

Focusing on Missions

Churches:

- Argenta
- Arthur
- Atwood
- 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.

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

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This month's Focus is dedicated to Mission Trips. CBA is making at least two different mission trips available to anyone who regularly attends one of our CBA churches. If your church is interested, please contact Chad Williams at chad@rochesterfirstbaptist.org or (865) 228-2910.

To register for either trip: <https://accessthenations.com/trips/>

We will have a group training in the Spring.

The article on pages 2 & 3 is about the Bowmanville, Toronto, Church start that we'll be assisting on this mission trip.

KRAKOW, POLAND-May 30-June 8, 2019

This will be a dual project, where we'll have a group working in schools teaching, English As a Second Language (ESL); after-school programs; and prayer walking. Another group will be leading sports camps and prayer walking.

NOTE: There will be a lot of walking involved. Best suited for middle school age and older.

Cost: \$650 plus airfare (estimates at \$1250 currently) and the \$650 covers all in-country costs including meals, hotel, travel and a trip to *Aushwitz Birchanau. A passport is required.

A deposit of \$100 and an additional deposit for the airline ticket are required at registration.

***Auschwitz-Birkenau** is the general term for the network of Nazi concentration and labor camps, established near the Polish city of Oswiecim. Together this complex was the largest of all the Nazi death camps across Europe and could hold upwards of 150,000 inmates at any given time.



TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA-July 27-Aug. 3, 2019

This trip will include surveying, block parties and/or VBS, and community outreach ministries. This trip is open to all ages. There will be walking involved.

Cost: approximately \$550 and it covers hotel and food in Canada, as well as a trip to Niagara Falls. It does not include gas or transportation to Toronto. A deposit of \$100 is due at registration. A passport or passport card is required for Toronto.

Access International, an affiliate of LifeWay. Chad Williams is the contact for the trip.

To register for either trip: <https://accessthenations.com/trips/>

Not my dream, but God's

How one small Toronto church plant grew by giving people away.

By Tobin Perry

As Toronto church planter Matt Hess read a church planting book by an expert he respected, he came to a sentence that shook him...

You shouldn't plant a church until you have a core group of 50.

"I have five—and we all have the same last name," Matt thought.

Discouraged, he went down to his basement and cried out to God. The Hess family had recently arrived in the fourth-largest city in North America with the overwhelming conviction God had called them to start a church—Fellowship Pickering.

Matt didn't have a clear vision of what God wanted to do in the new church, but he did have a call.

"I know You told us to come here, and I know You want to do something special here, but I don't know what it is," Matt told God.

Opening his Bible, he flipped to the gospels. The more Matt read, the easier it was to see Jesus' pattern of multiplication. He noticed how Jesus developed The Twelve, then the inner circle of Peter, James and John and then specifically focused on discipling Peter.

Matt realized God wasn't calling him to start a mega-church in his new adopted city—but multiple churches spread throughout the Greater Toronto Area.

UNDERCOVER DISCIPLING

First, God gave Matt a vision for multiplication. Then God gave him James Greaves.

Weeks after that ministry-altering encounter with God, Matt went door-to-door in his neighborhood.

James' door was one Matt knocked one that day. James grew up in a family that rarely talked about spiritual matters, but he listened to Matt politely. When Matt invited James to be a part of the church's core group and to attend their first informational meeting, James decided to give it a shot.

"I spent time around them afterward," James says. "They were some of the sweetest people I'd ever met. It was there that some of my preconceived notions of church and God started to break down. But I still had a long road ahead of me."

Matt invited James into his life on a regular basis. When Matt ran errands, James tagged along. Whatever Matt, his wife, Arrica, and their kids were doing on Saturday, they invited James to join them.

"I got a chance to see how Matt's family and the people who were around in those early stages of the church treated others," James says. "I saw things they would do for people. Our relationship was just undercover-discipling me."

DEVELOPING A CHURCH PLANTING PIPELINE

At the same time, Matt continued working out the vision God gave him to start 12 new churches in 10 years. To do that, he had to find more church planters. The most obvious limitation wasn't resources, and it certainly wasn't finding places in greater Toronto area that needed new churches.

The limitation was leaders.

Fellowship Pickering needed a church planting pipeline, a way to grow leaders for the compelling mission in front of the church. The more God cultivated His vision within Matt, the more Matt understood that the future leaders and church planters were in the harvest.

FINDING A CHURCH PLANTER IN THE HARVEST

Matt still had no idea one of those future church planters would be James. He hadn't even committed his life to Christ. But Matt kept faithfully sharing the gospel with James through words and actions.

During the preview service, Matt began a series entitled "Googling God," where he answered some of the most common questions about Christianity. James carefully listened to the series and began to reflect upon spiritual matters.

Around the same time, James' grandfather died.

"In desperation, I began asking God tough questions I had never asked before," James says.

When James was asked to speak at this grandfather's funeral, he turned to Matt for help. Matt turned to the gospel. At his grandfather's funeral, James shared the gospel for the first time—before he was even a Christian.

Because of Matt's faithful witness, James became a follower of Jesus.



James Greaves & Matt Hess

(Continued from page 2)

A NEW CHURCH IN BOWMANVILLE—AND BEYOND

Matt developed a process that allowed him to spend consistent time with the potential church planters in his congregation. His wife, Arrica, also invest heavily in future church planters' wives, mentoring and providing discipleship.

