

The Central FOCUS

"Experiencing God Together!"

Central Baptist Association
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Do We Really Need Another Church?

Churches And *Missions:

Argenta
*Great Commission
Arthur
Atwood
Boody
Calvary
Emmanuel
Fellowship
Findlay
Forsyth
Galilee
Grace Fellowship
Hammond
Heyworth
Lincoln
Lovington
Mt. Zion
Shiloh
Sullivan
Summit Avenue
Tabernacle
Tri-Valley
Trinity

The Mission of Central Baptist Association is to encourage and facilitate Cooperation, Fellowship, Missions Awareness and Missionary Activity among our churches; and to assist and resource our churches in the areas of Church Renewal, Leadership Development and New Work!

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THE VALUE OF CHURCH PLANTING by Aaron Coe

The church in America is going backwards. You can't explain it any other way. If reaching our country for Christ were a football game, we'd have spent the last century being pushed back toward our own goal line. That can be demoralizing for a football team—and the church, the body of Christ.

In the early 1800s, the United States had one Protestant church for every 875 people in the population. By the beginning of World War I, that ratio was one Christian church for every 430 people in the population. During that 100-year span, church planting efforts significantly outpaced the growth in population. Yet, after World War I, the population began to outpace the planting of new churches.

We're doing better in some places than others. In states like Alabama, Mississippi, and Kentucky, you'll find one evangelical church for approximately every 750 people. In states like Indiana, Iowa, and Kansas, you'll find one for every 1,500 to 1,800 people. In states like Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and New York, the ratio is one for every 5,000 to 7,500 people. The people of the Northeast Corridor and Utah could be classified as unreached people groups with less than 2 percent of their population claiming to be born-again Christians. People who study missions would say to effectively penetrate an area with the gospel you need one church for every 1,000 people in the urban areas and one church for every 500 people in the rural areas.

With a passion to penetrate lostness in North America and a desire to do something about the out of balance population-to-church ratios, the North American Mission Board launched *Send North America* last year. *Send North America* is a strategy to mobilize and assist churches and individuals in hands-on church planting in 29 of its major cities and elsewhere throughout the U.S. and Canada. To use the football analogy again, we want to push the ball up the field with the goal of giving every man, woman, and child the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The focus of *Send North America* is evangelistic church planting. Evangelistic church planting is not a program. It's a strategy that has as its goal seeing people coming to faith in Christ and assimilate into new churches. Here are six reasons why evangelistic church planting is the priority that is driving NAMB's work across North America.

1. Church planting is biblical. At the heart of Jesus' Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20) is His desire for His followers to make disciples of all nations. We see in Acts 2 that 3,000 people came to faith, and they began to gather as the church (Acts

2:42-46). By the time we get to Acts 13, we see the church of Antioch sending Paul and Barnabas to the cities in the Mediterranean region for the purpose of evangelistic church planting. In Acts 14:21, when Paul and Barnabas went into a particular city, they preached the gospel and people would respond. In 14:23, they appointed pastors over the churches for the continued spiritual growth and edification of the people, and then they moved on.

2. Church Planting focuses on existing churches. Without a plan to help existing churches become healthier, there will be no sustainable evangelistic church planting movement. Existing churches are at the core of *Send North America*. The goal is to mobilize existing churches to partner together to plant new churches.

3. Church Planting expands the kingdom. As new culturally aware churches are planted in a variety of communities, they tend to reach those who won't come to an existing church. Because not everyone will come to an existing church, new churches can reach many different people as they meet in many locations.

Just as many new churches meeting in new places impact more people, when the kingdom of God expands in the U.S., expansion in other parts of the world is impacted. Many don't realize that virtually 100 percent of the funding for the 5,000 International Mission Board missionaries comes from domestic SBC churches.

4. New churches baptize more people. If you have a down year in evangelism in an existing church, the church does not grow. However, in the first few years of a church plant, if you have down years in evangelism, you don't have a church. Statistics clearly support this concept. Ed Stetzer and Warren Bird describe this in their book *Viral Churches*. They've found that established Southern Baptist churches baptize 3.4 people per 100 resident members. While church plants average 11.7 per 100.

