

The Central FOCUS

"Experiencing God Together!"

Central Baptist Association

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Churches And *Missions:

Argenta

*Great Commission

Arthur

Atwood

Boody

Calvary

*Christian Baptist

Emmanuel

Fellowship

Findlay

Forsyth

Galilee

Grace Fellowship

Hammond

Heyworth

Lincoln

Lovington

Mt. Zion

New Life

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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A Great 2013

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continued & Great News

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Missionary's Focus: Formula for A Great 2013

2012 Headlines In Review

2012 Extinction: Doomsday Prophecies
predict end of the world!

The Fiscal Cliff Crisis for the economy
Super Storm Sandy Slammed the NE US
Presidential Election

Release of the iPhone 5

The shootings in Newtown, CT at Sandy Hook Elementary School

As we face the end 2012 and as we cross over into 2013, I want to share a portion of scripture that is certain to help us have a great 2013. In our text, Paul gives us a formula to make the new year a great one.

Phil. 3:12-15 (12) "Not that I have already reached the goal or am already fully mature, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus. (13) Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, (14) I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus. (15) Therefore, all who are mature should think this way. And if you think differently about anything, God will reveal this also to you. HCSB

I. Recognize Your Faults

"Not that I have already reached [the goal]* or am already fully mature"

Paul states that he has not arrived to a state of perfection. There are still things that need to improve in his life. Paul admits that he does not fully know Him. He has not attained this complete knowledge of Him. He knows that he will not be complete until he experiences the resurrection in Christ. Thus Paul was looking ahead to when his salvation would be complete in the resurrection. Paul said: "[My goal]* is to know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, (v10)." He wanted to be ready for whatever God asked of him. Are You?

*The bracketed text has been added for clarity.

Take a Spiritual Inventory

- Do I Have a Closer Walk With God
- Do I Have a Greater Burden for Souls
- Am I Grounded Deeper in the Word of God
- Do I Have a Greater Passion to Worship/ Serve God
- Do I Exemplify God's Place for me in my Home

II. Release Your Failures

"forgetting what is behind"

The Past is a rudder to guide you, not an anchor to drag you. Don't live in your past failures Learn from Them!! This passage summarizes Paul's life and how he faced the future. What was done is done! We all enjoy the "good ole days," But were they really so good? Failure is not final With God

III. Reach Forward

"Reaching forth unto those things which are before"

We should ask God to put some of "those things" in front of us to reach for.

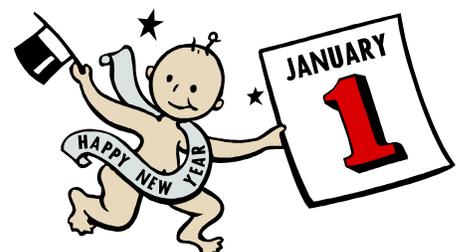
A - Reaching is to Exert - To put forth effort

B - Reaching is to Extend - To go beyond your immediate surroundings (Get out of your comfort zone)

Just across from the Post Office in Bone Gap is the old railroad depot building. The railroad tracks have been removed, but south of town you can still find some telegraph poles running along the old railroad right of way. Let's go back in time about 125 years to when the telegraph was the fastest method of long-distance communication.

One day, the depot manager at Bone Gap retired and the railroad began the search for someone to take his place. One of the main

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BFI Scholarships Available

December 1, 2012-February 1, 2013

Eligible applicants will be a **full time student** in either a two year college, four year college or university or a seminary during the 2013-2014 Academic year. Students **must be active members** of an IBSA church. The scholarship awards are: \$1,000 for Associates, \$2,000 for Bachelors and \$2,500 for Seminary students. Applications can be completed online at the BFI Scholars area of our website, BaptistFoundationIL.org

CBA Pastors, Staff & families... January

8-Will & Jennifer Ferguson (Argenta)
9-Travis Brown (Forsyth)
11-Cheryl McCoy (CBA)
-Jennifer Ferguson (Argenta)
12-Jim Allen (Great Commission)
15-Dee Leischner (Boody)
-Chase & Rebecca Smith (Fellowship)
23-Jane Hickman (Tabernacle)
25-David Marshall (Mt. Zion)
28-Samantha Brown (Forsyth)
Church Ann.
1987-David Marshall (Mt. Zion)
2011-Tracy Smith (Mt. Zion)
2012-Mike McCoy (DOM)

