

The Central FOCUS

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Editor & Secretary

"Experiencing God
Together!"

Central Baptist Association
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Churches And *Missions:

Argenta
Arthur
Atwood
Boody
Calvary
Emmanuel
Fellowship
Findlay
Forsyth
Galilee
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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What Rights Have You?

Well it's the Christmas season once again and if you are anything like I am you are busier this month than normal. With Christmas parties, ball games, Church events, school programs, gatherings of all kinds with friends and family, and of course the frequent shopping trips that leave your wallet a little deflated, it's hard to find time to simply relax and remember why we celebrate this season. As you go into the community you often hear people say "Merry Christmas" and others "Happy Holiday's." I personally am not offended by either statement. There are those, however, who seem to make a big deal of our mentioning

Christ in anything we say, much less Christmas, and as a result there is a lot of talk these days about our rights and our freedoms. Talk of how it seems our freedoms are slowly being striped away from us. I have even heard some say that Christians in America are being persecuted. Well, I think were far from persecution. I wouldn't even dare to compare the freedom we have here to what those around the world are experiencing to simply worship. Comparatively—we've really got it made.

Many feel that we are in a fight for our rights as believers, but I can't help but think about the rights that Jesus had that He willingly gave up for us. In light of **who** Jesus was, and in celebration of His birth, think about **what** He became for us, and the rights He laid down to do so.

First of all He emptied Himself for us. Phil. 2:5-8 says "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon himself the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." It is significant to remember who He was. Rev. 20:11 says "He was the Creator of the World...from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away" but in the passage we just read it is says: "(He) made himself of no reputation." Hebrews 1:2 says He was "appointed heir of all

things." But in Matt. 8:20 "hath not where to lay his head." Hebrews 1:3 says He was: "the brightness of his glory" but in Rom. 8:3 "made in the likeness of sinful flesh." Hebrews 1:3 goes on to say "He was the express image of God." But Isaiah 52:14 points out He was marred more than any man. Again, Hebrews 1:3 says "He upheld all things by the word of his power." In Luke 2:16 "Had to be held as an infant."

I wonder in light of **who** He was, **what** He emptied Himself of, and **what** He became for us. What does Phil. 2:5 mean to you? We need the mind of Christ this Christmas season. Jesus, in doing all of that, **GAVE UP HIS RIGHTS.**

1. He gave up the right to wealth-II Cor. 8:9 "though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor." Have you ever wondered why He couldn't be tempted with riches? So why do we chase riches?

2. Jesus gave up the right to be honored and esteemed. Isa. 53:3, "we esteemed Him not." He gave up the right to purity-II Cor. 5:21, "For he hath made Himself to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

3. The right to be served. Mark 10:45, "For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

4. The right to be appreciated. John 1:10, "He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own, and His own received Him not."

5. And finally, the right to life. John 1:4, "In Him was life; and the life was the light of men." Mt 27:50, "Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost."

If Jesus Can give all that up for me in one life time..... what can I give up for Him? What rights of yours have been violated by someone else? Where have you been treated unfairly? Can it compare to the price Jesus paid for you? This Christmas season let's remember what it's all about and let's share Jesus with those around us.

Pastor JJ Hairston
Co-Coordinator CBA

This Christmas season lets remember what it's all about and let's share Jesus with those around us.

CBA Pastors, Staff & families...



Birthdays

January 2014

- 8-Will & Jennifer Ferguson (Argenta)
- 11-Jennifer Ferguson (Argenta)
- 15-Dee Leischner (Boody)
- 15-Chase & Rebecca Smith (Fellowship)
- 23-Jane Hickman (Tabernacle)
- 25-David Marshall (Mt. Zion)

Church Ann.

- 1987-David Marshall (Mt. Zion)

G Anniversaries



February 2014

- 2-Gary Bauerle (Emmanuel)
- 11-Joshua Woodrum (Tri-Valley)
- 22-Marian Blankenship (Tab.)
- 28-Dennis Blankenship (Tabernacle)
- 28-Irene Leischner (Argenta-widow)

Church Ann.