5. Church Planting involves more people in missions. By focusing on church planting, individual congregations can become involved in missions. Regardless of the size or budget, existing churches can be involved at any level in a new church plant. Through *Send North America*, your church, with deacon support, can be a sending, supporting, or multiplying church. By focusing its efforts, NAMB will be able to partner with and equip participating churches to engage under-served areas of the North American continent.

6. Church Planting is measurable. Church planting is a measuring tool that will help us know if our evangelistic efforts are working. If, as a result of conversions to Christ, the number of churches in a geographic location increases over a period of time, you know that your evangelistic efforts are working and have taken root. However, if over that same period of time, you see only

(Continued on page 3)

Reprinted from *Deacon* magazine, Spring 2013. Aaron Coe is vice president of mobilization at NAMB and former church planter.

The LORD of ALL Tour

with Wayne Watson, Russ Taff,
First Call, and Clay Crosse

Sat., April 13 at 7 pm

At Tabernacle Bapt. Church

General Admission: \$22;

Gold Circle: \$40 (VIP artists meet and
greet at 5 PM for Gold Circle)

Tickets at ccmforever.com, Tabernacle
office, Berean or call 800-965-9324.

Doors open at 6 PM.

CBA Pastors, Staff & families...

April

- 4-Natalie Jones (Tabernacle)
- 13-Mike & Diane Peterson (Heyworth)
- 14-Mitch & Linda Flesch (Calvary)
- 17-Sarah Andrews (Grace Fellowship)
- 20-Jayne Hairston (Galilee)
- 30-Triece Lindstrom (Findlay)
- Jim Leischner (Boody)

May

- 1-Kathy Shaw (Lincoln)
- Jessica Davis (Arthur)
- 4-Sylvia Jackson (Shiloh)
- 5-Bonna Woodrum (Tri-Valley)
- 8-Chase Smith (Fellowship)
- 11-Justin Woodrum (Tri-Valley)
- 23-Steve & Triece Lindstrom (Findlay)
- 29-Jim & Linda Allen (Great Comm.)
- 29-Brian Minott
- Kellijo Leach (Tab)

June

- 1-Don Lusk (Sullivan)
- 1-Ava Smith (Fellowship)
- 2-Joshua Ratts (Forsyth)
- 4-Chris Vieth (Tabernacle)
- Dale & Chris Granda (Summit Ave)
- 5-Crisse Hairston (Galilee)
- Lloyd & Sylvia Jackson (Shiloh)
- 6-Jim & Dee Leischner (Boody)
- 7-Clif & Sue Jones (Tabernacle)
- 11-Leslie Davis (Arthur)
- 16- (Mary) Sue Jones (Tabernacle)
- 17-Caleb Feltner (Tabernacle)
- 19-Nanelle Hairston (Galilee)
- 20-Chris & Vickie Vieth (Tabernacle)
- Dave & Johnnie Daniels (Emmanuel)
- 25-Dennis Shaw (Lincoln)
- Meredith Jones (Tabernacle)
- 26-Bob Hickman (Tab)
- Mark Foil (Mt. Zion)
- 27-Josiah Ratts (Forsyth)
- 30-Penny Davis (Tabernacle)

VBS Dates for 2013



June VBS

- 2nd-6th—Southern, Sullivan
- 9th-13th—Tri-Valley
- 17th-21st—Fellowship & Lincoln
- 23rd-27th—Arthur & Mt. Zion

July VBS

- 8th-12th—Atwood
- 14th-19th—Emmanuel
- 21st-26th—Tabernacle



August VBS

- 5th-9th-Argenta



The other CBA churches haven't set their VBS dates. The Association is willing to help with arranging sharing of materials and decorations. Also, some of our sister churches could use some VBS workers, so if you'd like to help at another VBS, please let me know and I will pass it along.