February

2-Johnnie Daniels (Emmanuel)
11-Joshua Woodrum (Tri-Valley)
22-Marian Blankenship (Tabernacle)
28-Dennis Blankenship (Tabernacle)
28-Irene Leischner (Argenta-widow)
Church Ann.
2006-Doug Davis (Arthur)

March

3-Paige Davis (Arthur)
5-Tracy Smith (Mt. Zion)
6-Lloyd Jackson, Sr. (Shiloh)
-Scott Andrews (Grace Fellowship)
7-Mike Peterson (Heyworth)
-Rich & Nancy Ratts (Forsyth)
9-Tom & Kellijo Leach (Tabernacle)
11-Susan Baker (Hammond/Lovington)
12-Nancy Ratts (Forsyth)
19-Caddie Daniels (Emmanuel)
20-Janet Morlan (Christian)
24-Tom Miller (Heyworth)

January Bible Study 2013

The Study is the *Last Week of Christ from the book of Luke*. If you'd like to use the fill in the blank handouts that Brother Lanny Faulkner has used in the past, I have a copy I can send you from him, with his blessings. —Chris G.

Contact me at the CBA office-(217) 428-1730 or cbaofficedecatur@sbcglobal.net

Call to Prayer: January is 'pivotal opportunity'

ALPHARETTA, GA. (BP)—Southern Baptist leaders are hoping churches will start 2013 with an emphasis on prayer and the lost during the month-long SBC Call to Prayer beginning Jan. 1st.

The effort will help churches focus on prayer in several key ways toward seeking to engage those without Christ.

“The SBC Call to Prayer is a pivotal opportunity as churches cast a vision for ministry in 2013,” said SBC President Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans. “this coming January we will have the chance to gather as a denomination and center our thoughts and prayers on the lost in our communities and around the world.”

Among the emphases of the SBC Call to Prayer are:

My Family and Friends. Select a friend or family member and pray that they would come to faith in Christ.

My Nation. Select a Send North America city and pray for the church planting efforts in that area (www.namb.net/cities).

My World. Select an unreached people group and pray that the Gospel would be advanced among these people (URL=<http://www.imb.org/prayerthreads>).

By using online resources and partnership with state Baptist conventions and local Baptist associations, churches can design events

and prayer opportunities that fit specific needs.

“We want to make it as easy as possible for pastors to lead their churches in praying for their families, their communities, and lost people around the world.” Said Kevin Ezell, president of the North American Mission Board. “These are tools and resources we hope every church can use to lead their people into a deeper prayer life for the coming year.”

Al Gilbert, NAMB's interim vice president for evangelism, hopes the emphasis will help Southern Baptist view the lost around them in a new way.

“We need to pray with the question in mind, ‘Who do I know who needs to know Christ?’” Gilbert said. “It’s an opportunity to really think through and intercede even as we seek to penetrate lostness.”

Gilbert encouraged Southern Baptist to be evangelistically minded in 2013 and said participation in the SBC Call to Prayer is a great way to begin.



Mark Your Calendars for:

Central Baptist Association's

Sr. Adult Love Banquet

10 AM on Feb. 12th, 2012

Location and Additional
information coming soon.

Macon & DeWitt County Resources & Ministry Opportunities

Opportunities for ministry are numerous in Illinois and right in your area. Dove, Inc. changes the lives of approximately 5,000 people a year through a diverse offering of programs and activities for those in need. Some of those include: Domestic Violence Program, BABES (Beginning Awareness Basic Education Studies), Community Services, Homeward Bound, MAX & DAX, Outreach Program, children's Clothing Room, RSVP, Community Recycling Center, Projects.

For details on these go to www.Doveinc.org or call (217) 428-6616.

One of the projects is Bus Service for all seniors 60+ who reside in rural Macon County and there are no income requirements. The buses are equipped with lifts for easy wheelchair access. Pick up will be located at central community locations and at home on a limited basis. Pick up times and locations will be given when a reservation is received. Call SHOW BUS at 1-800-525-2454 to request a ride and for more information.

Illinois Baptist Events Jan. & Feb. 2013

ALL STATE YOUTH CHOIR

AUDITIONS: January 26 in three locations; Logan Street Baptist, Mt. Vernon, Tabernacle Baptist, Decatur, and Calvary Baptist, Elgin. Auditions also can be submitted on CD or MP3. For more information, contact Debbie Muller at (217) 391-3126/DebbieMuller@IBSA.org.

