per person less \$20 deposit = \$130 due at Check-In

Meals/Chalets — Linens NOT available (bring your own) — \$96.00 per person less \$20 deposit = \$76 due at Check-In

Event price includes: Lodging + 5 meals, full use of Bambi facilities.

Guest Speaker:
Angela Spencer

Worship led by:
Legacy

Retreat Activities Include:

- Break-out Sessions
- Fun & Games
- Fellowship & More!

Contact cindy@bscm.org for more information.

Register online at www.register.bscm.org OR mail \$20 deposit and registration form to
Women's Harvest Retreat
8420 Runyan Lake Road
Fenton, MI 48430

Registration Deadline is October 7th



2013 Annual Meeting Schedule

TUESDAY EVENING

Presiding: Larry Allen, President

5:45 Pre-Session Worship

6:00 Opening Session

- Opening Business Session

6:35 Congregational Worship

6:40 Baptist Foundation of Michigan Report

6:55 **CELEBRATING CHURCH STARTING**
Church Starting Mission-Action Team

- Church Starting Lighthouse Leadership Awards
- Send North America: Detroit Report
- Testimonies of God's Work through Starting New Churches

8:15 Congregational Worship

8:20 Worship in Music

8:25 **Challenge Message**
Bobby Gilstrap, Lead Missionary
Baptist State Convention of Michigan

8:55 Closing Prayer & Adjourn

WEDNESDAY MORNING

Presiding: Rob Freshour, First Vice-President

8:15 Pre-Session Music

8:30 Opening Prayer & Congregational Worship

Reading of Motions

8:45 Note Burning Ceremony for Baptist Ministries Building
Guest: Dr. Michael Collins
Former BSCM Executive Director

8:55 Summary Digest and Report of the Executive Committee/Board

9:20 Congregational Worship

9:25 **CELEBRATING CHURCH STRENGTHENING**
Church Strengthening Mission-Action Team

- Church Strengthening Lighthouse Leadership Awards
- Testimonies of God's Work through Leadership Development and Strengthening Events

10:35 Lead State Missionary/Executive Director's Report
Bobby Gilstrap, Lead Missionary
Baptist State Convention of Michigan

10:50 Congregational Worship

10:55 Business Session

• Motions 2:15

• Vote on Proposed Constitution 2:25

• Election of Officers

• Presentation and Adoption of the 2014 Ministry Budget

11:30 Bambi Lake Advisory Team Report

11:45 Congregational Worship

11:50 Worship in Music 2:55

11:55 President's Message 3:00
Larry Allen, Pastor
Warren Woods Baptist Church, Warren

12:25 Closing Prayer and Adjourn

LUNCH & NETWORKING until 2:00 PM
(Pre-register for luncheons at www.AnnualMeeting.bscm.org)

1. Minister's Wives Luncheon 4:15
2. Church Starter's Luncheon 4:20

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

Presiding: Tim Chappell, Second Vice-President

1:45 Pre-Session Music 4:55

2:00 Opening Prayer and Congregational Worship

Business Session

Recognitions

Bobby Gilstrap

- New Pastors/Church Staff
- Pastors and Staff Years of Service
- Past Presidents
- New Officers

Congregational Worship

CELEBRATING CHURCH MOBILIZATION
Church Mobilization Mission-Action Team

- Church Strengthening Lighthouse Leadership Awards
- Reports and testimonies from NAMB and IMB
- Testimonies of God's Work through Evangelism, Missions, Disaster Relief and more

Congregational Worship

Worship in Music

Annual Meeting Message
Scott Blanchard, Pastor
Lakepointe Church, Clinton Twp

Adjourn & Closing Prayer

Boy Scouts from page 8

tain ties with BSA could face forfeiting the ability to teach biblical principles of sexual morality to its Scouts and to require them to adhere to those principles.”

According to the memo, a church with a BSA troop could also compromise its right to refuse employment to homosexuals or rent its facilities for gay weddings. ADF explained that many local “nondiscrimination” laws forbid discrimination in employment and facility rental based on sexual orientation. Often churches are exempt from the sexual orientation portions of such laws, but only if they express consistent opposition to homosexuality. Acceptance of homosexuals into a Boy Scout troop could cause a court to rule that a church is inconsistent and deny its right to refuse employment or facility rental to homosexuals, ADF said.