Thank you, *Chris Granda*

FINANCIAL REPORT CBA BUDGET ACCOUNT

JAN. -MAR. 2013

Church	Amount
Argenta	\$ 113.59
Arthur	1,184.00
Atwood	2,205.00
Boody	251.74
Calvary	197.84
Christian	151.43
Emmanuel	831.74
Fellowship	399.00
Findlay	77.00
Forsyth	1,822.11
Galilee	322.53
Hammond	543.69
Heyworth	651.22
Lincoln	762.42
Lovington	888.48
Mt. Zion	2,479.94
Sullivan	1,704.00
Summit Ave.	495.61
Tabernacle	3,129.16
Tri-Valley	672.91
Trinity	100.00
Total:	\$18,983.41
Expenses:	- 20,281.48
	[\$ 1,298.07]



Thank
You
For
Your
Support

IBSA Training Opportunities

April 5-6: Worship Leaders' Retreat at the IBSA building in Springfield; 1 p.m. Friday to noon Saturday. Featuring: Grant Norsworthy, Word & Song Ministry, Nashville, TN; Dr. Bob Henderson, Heartland Community Church, Sioux City, IA; Dr. Lavon Gray, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA.

Experts in keyboard, children's choir and instrumental music will also be on hand to help you hone your worship skills.

Cost is \$50 per church, for as many attendees as you choose to bring.

Register at IBSA.org/Worship. For more information, contact Debbie Muller at DebbieMuller@IBSA.org, or at (217) 391-3126.

April 12-13: RA Congress at Lake Sallateeska in Pickneyville. For boys in grades 1st-12th. Cost is \$25 per student. Register at IBSA.org/Children. For more information, contact Barb Troeger @IBSA.org, (217) 391-3138.

April 19-20: Disaster Relief Training at Grace Southern Baptist, Virden; begins at 1 p.m. Friday for chaplains, 5 p.m. for all others. Cost is \$30 for new trainees and \$10 for renewals. Register no later than April 5th by contacting LindaDarden@IBSA.org, or (217) 391-3137.

April 29-30: Biblical Preaching Conferences. Featuring Danny Akin, president of Southeastern Seminary. April 29th: Broadview Missionary Baptist, 6 p.m. April 30: IBSA Building, Springfield, 10 a.m.; FBC, Marion, 6 p.m. Register for all conferences by 3 p.m. on April 25th by contacting BarbaraHalleman@IBSA.org, or (217) 391-3127.

Happy Easter!

Jesus Lives!

He is Risen!!

March 31st, 2013



Continued from front page: **Do We Really Need Another Church?**

conversion reports and no sizable growth in the number of churches, you would have to wonder about the overall effectiveness of church planting efforts.

The goal is in sight! The task in front of us is huge. Millions of people in North America don't have a personal relationship with Jesus. A concentrated church planting effort is how, working together, churches can penetrate this vast lostness.

Just as a football team moves down field and gets in the "red zone" with the goal in sight, progress is being made with church planting. Consider this: 40 percent of the Christian churches in Manhattan, New York have been planted since the year 2000. Research done by *The Values Research Institute* found that the evangelical population there has grown from less than 1 percent to now more than 3 percent since 1990!

As Southern Baptists, we should find great hope in these significant numbers! As our focused church planting efforts start to take root all across this country, we pray the results will be similar, if not greater, than the growth in Manhattan during the last 20 years.

16th Annual IBSA Golf Scramble

Monday and Tuesday
May 13-1, 2013

Oak Terrace Golf Resort, Pana, IL



>Monday afternoon or Tuesday morning of golf with cart and banquet is \$55
>Both Monday afternoon & Tuesday morning golf w/cart & banquet is \$90

All IBSA pastors, DOMs, church ministry leaders and wives are welcome. Arrangements have been made for wives not golfing to spend time at the spa and receive a 10% discount on all services.

Monday-18 holes with a 1 p.m. shotgun start, 4-man teams and a straight scramble. You may sign up singularly and be added to a team. That evening we will have a delicious banquet with a dynamic guest speaker, and prizes awarded, encouragement and prayer.

Tuesday-18 holes with a 9 a.m. shotgun start. This will be a little more relaxed and with an unusual feature. Prizes for the top two teams. Stay at the resort for \$52 each/double occupancy or \$140 single occupancy. This price includes a full breakfast buffet on Tuesday

morning. Book yours now before April 13 directly with the Resort by calling 1-800-577-7598. Just say you will be there for the **IBSA golf outing!**

When registering for this event, please include your 18-hole average. You can register online at IBSA.org/church_health, by calling 217-391-3126, or email debbiemuller@ibsa.org.