TAX SEMINAR: February 16 at the IBSA Building in Springfield, 8:30 a.m. to noon. Led by Jeff Robinson of GuideStone Financial Resources. For pastors, finance team members, church administrators and treasurers. Cost is \$15 per person-includes lunch and workbook. Contact [Sylvan Knobloch@IBSA.org](mailto:SylvanKnobloch@IBSA.org)/(217) 391-3133.

CHURCHES OF STRENGTH

SATURDAY SEMINAR: February 23 at Lincoln Avenue Baptist, Jacksonville; 8 a.m. to noon. (217) 391-3124, CathyWaters@IBSA.org.

Formula for a Great 2013

(Continued from page 1)

duties of this new depot manager would be to receive and send telegraph messages. Therefore, the man they hired for the job would have to be familiar with Morse code. The railroad placed an ad in the newspaper hoping to attract several applicants for the job. It just so happened that a young man named Edwards saw the advertisement and decided to apply for the job as a Morse code messenger. He went to the address listed in the newspaper ad and entered a large, busy office filled with noise, clutter and the sound of Morse Code clicking in the background. Edward was instructed to fill in the application form and wait with the seven other applicants until they were called into the inner office for an interview. Edward filled in the form and sat down. The environment of the office was so noisy it was difficult to carry on a conversation so most of the applicants sat silently, some reading magazines, others dozing lazily paying no attention to what was going on around them. Edward, however, sat poised and ready to enter the office the very moment he was called to do so.

Like the railroad company, God is seeking workers. He has sought them

in every generation. He seeks them today. Ready to go, ready to stay, ready to do His will; ready for service, lowly or great, ready to fill their place.

Young Edward was ready for work and he stepped right into the inner office. In a few minutes the employer stepped out. He said, to the other seven applicants, "Gentlemen, thank you very much for coming, but the job has just been filled." They were surprised! They were astounded! They were shocked! They were angry! Said one, "Wait a minute! I don't understand! He was the last to come in, and we never got a chance to be interviewed. Yet he got the job. That's not fair!"

The employer waved them down and said, "I'm sorry, but all the time you've been sitting here the telegraph has been ticking out in Morse Code: 'If you understand this message, then come right in. The job is yours.' None of you heard it or understood it. This young man did. The job is his."

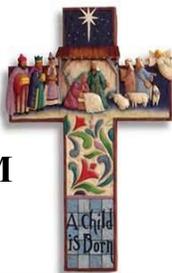
Edward was ready for service and he demonstrated the third quality needed by all who would go to work for the Lord—reaching forward!

Mike McCoy

Central Baptist Association's Easter Sunrise Service

March 31st at 6:30 AM

Location & more
information to come.



From the crech to the cross!

Great News for Mid-America Seminary

Illinois' Board of Higher Education has approved Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary's application to offer the M.Div. in Springfield! This means seminary students can take classes in Springfield, St. Louis, or online. **Location of classes:** Chatham Baptist Church, 1500 E. Walnut St., Chatham, IL

Classes begin on Monday, January 21 and are held each Monday.

2:30-5:00 PM-Dr. Van Kicklighter "Principles of Southern Baptist Missions" MS 6370

5:15-7:45 PM-Dr. Wes Feltner "Introduction to Apologetics" PH 6910

Applications/Registration is done online— <http://www.mabts.edu/sites/all/themes/midamerica/uploads/pdf/COMPLETE%20APP%202011.pdf>

Registration deadline for NEW Students is January 11, 2013. The cost is \$485 per course for tuition and course fee. Breakdown of cost: A three hour course (\$145 X 3=\$435) + course fee (\$50) equals \$485.

For transferring credit from a previous institution into MABTS: <http://www.mabts.edu/sites/all/themes/midamerica/uploads/Instructions%20on%20Transferring%20Credit%20from%20a.pdf>

If you need help, contact Mrs. Rose Mink, Registrar, or her assistant, Jenna Shields at (901) 751-3023, or email registrar@mabts.edu

For additional information, contact Mike McCoy, Director of Missions for Central Baptist Association, 1255 S Lake Ridge Ave., Decatur, IL, Office-(217) 428-1730; Cell-(217) 521-4574; mmccoy76@gmail.com



NEWS from the Pews!

Fellowship-participated in the community's Scarecrow Daze in October by having a booth, making pictures and allowing individuals to make pictures for their frames. They had their annual Thanksgiving meal in November following morning worship with a record number attending. Former missionaries, Ronnie and Beverly Carroll shared their experiences in Asia on December 9 for the Lottie Moon promotion. It was followed by their annual Gumbo dinner. The choir will also perform a cantata and there will be a children's Christmas program, as well as Christmas caroling.