“We have provided this information to churches that have been associated with BSA so that they can protect their freedom to freely preach the Gospel,” said ADF senior legal counsel Erik Stanley, an Eagle Scout. “Churches cannot abandon their duty to be a witness to our nation’s youth and must be able to continue to make decisions based on their religious principles.”

But A.J. Smith, president of the Association of Baptists for Scouting, said the new policy does not prohibit church-based BSA troops from making sexual abstinence a condition of membership. He also denied that the BSA policy

requires churches to affirm the moral acceptability of same-sex attraction and said that while he is “not personally entirely pleased” with the policy, churches should still sponsor Boy Scout troops.

“Baptist churches that charter Scout units have the power to enforce a code of conduct on the boys that precludes their ability to engage in any kind of sexual activity and to bring disciplinary measures to bear on youth who violate the code of conduct, even to the point of removing them if their behavior becomes detrimental to the unit or the reputation of the charter organization,” Smith said on the Association of Baptists for Scouting website.

He added, “I believe that it is possible, even desirable, for Baptist churches to continue to utilize Scouting as an outreach ministry of the church. How it is done, however, must change. No longer can a church simply give meeting space to the Scouts. Churches must take a proactive approach to Scouting and involve members of the local congregation alongside Scout parents as leaders [and] set expectations for leaders consistent with the values of the church.”

Mann, the associate pastor at Calvary Baptist, said while the church is “not adversaries” of the BSA, “we want whatever organizations we sponsor to be in alignment with our values.” ■

Annual Meeting Hotel
Best Western, Lansing
(517) 694-8123
Special Rate: \$92.50
Baptist State Convention
Rate until October 7

Host Church
Cedar Street Church
1705 Cedar Street
Holt, MI 48842



... **Iglesia Bautista El Buen Pastor**, Lansing, held a financial management seminar for the community July 17? Carlos Liese, pastor.

... **Lake Saint Helen Baptist Church**, Saint Helen, had 12 children come to faith in Jesus Christ during its Vacation Bible School?

Two children and one adult rededicated their lives to the Lord. Roger Green, pastor.

... **Trinity Church**, Detroit, hosted a celebration June 27 for the community in which it serves in partnership with “Basic,” a joint youth ministry outreach? With youth from Wisconsin,

Illinois, Ohio and Michigan, they all joined in and helped to make the event a successful day. Lester Lewis, pastor.