- 2006-Doug Davis (Arthur)

Mark Your Calendar

JANUARY

1st-HAPPY NEW YEAR-Office Closed

1st-5th-January Bible Study

3rd at 6:30 PM-CBA Holiday Party at Galilee

*13th at 6 PM-Associational Leadership Meeting at Emmanuel

*13th at 7 PM-Executive Board Meeting at Emmanuel

(*Note: this is a Monday instead of Tuesday)

19th-Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

20th- Martin Luther King Jr. Day

27th-28th-Professional Development for DOMs, IBSA Bldg.

FEBRUARY

7th-12th-Uptown Winter Mission Trip, Chicago

11th at 10 AM-Sr. Adult Event at Tabernacle

14th-Valentines Day

17th-Presidents Day

22nd-Churches of Strength Conference, Chatham BC



Heyworth-On Nov. 23 Heyworth FBC packed 24 shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child program. This was their first year to collect items for the pizza, prayer and packing party. Heidi Spaulding (granddaughter of Dennis and Marian Blankenship) delivered the boxes to Cross Pointe Church in Bloomington and was greeted by a former member of HFBC when she lived in Heyworth during the time when Dennis Blankenship was pastor.

Sullivan Southern-has called Bro. Jeff Yandell as Associate Pastor of Music. Bro. Jeff and his wife LaDonna are the son and daughter-in-law of Jerry & Rosanna Specht. They have had a desire to return to this area to help their parents. Bro. Jeff is an ordained minister and has pastored churches in the local area. Using his talent in music he has served as a Minister in Music for several years. He has been pastoring a church for the last ten years. LaDonna is a nurse and is gifted with a beautiful singing voice as well. They work well together as a team and we feel very blessed to have them coming on-board to serve the Lord with their special talents. Bro. Jeff will begin on Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014. Please be in prayer that they can sell their house in Indiana soon.



HEARTCALL COUNSELING

Heartcall exists to provide Christ-centered Biblical counseling for individuals, couples, families in a confidential, comfortable setting. We provide encouragement, education and support in a way that is consistent with scripture.

For more information, contact Pastor Doug or Leslie Davis at 217-543-4171. Heartcall is a ministry of Arthur Southern Bapt. Church.

Ladies Retreat Day at Galilee Baptist Church

“Fulfill Your Ministry”

February 1st, 2013

9 AM-4 PM

At Galilee Baptist Church
3470 Christmas Tree Rd.

Decatur, IL

Cost: \$15

Includes: Continental Breakfast, Workbook, Tote bag, and Lunch

For ALL Ladies of the Central Baptist Association

“Fulfill Your Ministry” is a study based on **2 Timothy 4**, designed to help strengthen the call of ministry

for the women in our CBA churches. Whether it's in the church, at home, at work, or wherever we are at, God has something for us.

**PLEASE REGISTER BY
JANUARY 15TH, 2013
(217) 875-7558**

www.galileedecatur.com

FINANCIAL REPORT CBA BUDGET ACCOUNT Nov.-Dec. 2013

Argenta (1)	47.20	(1)-means how many checks were received during months reporting. The rest gave 2.
Arthur	636.00	
Atwood	734.00	
Boody (1)	57.32	
Calvary	143.91	
Christian	80.42	
Emmanuel	526.86	
Fellowship	313.00	
Findlay	60.00	
Forsyth	670.18	
Galilee (1)	71.94	
Hammond	370.86	
Heyworth	355.61	
Lincoln (1)	287.27	
Lovington	596.42	
Mt. Zion	831.79	
Sullivan	612.00	
Summit Ave.	434.67	
Tabernacle	994.00	
Tri-Valley	<u>500.05</u>	
Total:	\$8,323.50	



**Thank
You
For
Your
Support**