JOY group handed out fruit baskets to the shut-ins. In November the new Acteens group attended the AWSOM conference at IBSA. Fellowship began a Great

Commission Outreach and Missions emphasis on Sunday evenings in November. We continue to experience gradual growth. In January we will begin an updated format for the Sunday morning Bible Study time to hopefully better serve our members and prospects.

Southern, Sullivan-will start a new 13-week study for Divorce Care on Thursday, January 24, 2013 at 7:00 pm each Thursday night. It is for Ladies only. Call Sullivan Southern Baptist Church office for any questions and registration at 217-728-8471.

Summit Ave.-had a great turn-out at the WSAB Down-home Christmas Dinner Theater on Dec. 1st. The choir/cast did a wonderful job as the musical singers and assistants at the "radio station WSAB in Decatur, IL." The meal was delicious and the jokes were old, but everyone seemed to have a good time. Mrs. Iola Beck, as Minnie Opal, wrapped up the evening as she shared the real reason for Christmas from the gospel of Luke.

Tabernacle-held their Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6 PM with music and worship. *The World of Christmas*. Festive holiday music from around the globe and the message of WHY Christ came to this world was presented Dec. 1 & 2 at 7 pm each night.

Tabernacle turns 75 this January and they are planning a Anniversary Celebration in the summer months of 2013. The Divorce Care, Grief Share and Rebuilders Support Groups resume their meetings in January. If you need this kind of support, contact Pastor Clif Jones at 877-5653.

Tri-Valley-is saying good-bye to their music minister Denny Mallory. As of Dec. 31st, Denny announced his resignation so that he can join his family in worship on Sundays. For nearly five years they have attended separate churches on Sunday mornings and Denny's felt that God has led them to make a change.

Meet Will Ferguson-Argenta's New Pastor

The Lord led the Fergusons to serve at Argenta Baptist Church and Will came on the field in Argenta in October. They have two daughters in the Argenta-Oreana schools. Bridget is 13 and in the 7th grade. Katelynn is 9 and in the 3rd grade. Jennifer was able to get a full-time job as a Spanish teacher at Eisenhower High School in Decatur, and Will is also a substitute bus driver for the Argenta-Oreana schools.

Will and Jennifer met at Church Camp in 1991--the same year he answered the call into the ministry. When they married in 1994, Will was a mission pastor of two churches in the Metro-Peoria Baptist

Association. Will then served as an Associational church planter for MPBA for 2 years. Will served as pastor of Temple Baptist Church in Canton, Illinois, for the past nine years.

Since the moment they met, Will and Jennifer have continued to be active in church camps. The family also loves to travel--sometimes with their pop-up camper. Both Will and Jennifer have each experienced an international mission trip. Will traveled to Peru, and Jennifer traveled on the WMU's first Worldcraft tour to Thailand and Cambodia. Welcome to Central!

NOTE: The *Annual Meeting Minutes & Resource Guides* will be available at the Exec. Board meeting-Jan. 15th. **Please have someone pick up your churches' copies.**



CBA Leadership Meetings

Leadership Team Meeting
7 PM-*Thurs., Jan. 10th, 2013
At CBA Office

Executive Board Meeting
7 PM-Tues., Jan. 15th, 2013

*NOTE: Change in day for Leadership Meeting from Tuesday to Thursday.

WILSON'S LAW OF COMMERCIAL MARKETING STRATEGY-As soon as you find a product you really, really like; they'll stop making it.

JANUARY 2013

1st-HAPPY NEW YEAR-Office Closed

2nd-6th-January Bible Study

10th at 7 PM-Assoc. Leadership Meeting at Office

15th at 7 PM-Executive Board Meeting at Office

20th-Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

21st- Martin Luther King Jr. Day

FEBRUARY 2013

9th-Tech Ministries Workshop at IBSA Bldg. Springfield

12th at 10:30 AM-Senior Adult Love Banquet

14th-Valentines Day

18th-Presidents Day

23rd-Churches of Strength Conference, Jacksonville, IL

MARCH 2013

3rd-10th-Week of Prayer for NAM/Annie Armstrong Off.

8th & 9th-Minister's Wives' Retreat

10th-Daylight Savings Time Begins

24th-Palm Sunday

27th-REACH3 Training for Central, IL

28th-Maundy Thursday

29th-Good Friday

31st-HAPPY EASTER-He is Risen! Hallelujah!!

31st at 6:30 AM-Easter Sunrise Service

Mark Your Calendar