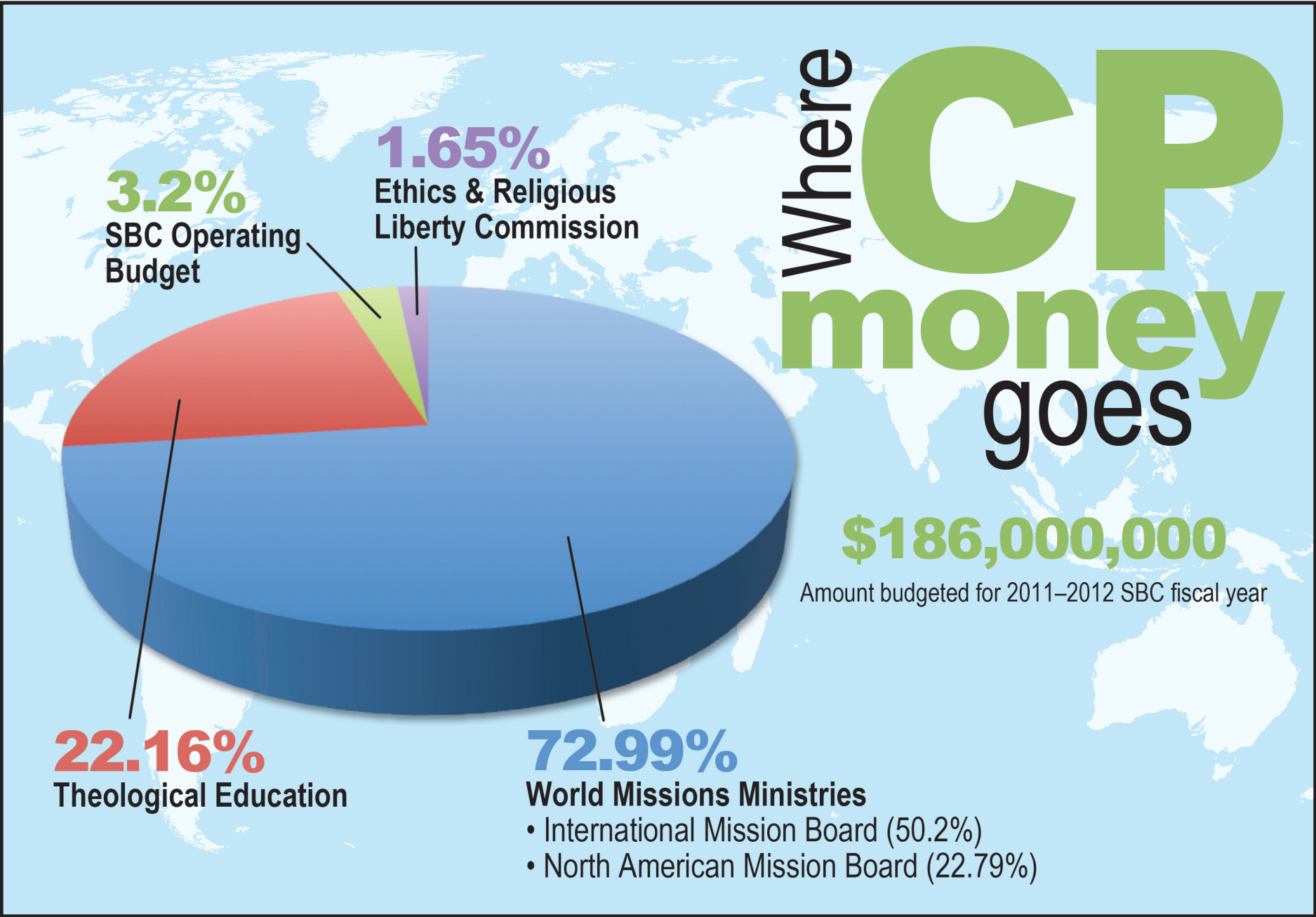
... **Springwell Avenue Baptist Church**, Detroit, hosted Jimmy Jones as guest preacher for its 11 a.m. worship service June 23 — 70 years after Jones accepted Jesus as his Savior there at Springwell during Vacation Bible School? Jones is now pastor of First Baptist Church, Trenton.

Submit your church news or staff updates to beacon@bscm.org ■



Nearly 60 people gathered at the annual Michigan Baptist Conference of the Deaf camp Aug. 16–18 at Bambi Lake Baptist Retreat and Conference Center near Roscommon. Chris Partain, pastor of Memorial Baptist Church, Sterling Heights, preached and taught on the theme “be strong in the Lord.” The group enjoyed praise, worship, fellowship and fun.

CP August	Designated August	YTD CP 2013	PAGE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH Total:	0.00 14,556.58	0.00 10,971.81	0.00 113,579.31	BREAHA MISSIONARY BAPTIST 0.00	0.00	0.00	
							CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	700.00
							CANTON CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	450.00	0.00	2,650.00
							CASS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
							COMPASSION BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
							CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH	610.64	0.00	3,195.98
							DEARBORN HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH	319.70	0.00	3,530.32
							DETROIT BAPTIST TEMPLE	0.00	0.00	900.00
							EASTSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
							EBER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
							EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	500.00
							FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - RIVERVIEW	100.79	200.00	761.86
							FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - TRENTON	1,400.49	169.00	5,943.50
							FIRST SPANISH BAPTIST CHURCH	300.00	0.00	2,400.00
							FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	263.31	0.00	2,308.55
							INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	150.00
							JEFFRIES BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
							LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
							MERRIMAN ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	7,059.24	0.00	69,008.61
							MIDDLEBELT BAPTIST CHURCH	2,000.00	250.00	3,000.00
							MT. VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH	1,505.67	0.00	6,900.07
							OAK PARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
							OPEN DOOR GOSPEL TABERNACLE	0.00	0.00	0.00
							PALMER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	200.00	0.00	200.00
							PEOPLE'S MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
							PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	700.00
							PHILIPPINE INT'L BAPTIST CHURCH-	0.00	0.00	300.00
							PHILLIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	160.00
							PRaise BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	3,810.00
							SECOND LAOTIAN BAPTIST CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	180.00
							SOUTHFIELD ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	20.00	599.87
							STRAIGHT STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
							TEMPLE OF FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	500.00
							TRENTON MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	746.00	0.00	3,676.44
							TRINITY CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
							VICTORY FELLOWSHIP COMMUNNITY CHURCH	100.00	0.00	100.00
							WOODHAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH	500.00	0.00	4,000.00
							Total:	15,805.84	639.00	116,475.20



CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CROSSROADS COMMUNITY BAPTIST	1,115.69	100.00	11,555.74
FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF SALINE	1,284.20	0.00	12,708.56
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - GREEN OAK TWP	88.00	200.00	616.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SOUTH LYON	2,656.94	0.00	25,071.75
GRACEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	263.40	0.00	3,366.94
IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	223.00	0.00	1,502.00
LIVING WATER COMMUNITY CHURCH	400.00	0.00	3,200.00
NORTH PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH	876.40	0.00	4,067.97
OAKWOOD CHURCH	530.00	0.00	4,150.00
PLEASANT VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
VISION COMMUNITY CHURCH	182.00	0.00	442.00
YPSILANTI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	420.00
Total:	7,679.63	300.00	67,355.31

LENDALE ASSOCIATION

CLINTON BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,837.18
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	225.00	0.00	675.00
FRONTIER BAPTIST CHURCH	147.35	0.00	1,467.50
HILLSDALE BAPTIST CHURCH	3,494.94	0.00	18,420.06
NEW DAY/NUEVO DIA BAPTIST CHURCH	145.00	0.00	529.00
TECUMSEH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	307.32	0.00	3,020.58
THORNHILL BAPTIST CHURCH	53.34	0.00	385.60
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH - ADRIAN	200.00	200.00	2,000.00
Total:	4,572.95	200.00	28,334.92

MOTOR CITIES METRO

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH	278.50	0.00	1,689.50
BEACONSFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	500.00
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH	1,596.35	0.00	6,595.00
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	161.00	607.97
COLUMBIA AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	665.79	0.00	6,828.83
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,080.00
CROSS WAVES CHURCH	223.72	0.00	1,385.30
CROSSINGS CHURCH	0.00	0.00	135.00
FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH, SBC	0.00	0.00	0.00
FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	30.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - NEW BALTIMORE	2,002.35	100.00	18,596.05
FIRST HMONG BAPTIST CHURCH	115.00	0.00	763.75
FIRST ROMANIAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST SPANISH-AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	300.00	0.00	2,400.00
FOREST PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	570.52	867.65	7,352.46
GOLGOTHA ROMANIAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACE BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HARRISON METRO CHURCH	86.94	0.00	2,148.95
HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH	113.00	0.00	511.00
HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH - SHELBY	582.52	0.00	3,354.37
HIGHLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH	577.78	0.00	6,565.79
HILTON OAKS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	881.93
HMONG AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	467.71
HMONG PONTIAC BAPTIST MISSION	0.00	0.00	0.00
KOREAN FIRST BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	2,400.00
KOREAN IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
KOREAN NEW LIFE CHURCH	383.00	0.00	2,227.00
LAKEPOINTE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	9,576.00
LAKESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH	1,298.68	0.00	13,448.87
LAPEER COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LIFE OF PURPOSE CHRISTIAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	600.00
MADISON HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00
MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH	836.83	0.00	13,519.12
MT. ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	25.00
NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST CHURCH	256.00	0.00	2,492.00
NEW COVENANT CHURCH	495.30	0.00	2,027.61
NEW DAY HOUSE OF PRAISE - SBC	89.00	0.00	560.08
NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH - Fraser	0.00	0.00	500.00
NORTHFIELD HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
OAKLAND WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH	2,316.00	0.00	21,904.00
ORCHARD HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	8,050.41
PATHWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	502.40	442.36	2,341.00
PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH	0.00	0.00	300.00
REDEMPTION CHURCH	0.00	0.00	896.00
SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	450.00
SPRINGVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH	100.00	0.00	6,844.38
ST. STEPHEN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	400.00
THE CHURCH CONNECTION	513.94	0.00	2,589.44
THE HILL CHURCH	313.00	0.00	778.01
THE MASTERS BIBLE CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE SHEPHERD'S FOLD	0.00	0.00	770.00
TROY JAPANESE FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00
WARREN WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	1,394.00	11,028.33
Total:	14,316.62	2965.01	165,620.86

