

# The Central FOCUS

"Experiencing God Together!"

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Volume XVIII No. 9

December 2015

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## Churches:

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

## Mission Statement

*Central Baptist Association exists to foster relationships among churches in order to assist them in fulfilling the Great Commission.*

*The Vision of CBA is to see churches collaborating together to build the Kingdom of God.*

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# 9 Ways a Pastor Can Lead His Church to Be More Evangelistic!

*By Thom S. Rainer*

The influence of a pastor in a local congregation is powerful. Like a parent who can influence but not ultimately determine the path of his or her child, so is the pastor in some ways with the congregation.

A while back, I had a conversation with Tony Merida, lead pastor of Imago Dei Church in Raleigh. He said one of the greatest challenges he has experienced as a pastor is getting Christians motivated evangelistically.

He found that Christians are willing to minister to other members and even those in the community. But getting them to be intentionally evangelistic always seems to be a challenge.

So I asked pastors of several evangelistic churches what they did personally to lead their churches to be more explicitly evangelistic. Here are nine of their most common responses.

**1. Pray that the church will become more evangelistic.** Conversion is an act of the Holy Spirit. These pastors thus depend on God to reach people before they introduce any type of human methodology.

**2. Pray for opportunities to share the gospel.** I heard amazing stories from pastors about how God put people in their paths almost every time they prayed for such an opportunity. One pastor stated simply: "God does not give me a lack of opportunities if I ask Him to bring lost people my way."

**3. Become accountable to someone else for sharing the gospel.** That person could be a family member, another church member, or another pastor.

**4. Start new groups.** Churches that intentionally start new groups tend to be more evangelistic. These new groups could be Sunday school classes, small groups, or new ministries.

**5. Preach the gospel.** While every sermon does not have to be an evangelistic sermon in the classic sense, every message should point to Jesus. There should be some presentation of the gospel in all of the pastor's messages.

**6. Celebrate new believers.** What is rewarded becomes normative. When pastors intentionally lead their churches to celebrate a person becoming a Christian, evangelism becomes a part of the DNA of church life.

**7. Get the gospel in all the ministries.** Many churches have many dynamic ministries. Pastors should ask if every ministry is designed to point a person to Jesus.

**8. Evangelize young people in the church.** Pastors of evangelistic churches seek to make certain that the youth in the church are presented the gospel. If churches were to evangelize "their own," the number of conversions would double or triple in most congregations.

**9. Have a meal with a non-believer.** I borrowed this insight from Tony Merida. He encourages his church members to invite non-believers to have a meal with them on a regular basis. He makes a powerful case to demonstrate how often that was done in the New Testament.

I probably cannot imagine what would take place in congregations if pastors practiced a few of these ideas regularly.

*Thom S. Rainer is president and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources.*

# CBA Pastors, Staff & families...

## DECEMBER

### Birthdays

8-Glenn Baker (Hammond/Lovington)  
15-Pauline Miller (Forsyth)  
24-Noah Smith (Mt. Zion)

### Wedding Ann.

17-Randy & Leigh Johnson (Tabernacle)



## Annual CBA Christmas Party For Pastors, Staff and Spouses

Mon., December 14th, 2015

6:30-8 PM

**Benny's Grill**

1770 E. Pershing Rd., Decatur  
(between N. Woodford &  
N. 22nd St./121/48)

No charge for the meal.

RSVP's needed by noon Dec. 10th

Chris (217) 521-2420 or

[cbaoffice@comcast.net](mailto:cbaoffice@comcast.net)

*Come to relax  
& fellowship!*

## Join the Community Choir Festival

Come and Be Part of a  
"Heavenly Mass Choir"

January 24th, 2015

Tabernacle Baptist Church  
650 N. Wyckles Rd., Decatur, IL

Scheduled Rehearsals at Tabernacle:

January 7, 13, 21 from 6:30-7:30 PM

A Mass Choir singing 4 selections-music must be ordered.  
One piece of the music is provided, the other 3 will cost  
approx. \$1.65 a piece.