Missions Spectacular June 8, 2013

Missions Spectacular 2013 is right around the corner! Registration began online March 18, 2013.

Locations this year include: Springfield, Bethalto, McLeansboro, Litchfield, O'Fallon, Machesney Park and Metropolis. Choose the location/project best suited for your group. The cost is \$25 for ages 12 years and up and \$7.50 for children 11 years and younger. This includes your lunch, dinner, T-shirt and some ministry supplies.

There is no registration deadline, however the project will close when the maximum number of participants has been reached. Payments must be finalized by May 1, 2013.

Register online at IBSA.org/missions; or with Barb Troeger at BarbTroeger@IBSA.org, or call (217) 391-3138.

You can download a brochure at the IBSA website to give you more information.

The Church Renewal Journey experience

Lay Renewal Weekends offer churches a way seek to grow in Christ and reach others for Him. The weekends provide an opportunity for churches to re-awaken to their purpose and passion, and are the first step in the five-part Church Renewal Journey.

The weekends, which are led by trained lay renewal volunteers, begin on Friday with small group times for church members. Saturday sessions include both small and large group sessions.

The wrap-up session on Sunday is the morning worship service with songs and testimonies only. On Sunday night, the church holds an evaluation session to reflect on the weekend and begin steps to turn ideas and plans into action.

For information about your church can benefit from a Lay Renewal Weekend, contact IBSA Church Renewal Coordinator Mark Shipley at (309) 361-3566, e-mail shipleymark@comcast.net or visit www.churchrenewaljourney.net.

Going into Our Jerusalem...

Habitat for Humanity Builds Houses & Builds Hope-

ReStore, located at 250 W. Cerro Gordo, Decatur, needs volunteers to assist customers, receive merchandise and stock shelves. Open Thursday & Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon. Flexible schedule available. No previous retail experience or building expertise needed, just wear sturdy shoes and work clothes. Also, volunteers needed to paint the interior of the houses as needed. To learn more, and contribute your time and talents toward offering affordable housing in our community, call 425-6446.

Northeast Community Fund-Do you have some free time on Monday mornings? Help with food distribution. No lifting required, just a cheerful greeting. Once or twice a month, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Parking available in rear of building. Call Jan at 428-6616.

Transportation-Volunteers are needed to assist with transportation to and from dialysis & medical appointments. Most appointments are in Decatur and Bloomington/Normal. Call RSVP at 428-6616 or 935-2241.

Head Start-Share with children and help with classroom activities; choose reading with the children, music, crafts, or share your traveling experiences. Open Mon. through Thurs., 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Choose a location: 275 E. Condit or 107 N. Morgan. Call Cozette at 423-2268 to let her know when you are available.

Senior Center-Greet customers and assist the thrifty shoppers at the newly remodeled *Nearly New Gift Shop*. Open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., flexible days and hours available. Call Leslie at 429-1239 to let her know when you are available.

Reading Buddies-is a program to assist students in maintaining their reading and/or math level during the summer months of June and July. Volunteers meet a couple times a week for 60-90 minutes with a student. This year RSVP would like to offer this program to the students of Blue Ridge School district and the students of Clinton School District. Volunteer training will be in May. Reading skills are vital. The time you spend, 16-18 sessions over 9 weeks, will assist a child to become a better reader. Call RSVP at 428-6616 or 935-2241.



from the Pews!

Argenta-The ABC youth hosted a Valentine's spaghetti dinner for the church on February 16th and on Sat., March 9th the youth hosted a church movie night.

On Easter Sunday, March 31st we held a sunrise service at 8:00 a.m. followed by a breakfast @ 8:45 and at 10:00 a.m. the choir presented an Easter cantata titled *Calvary's Love*. Revival is scheduled on April 5, 6 and 7 with Rev. Keith Barkley.

Arthur Southern Baptist will be hosting the community sunrise service this Easter. We will have a Blessing of the Bikes at our church on April 13th, open to all bikers. A ride to Springfield, Illinois will follow.