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH



“Sorry, our finances aren’t as good as I thought. I had the chart up-side-down.”

NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION

AGAPE BAPTIST CHURCH	25.00	0.00	258.34
ANTRIM COMMUNITY CHURCH	280.85	0.00	1,139.81
CRYSTAL LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	596.54
EVERGREEN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	451.89	0.00
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH - PELLSTON	100.00	0.00	800.00
LAKE CITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	140.00
LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NORTHSHORE COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
OUR FATHERS HOUSE COMMUNITY CHURCH, SBC	0.00	0.00	0.00
REDISCOVER FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00
SAFE HARBOR SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE ORCHARD CHURCH	317.36	0.00	2,769.26
Total:	723.21	451.89	5,703.95

PINES ASSOCIATION

ALPINE VILLAGE BAPTIST CHURCH	118.39	0.00	1,166.34
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	63.03	0.00	739.10
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - ATLANTA	10.00	0.00	158.00
GOODAR BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	213.24
GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	334.44
GRAYLING BAPTIST CHURCH	72.12	0.00	767.67
HUBBARD LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HURON BAPTIST CHURCH	60.70	0.00	228.87
LAKE ST. HELEN BAPTIST CHURCH	330.46	0.00	1,921.41
NEW HARVEST COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	35.18
NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH	298.00	0.00	298.00
ONAWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	748.76
PATHWAY SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH	40.00	0.00	284.00
PIGEON RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,121.41
ROSCOMMON BAPTIST CHURCH	283.00	150.00	2,091.00
THE CONNECTION SBC	30.00	0.00	132.24
Total:	1,305.70	150.00	10,239.66

SOUTH CENTRAL ASSOCIATION

AMAZING GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CANAAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH OF HASTINGS	577.95	0.00	3,212.38
EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH	658.74	0.00	6,124.82
FAITH BAPTIST - BATTLE CREEK	0.00	0.00	7,076.44
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - PORTAGE	413.00	0.00	3,170.42
HARPER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH	915.26	0.00	7,559.28
HIGHER GROUND - TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	139.00
LAKESIDE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEVEL PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,432.49
PRAISE BAPTIST CHURCH	170.74	0.00	1,634.69
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,209.71
VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
ZOMI MISSIONS CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,788.73
Total:	2,735.69	0.00	34,347.96

SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION

AMAZING GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	341.00	85.00	3,241.00
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	1,107.29	0.00	4,446.60
DUNDEE BAPTIST CHURCH	146.00	0.00	2,874.50
EVERGREEN ACRES MISSIONARY BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	0.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,613.88
FRENCHTOWN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	233.65	0.00	2,776.91

GRAPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	222.78	0.00	681.79
HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
KENTUCKY PARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	75.00
LAKESIDE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	500.00
LIBERTY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	325.35	0.00	3,725.79
MONROE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	10,916.34	0.00	86,820.53
PETERSBURG MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
RAISINVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH	3,741.12	693.96	14,769.37
ROCKWOOD MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	105.10	0.00	722.12
TRUE GOSPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
UNION STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total:	17,138.63	778.96	122,247.49

SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION

BANGOR BAPTIST CHURCH	85.00	0.00	856.00
BEACON BAPTIST CHURCH	105.00	0.00	987.00
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH - NILES	832.00	0.00	4,607.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - BERRIEN SPRINGS	0.00	0.00	721.77
GLENDALE BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	403.00
NILES AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	195.32	0.00	957.65
ONTWA BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	300.00
THE SANCTUARY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	100.00
Total:	1,367.32	0.00	8,932.42