Call Chris Vieth at Tabernacle for more information:  
(217) 877-5653, Ext. 14. *The event will support the Old  
King's Orchard, an inner city outreach (across from  
Grace U.M. Church). To attend the event is free, but a  
love offering will be taken for Old King's Orchard.  
Come prepared to give.*



## Minister's Wives Brunch

Hosted by Leigh Johnson  
(225) 315-9500

On Wednesday, January 27th, 2016  
at 10 AM

At Tabernacle Baptist Church



*Just a time to get  
together for support,  
prayer, and fellowship.*

## BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, December 9th, 2015

1-4 PM at Decatur Memorial Hospital  
2300 N Edward St., Decatur

For more info. call Community Blood Center at  
(217) 241-7550 or online at  
[www.bloodcenterimpact.org](http://www.bloodcenterimpact.org)

Use group sponsor code 60703 to schedule online.

*Please Eat Lunch & Drink Water before donating.  
Must present donor or photo ID to donate.*

## Midwest Leadership Summit 2016

January 26-27, 2016

At IBSA Building in Spgfld

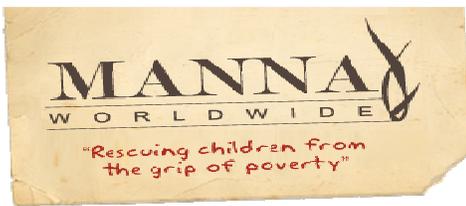
(Limited Space-250 total)

Registration beginning Nov. 1st

Twenty intensive session where leaders may choose to  
learn practical skills such as Biblical teaching and  
preaching, relational leadership, disciple making, vision  
casting, trust-building, and increasing your burden for the  
lost.

The summit is free to all participants except for their  
hotel room at the Hampton Inn (\$85 per room). IBSA is  
willing to provide one hotel room per association, for the  
CBA leader that has registered a group of at least 5 lead-  
ers to join him at the conference.

Contact Pat Pajak at [patpajak@ibsa.org](mailto:patpajak@ibsa.org) or  
(217) 391-3129, for more information.



MANNA was founded and continues to serve children because we have each experienced the love of Jesus Christ and desire to bring that same peace to the entire world. MANNA Worldwide is a Christian organization that focuses on caring for impoverished children around the world. We are strategically fighting the GLOBAL GIANTS of DISEASE, POVERTY, ILLITERACY, and SPIRITUAL EMPTINESS.

#### **HOW MANNA IS UNIQUE:**

MANNA serves people regardless of their race, gender, religion, or ethnicity!

MANNA was founded and continues to serve children because we have each experienced the love of Jesus Christ

and desire to bring that same peace to the entire world.

MANNA is committed to always maintain less than a 10% overhead.

MANNA partners with veteran Christian workers to provide resources to help them care for the poor.

MANNA leads more than 60 trips each year for supporters to see how their generosity has been used.

MANNA Directors do not receive salaries and must raise their own funds to cover personal expenses.

As a Christian organization, we feel compelled to care for the less fortunate because of our faith in Jesus Christ. We do not feed people and break the cycle of poverty to convince them of our way of thinking, rather, we have been blessed and thus feel compelled to care for others!

We desire to maintain complete transparency, please contact us for additional information: [www.mannaworldwide.com](http://www.mannaworldwide.com)

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# How to Prepare for a Short-term Mission Trip

The first word in the Great Commission is “Go.” We are called to go into all the world and make disciples. Acts 1:8 says we are to be witnesses in the same way, all over the world. That sounds great and most of our churches would say, “yes, we’re on board with that.” The question becomes: What do I need to do to plan and prepare for a short term mission trip?

**1. First, figure out where you’re going.** Do some research on the country, its people, cultural differences, language, and so forth. You can find a lot of information online. Several of our CBA churches have mission trips you can go on.