First Baptist Church of Atwood has been enjoying Fellowship Breakfasts on the 2nd Saturday of the month; alternating breakfast for men one month, and for women

the next. We are blessed to have a dedicated kitchen staff for these meals.

In February we had a Deacon Ordination Service and added Tim Walker and Joe Wolfe to our Deacon Ministry Team. Several church members made a commitment to be part of the IBSA's *Choose2* program. Unsaved friends and family are being prayed for twice daily and will be invited to church events this year. We are looking forward to their salvation.

On Easter Sunday, we will begin the morning with breakfast during the Sunday School hour. We have set aside April 20-21 for our Spring Spiritual Renewal Weekend with Evangelist John Smith from Missouri as our speaker.

Fellowship Baptist Church recently had a visit from a Lifeway Consultant who gave suggestions for continued growth at FBC. As a result a Vision team will be appointed to consider changes to existing programs and possible new ones as we continue to try and reach families with children in Shelbyville

and surrounding communities. In addition, a Praise Band will be formed to enhance our worship experience in our regular worship services. Vacation Bible School is planned for June 17.

Hammond Missionary Baptist Church- We have started a Bible Study of "A Survey of Bible Doctrine" for midweek services on Thursday at 7:00 PM. We will be using the guide by Charles C. Ryrie.

Summit Ave.-had the trio, *Declaration*, on Sunday evening March 10th. The choir presented *Arise, My Love*, on Easter Sunday. They are beginning a neighborhood outreach on April 1st, and have a men's fellowship once a month.

Tabernacle-held a Chili Cookoff on March 2nd which was a lot of fun. They had Ernie Haase & Signature Sound in concert again on Mar. 15th. An Easter Eggstravaganza was held Saturday, March 30.

Several mission trips are planned for this year. And their 75th Anniversary Celebration is scheduled for June 22 & 23, 2013.

Illinois Women's Missions Celebration

The Story: For ALL Generations
April 25-27, 2013

Cost: \$20 (Includes lunch on Fri.)
At First Baptist Church,
Machesney Park
718 Harlem Rd.

Speakers: Wanda Lee, Executive Director/Treasurer National WMU; Stacey Smith, Missionary to Arkansas; Bryan & Deana Wolf, Missionaries to Chile

www.IBSA.org/womensmissions

125th Birthday of WMU
1888-2013

Thursday, Apr. 25th
7-9 PM

FBC, Machesney Park
Food, Carnival Games, fun,
fun, fun!!

For kids of all ages...2-102
All donations will go to the Illinois
Touch Tomorrow Today Fund!



Remember! Pay Tribute!

Memorial Day
May 27th, 2013

CBA Office Closed



CBA Leadership Meetings

Leadership Team Meeting
7 PM- Tuesday, Apr. 9th, 2013
At CBA Office

Executive Board Meeting
7 PM-Tues., Apr. 16th, 2013

If this changes—letters will be sent out.

April 2013

5th-Worship Leaders Retreat at IBSA Bldg.
8th-9th-New Minister's Orientation at IBSA Bldg.
9th at 7 PM-Associational Leadership Mtg at Office
12th & 13th-RA's Congress-Lake Sallateeska
16th at 7 PM-Executive Board Meeting
19th & 20th-Disaster Relief Training for Central IL
23rd-REACH2 Train/Central IL
24th-Administrative Professional's Day
25th-27th-WMU Annual Mtg. at FBC, Machesney Park, IL
30th-Biblical Preaching Conf./Central IL

May 2013

Summer Camp Packets Mailed Out
2nd-National Day of Prayer
5th-Senior Adult Sunday
7th-Evangelistic Leaders Workshop/Central IL
12th-MOTHER'S DAY & BCHFS Offering
19th-25th-Baptist Association Emphasis
27th-MEMORIAL DAY-Office Closed

Mark Your Calendar

June 2013

1st-BCHFS Golf Tournament/Central IL at Auburn, IL
8th-Missions Spectacular, various locations in Illinois
11th-13th-SBC Annual Convention, Houston, TX
16th-FATHER'S DAY & Baptist Men's Emphasis
21st-First Day of Summer
25th-29th-Super Summer at Greenville College

CBA Youth & Children's Camp
July 23rd-27th