"The biggest thing for us is to nail down the calling," Matt says. "if we can nail down the calling, everything else falls into place we've discovered." One day while he was traveling for work, James called Matt.

"Hey man, I need to talk to you about something," James told Matt.

Matt braced for what came next.

"I don't know how to say this, so I'm just going to say it," James says. "I really think I'm called to ministry. I think I'm called to preach and plant churches. I don't want to do anything else with my life."

That was five years ago. Since then, Fellowship Pickering has started three other churches, and Matt continues to disciple James. At times, Matt and James have had to press pause on church-planting plans as James worked through different challenges in his life, but they have persevered.

This fall James will launch Fellowship Bowmanville. Though the church will share a name, it will be completely autonomous from Fellowship Pickering. And, in keeping with Fellowship's conviction to build multiplication into the DNA of each new plant, James is developing leaders who can help start new churches in the city even as he makes plans to get Fellowship Bowmanville up and running.

One of the future leaders James is developing is Harley McLeod, who he meets with weekly. Just as Matt did with him, James helps Harley apply the Bible to personal and ministry issues in his life.

"Right now we're working through developing an 'oikos map,' where we put ourselves in the center of the map and then draw lines to people we're most in contact with," Harley says. "It's a great way to visualize how we can multiply as we share the gospel."

As Matt looks back on the six years since the first Fellowship Pickering service, he can easily see God's faithfulness. Fellowship Bowmanville will be the church's fourth church plant. Thanks to their church planting pipeline, the church plans to start three more in the next two years. Between all Fellowship churches, more than 150 people have been baptized in

the past four years with more people coming to Christ on a regular basis.

It hasn't been easy. With every new church plant, they've sent out some of their best leaders—both the church planters and the teams they've taken with them. They've given away a seasoned missionary and his family, an elder candidate, committed children's ministry leaders and more to help start new churches.

But God is faithful.

"This isn't my dream; it's God's," Matt says. "When you live with open hands, He does really incredible things with your life."

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January Winter Bible Study You won't want to miss any of this!

The Seven Churches in Revelation

4 Sundays/6-7 PM
4 CBA Churches
8 Preachers
2 Sessions

NOTE: In the event of inclement weather, each church will decide if study should be cancelled. Contact Keith at (217) 412-5364 for cancellations or any additional information.

January 6th-Emmanuel Baptist for *Revelation 1*, Intro., Pastor Keith Schmutzler; *Ephesus*, Pastor Scott Andrews
January 13th-Argenta Baptist for *Smyrna* Pastor Will Ferguson; *Pergamos*, Pastor Ron Woodrum
January 20th-Forsyth Baptist for *Thyatira*, Pastor Lanny Faulkner; *Sardis*, Pastor James Williford
January 27th-Summit Ave. Baptist for *Philadelphia*, Pastor Tim Carr; *Laodicea*, Pastor Dale Granda

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."
Matt.: 28:19-20

CBA Christmas Music Festival

2 PM-Saturday, December 8th, 2018
Emmanuel Baptist Church
1255 Lake Ridge Ave., Decatur

Special music by our CBA churches.

Traditional Christmas carols for everyone to sing.

If you'd like to participate as a special, please contact Chris at the CBA office by calling (217) 330-7593 or email her at office@cbadecatur.com by the 4th of December.

Afterglow: Christmas cookies & hot drinks
Please bring a dozen, or two, Christmas cookies to share.



MERRY CHRISTMAS
From all of us
To all of you!

DON'T FORGET:

Dec. 2nd-9th—Week of Prayer
for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Coming in February:

Marriage Retreat

February 22-23, 2019

Led by Doug and Leslie Davis

More information to come.

Annual CBA Christmas Party

Saturday, December 1st, 2018

For CBA Staff, Pastors & Spouses

6-8 PM

at Yoder's Restaurant,
Arthur, IL

No Charge for the Meal



Coming Events

December

1st (Saturday) @ 6 PM-CBA Pastors, Staff & Spouses, Holiday Fellowship at Yoder's Restaurant in Arthur.

2nd-9th-Week of Prayer for Lottie Moon Offering

8th at 2 PM-Christmas Music Fellowship at Emmanuel

Office Closed-Christmas Eve through New Years Day

25th-Merry Christmas

January 2019

6th @ 6 PM-January Winter Bible Study at Emmanuel

13th @ 6 PM-January Winter Bible Study at Argenta

15th @ Noon-Leadership Team Meeting at Tabernacle

20th @ 6 PM-January Winter Bible Study at Forsyth

20th-Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

22nd-23rd-Leadership Development Conf. at IBSA in Spgfld

27th @ 6 PM-January Winter Bible Study at Summit Ave.

Sympathy

Pastor Dennis Blankenship went home to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on November 12 at 3 AM. Dennis served the Association and several of its churches for many, many years. He and Marian have supported the CBA through their labor, prayers and devotion. Our sincere sympathy to Marian and her family as they soldier on without Dennis.



Illinois Leadership Conference

January 22 & 23, 2019

at IBSA Building, Springfield

FOCUS FUNNIES



LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE WILL BE GETTING WHAT THEY WANT THIS YEAR...SOMEBODY POSTED MY CREDIT CARD NUMBER ON THE INTERNET!