**2. Pray!!!** You must bathe your trip in prayer.

**3. Know your itinerary.** Make sure you get with the missionaries or agencies you are traveling to or with and get a good understanding of what you will be doing on your trip. For example: If it’s a work trip, bring the right tools or materials. If it’s a ministry-focused trip, make sure you’re prepared for whatever it is you will be doing. Don’t show up and try to wing it. Know why you’re there.

Give a copy of your itinerary to a loved one before you leave.

**4. Passports and Visas.** If you are leaving the country, you will need to get a passport. You can get one at a local Post Office. Currently, the wait time is six to eight weeks. I recommend you apply as soon as possible. (You can get a rush on your passport but you will pay an extra fee to do so.) Before you go to the post office to apply, be sure you have a *certified* copy of your birth certificate and another form of picture ID. The birth certificate you get from the hospital will not do. It **MUST** be *certified* from the county in which you were born. If the country you are traveling to requires a visa as well, you will need to get that as soon as possible. Apply through the Embassy of the country for which you need a visa. Again, don’t wait until the last minute.

**5. Travel Arrangements.** Be sure all your travel arrangements are handled well in advance. If you must fly, airline prices will be cheaper if you book in advance; and you want to make sure you can book a flight on the scheduled days and times you need. A travel agent can assist you, or if you are internet capable you can often find your own tickets at a bargain price.

Also, clarify with your host whether or not you need to book hotels. Ask their recommendations. If you’ll need ground transportation in the country destination you are going to, plan that ahead. Importantly—make sure you have done so well in advance and keep record of all your confirmation numbers.

**6. Clothing & toiletries.** Chose your clothing only after researching what is appropriate for the culture you will be in. Learn as much as you can about the climate of your destination. Some countries dress far more conservatively then we do and since our aim is not to offend, but share Christ, dress appropriately.

Consider bringing some travel detergent to wash clothes. Save space in your luggage to bring back souvenirs.

Make sure the toiletries you pack meet travel security requirements of the TSA and other agencies and you have enough to last for your entire mission trip. You can find the guidelines posted on the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) website.

**7. Prescriptions and vaccines.** Don’t forget your medicine. Make sure any medication you require is packed and easily accessible. (If you take a prescription medication, it is important that you keep it with you at all times.) Prepare for any aches, pains and emergencies you might encounter by bringing pain relievers, antacids, nausea medicine, or anything else you think you might need.

Check with your doctor about any needed vaccines you may require for travel to different areas. If you haven’t had a tetanus shot in the last 10 years, you should get one.

**8. Electronics and Money.** If you are bringing electronics, you may need an adapter set to fit your destination's outlets. The plugs on your electronics will not fit in all international outlets. If you’re bringing a cell phone, be sure to check with your carrier about the cost of international calls, text, and data so you won’t get a big surprise when you return and receive your first bill. Most carriers have international programs you can purchase for a short term to help with the cost and they can instruct you in having your devices settings set to use the least amount of data.

Most of all, don’t forget to bring money. Arrange to get proper currency for your destination, or bring some money to exchange upon arrival and find out where to exchange it. If you bring a bank card be sure you notify your bank that you will be out of the country. Otherwise, they may notice the international charges and if they can’t get a hold of you the bank may suspend your card thinking it has been stolen.

**Lastly,** be hospitable and thankful. Remember why you’re there—you are representing Jesus. And have a great time!



# from the Pews!

**First Baptist Church of Atwood**-Our Children's Christmas Program is scheduled for Sunday morning, 10 am, December 13th.

**Calvary Baptist Church**-On November 19 at 6 pm a Thanksgiving Meal was provided at Calvary Baptist Church in our new fellowship hall. We invited whomever wanted to come, at no cost to them.

On December 20th at 6 pm Calvary will present a Christmas Play "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year." You are invited. For any questions, call Pastor Mitch at (217) 429-1954.

**Sullivan Southern Baptist Church**-celebrated their 65th anniversary on Nov. 15, with *The Kings IV* bringing the music during the morning Worship Service and a Potluck meal following. Then at 1:30 pm *The Kings IV* gave a concert. We also heard a word from some former pastors.