UPPER PENINSULA ASSOCIATION

ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH - KINGSFORD	0.00	0.00	1,139.00
ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH - MENOMINEE	156.00	0.00	1,218.00
BAY AREA COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP SBC	0.00	171.00	430.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - DAFTER	116.55	0.00	972.21
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - GWINN	446.58	0.00	3,468.69
GRACE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	80.00
HOUGHTON BAPTIST CHURCH	506.00	0.00	6,953.00
NORTHPOINT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP	232.05	0.00	1,680.07
Total:	1,457.18	171.00	15,940.97

WOODLAND ASSOCIATION

ALL NATIONS BAPTIST CHURCH - HOLLAND	0.00	0.00	69.00
ANCHOR BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	770.32
CHARITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,533.26
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - LUDINGTON	0.00	0.00	304.64
FIRST KOREAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACE COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HOLLAND SOUTHERN BAPTIST	400.00	0.00	2,711.69
IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANA	0.00	0.00	0.00
IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANA DE ALLENDALE	0.00	0.00	0.00
I.B. RECONCILIACION - GRAND RAPIDS	0.00	0.00	0.00
LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
REMEDY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	70.00
RIVERTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	628.00
SONRISE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH	60.00	0.00	240.00
Total:	460.00	0.00	6,326.91

NON-ASSOCIATIONAL

FAITH BAPTIST CHAPEL	1,817.00	747.00	5,326.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - LINDEN	25.00	0.00	175.00
HARVEY BAPTIST CHURCH	52.20	0.00	442.45
HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH - MONROE	3,417.74	0.00	33,613.67
NORTHBROOK CHURCH	150.00	0.00	250.00
Total:	5,461.94	747.00	39,807.12

Grand Total:	97,997.15	18,269.67	868,627.48
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18 choose to follow Christ at Lansing block party

Pastor Stan Parker and Faith Fellowship Baptist Church, Lansing, held their annual Praise in the Park block party at Walsh Park on July 6.

The Praise in the Park block party is an anticipated event for the Potter Walsh community. During many community evangelism events, people inquire about the block party and are excited about the event. Every year the event has record numbers of attendees. This year's attendance exceeded 250, including special guests such as Virg Bernero, mayor of Lansing. The highlight of this evangelistic event was that 18 children accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and eight adults rededicated their lives to Christ.

The event kicked off with a powerful prayer and spiritual boost by radio host "Divine D" that set the tone for the rest of the event. Entertainment ranged from poets, Gospel singers and rappers to the Lansing Teen Challenge. Each performer ministered a soulful praise to God and an uplifting spiritual message to the community members. In addition to praise and worship there

was family entertainment for everyone to enjoy.

Entertainment consisted of games, giveaways and a Community Family Resource Fair for Health and Wellness. Children played lots of games such as ducks in a pond and potato sack races and enjoyed a bounce house. Adults and children participated in face painting.

The prize giveaways for adults and children are one of the highlights of this event. There was a bike given away to children and gift cards given to adults. This is always a blessing to the families that receive the prizes. For the Community Family Resource Fair, the vendor sections included health screenings, health care sign up, children summer activity sign up and an evangelism section.

Faith Fellowship Baptist Church partnered with the Clinton Township Baptist Church mission team to help make this event a complete success. The team assisted with the event setup, registration, face painting, game management, evangelism and the food distribution. Together, Faith Fellowship Baptist



Top left, people at the Praise in the Park block party are invited to become followers of Jesus. Eighteen children decided to follow Jesus that day. Top right, Pastors Stan Parker (left) and James Owens (right) greet Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero. Above, Dejah Winston shows off the bike she was given.

Church and Clinton Township Baptist Church glorified God and souls were added to the Kingdom of God. Many of the children attended Vacation Bible School the following week and are now attending

Sunday School to continue their growth in Jesus Christ. Faith Fellowship is very grateful to the Baptist State Convention of Michigan for partnering with Faith Fellowship to make this event pos-

sible. For more information about Faith Fellowship events please call 517-853-9897 or email faithfellowshipplanning@hotmail.com. ■

(Submitted by Faith Fellowship Baptist Church)