Sullivan Southern hosted a Thanksgiving Meal on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26. Since God has richly blessed us we wanted to share those blessings with those who are alone or in need this Thanksgiving season. At no cost, anyone that did not have family to eat a meal with, was invited to come and eat.

**Tabernacle**-On Sat., November 14, we had a well attended Gospel Sing at 6 pm with two groups, *Sincerity & Rescued*, a new quartet featuring Pastor Randy Johnson, Andy Moore, Jeff Wagoner & Derek Tipword.

Fri., November 20th we held our annual "Celebrate Christmas" a women's event to reach out to

unchurched ladies with a meal & entertainment.

TBC is still offering a Parents Day Out on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9 am-2 pm; this is open to everyone, not just TBC families. Contact the office for more information.

**Tri Valley**-had a special 20th Anniversary Service on Sunday morning on November 15th. Richard & Dot Tribble were our guests. Richard Tribble was their guest speaker. The celebration included a special Luncheon and Birthday cake.

Also on Dec. 5th, Jason Collins will present a Christmas concert at Tri- Valley Baptist at 6:00 PM.



**Tabernacle Baptist Church** is presenting:  
**"A Charlie Brown Christmas,"**  
 December 11, 12 & 13 at 7 pm nightly (No Charge)  
 with a 2 pm Matinee on Saturday for those who can't drive at night.  
 (Good Grief! Pastor Randy Johnson is playing Charlie Brown.)



**CBA PHONE NUMBER**  
**(217) 615-0192**



## Mark Your Calendar

### December 2015

- 1st at 5:30 PM-Leadership Team Meeting at CBA office/Emmanuel
- 5th at 6 PM-Jason Collins' Christmas Concert at Tri-Valley
- 9th 1-4 PM-Blood Drive at DMH
- 11th-13th at 7 PM- "A Charlie Brown Christmas" at Tabernacle
- 13th at 10 AM-First BC, Atwood's Children's Christmas program.
- 14th at 6:30 PM-Annual CBA Christmas Party at Benny's Grill
- 20th at 6 PM-"The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" play at Calvary Baptist Church
- 25th-MERRY CHRISTMAS/CBA Office Closed until Jan. 5th

### January 2016 Call to Prayer Month

- 1st-HAPPY NEW YEAR-Office Closed until Jan. 5th
- 8th-10th at 6:30 PM-Greater Decatur Chorale "A Little Dinner Music" at Scovill Banquet Facility, Decatur, IL
- 14th at 11:30 AM-Pastors' Lunch at Emmanuel/Staff Mtg. to follow
- 17th-Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
- 18th- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 23rd-Prayer Drive-visit each church (more information Jan. Focus)
- 24th-Community Choir Festival at Tabernacle
- 26th-27th-Midwest Leadership Summit 2016 at IBSA Bldg.



**Greater Decatur Chorale Presents...**  
**A Little Dinner Music**  
**"Best of Broadway"**  
 Enjoy a dinner and show by the Decatur Park District's Greater Decatur Chorale at Scovill Banquet Facility!

<b>January 8th &amp; 9th</b> Dinner 6:30-7:15 PM Concert 7:30 PM	<b>Purchase tickets at:</b> The Decatur Park District <a href="http://www.decatour-parks.org">www.decatour-parks.org</a> or call (217) 422-5911 by January 6th
<b>January 10th, 2015</b> Lunch 12:30-1:30 PM Concert 2 PM	<b>\$23/person for dinner &amp; show</b> <b>\$10/person for show only</b>

(Limited number of show seats available!)

### Associational Newsletter Access

The Central Baptist Association's e-Focus Newsletter will be done online as an email through Constant Contact twice a month to the email addresses I have been given. If you'd like to be added to this email list, please Contact Chris by calling (217) 615-0192 or [cbaoffice@comcast.net](mailto:cbaoffice@comcast.net).

In addition, one copy of the Focus will be sent monthly to the church pastor or secretary to be printed and given out to those who don't have emails or prefer a paper copy.