

The Central FOCUS

"Experiencing God Together!"

Central Baptist Association
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Website: www.cbadecatur.com

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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The Prayer Walk Initiative

By William Ferguson, Co-Partnership Coordinator

I want to encourage you to think about prayer-walking in your church's neighborhood. In a mysterious way, prayer moves the hand of God. When we join together in agreement, praying and seeking the Lord's will, He will act in power. Prayer walking can...

Open our eyes to needs in the community as God reveals them to us.

Spark a movement of God. There are many instances of people spending time in prayer over a region before going into it. Jesus encourages us to Ask, Seek, and Knock which I believe can apply to the prayer walking initiative. There are regions where missionaries have prayed for years before a move of God came. We need to Ask, Seek, and Knock for more territory for the Kingdom.

Create opportunities to engage the people of your community. In walking around the town we are intentionally looking for things to pray for. During such activity the Holy Spirit will at times lead our focus on things that we had not noticed before. Sometimes He may direct our attention to someone standing nearby to pray with/for that person.

Unite God's people in their purpose of expanding the Kingdom. The basis of fellowship is the spread of the Gospel. "I thank my God, in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership (fellowship) of the gospel from the first day until now." (Phil 1:3-5)

Break the bondage of Spiritual Apathy among the walkers. The Holy Spirit can work on the heart of those participating in the prayer walk to see things the way Jesus does.

Create a sensitivity toward where God's is working.

It can develop into a **habit of praying without ceasing.**

Create opportunities for Divine Appointments.

Can accomplish much!

James 5:16

These are just some of the positive benefits of going into the streets of your neighborhood and praying for your neighbors. Would you be willing to pray in your neighborhoods? Would you be willing to go to another church and pray over that church's mission in their neighborhood? I invite you to join us on our prayer tour this January 23rd as we drive from church to church in our association and pray. We have several churches in our association that are presently having monthly prayer walks. Share with us your stories we would love to hear them.

As I mentioned at the Annual meeting, I believe that a church plant that I was involved in several years ago took place because a Director of Missions went into town and simply asked God to start a church there. Jesus said in Matt. 21:22 that "whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith." What if God wants to do some significant things in Central Illinois, but He is waiting for us to ask Him before He will act? Let us look for ways that we can pray for our mission field of Central Illinois.



January is Southern Baptist Convention's "Call to Prayer" Month-see article inside for more information.



Prayer Bowl—to combat Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking—also defined as Human Exploitation covers the

several facets of this heinous crime. Currently exploitation of human beings is the 2nd largest financial crime committed in the United States, second only to Drugs! As unbelievable as it may seem this fact is backed up by statistics. There are many resources available to help you learn about this situation and how to recognize it and intercede on behalf of victims.

We first learned of Human Trafficking at Fellowship Baptist when another lady and I attended the Illinois Baptist Women's Convention. A home missionary from New Orleans, LA, spoke and shared the immensity of this issue in the United States. That was in 2011, I believe. We were shocked to learn about this situation and the fact that it was all over the world and so prevalent right here at home.

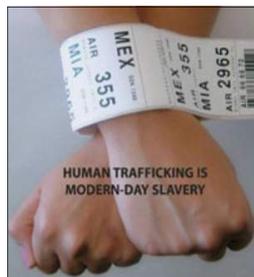
After doing a bit of research online I came up with many facts about trafficking and the agencies involved in fighting it. I had previously heard that human trafficking intensifies during large sporting events such as the Super Bowl where pimps will bring young girls to the location to be sold over and over again for profit. Unfortunately, this problem is much more than just sex-trafficking. It extends to human exploitation, including holding people against their will and forcing them to work for low or no wages.

This year the Super Bowl is February 7th in the city of Santa Clara, CA.

We discovered **Prayer Bowl**, a group that leads in providing workers on the ground wherever the Super Bowl is held and sends us Prayer Points every Saturday in January and every day of the last week before the Super Bowl in February. In turn, these are sent to all of our ladies each day reminding them to be in prayer. On the Saturday prior to the Super Bowl we have a Prayer Bowl at our church, when we open the church and invite to people to come and learn more about trafficking and its ugly issues and **PRAY to end it**. This is a **HUGE** issue in today's world and first came to our attention through Southern Baptist W.M.U.

There are two or three ladies from Fellowship who would be happy to come and share this with any congregation or Women's Group who is interested and wants to learn more and find out how to participate in **PRAYER BOWL**.

Submitted by Carolyn Lash, Fellowship Baptist Church, Shelbyville



January is SBC Call to Prayer Month

SBC Prayerlink Leaders join in calling churches to begin the year 2016 with an emphasis on prayer and reaching the lost during the month-long SBC Call to Prayer. The effort will help congregations focus on prayer in several key sets of relationships, seeking ways to engage those without Christ.

The 2016 SBC Call to Prayer highlights five areas of prayer, to correspond with January's five Sundays. The five areas are: My Family; My Community; My Church; My Nation; My World.

Through online resources and partnership with state Baptist conventions and SBC entities, churches can design events and prayer opportunities that fit specific needs. The web page, linked directly through SBC.net, will revive a previous EC initiative called "In All Things Pray" and can be accessed directly at InAllThingsPray.net.

Building Churches with BFI Bonds

In the last two years Baptist Foundation has introduced something new, building upon an old and tested concept of "bond" financing. This "something old and something new" approach is accomplishing four things for Illinois Baptists.

1. Churches receive a low, fixed rate loan
2. Investors receive higher income than comparable bank rates.
3. For those who believe they "steward" or manage God's money, it gives the added benefit of using necessary savings to expand the Kingdom while receiving a return.
4. It honors the biblical principle of cooperation so important to Southern Baptists—where savers help the church and in return, the church helps Illinois Baptist Savers.

All BFI loans have remained default free, including those financed with BFI bonds. In the last two years, approximately 21 congregations in every region of Illinois have expanded, acquired new buildings, refinanced, or made major capital repairs because of the investments of Illinois Baptists. BFI bonds are secured by a first position mortgage in church property and BFI loans have a maximum of 50% "loan to value." BFI bonds are sold in \$1,000 increments and interest is paid semi-annually. Two of our CBA churches have used this method to make improvements and add on to their church. To "reserve" one or more bonds, call Sheila at (217) 391-3116 or view more details at BaptistFoundationIL.org.

Baptist Foundation Scholarships

2016-2017 Baptist Foundation of Illinois Scholarship Applications are available via the BFI website as of Dec. 1st, 2015. All materials must be completed and returned via email no later than Jan. 31st, 2016.

Illinois residing seniors in high school, current college/community college students, and seminary students may apply for a scholarship. Last year over \$75,000 was awarded to some 30+ applicants. The only requirements to apply are that students are current members of an Illinois Southern Baptist church and are worthy candidates based on scholarship and activities.

CBA Pastors, Staff & families...

JANUARY



Birthdays

- 7-Hudson Baker (Heyworth)
- 9-Shannon Garrett (Mt. Zion)
- 11-Sam Jones (Tabernacle)
- 11-Jennifer Ferguson (Argenta)
- 15-Dee Leischner (Boody)
- 25-David Marshall (Mt. Zion)



Wedding Ann.

- 8-Will & Jennifer Ferguson (Argenta)

Church Ann.

- 1987-David Marshall (Mt. Zion)
- 2011-Tracy Smith (Mt. Zion)
- 2015-Randy Johnson (Tabernacle)



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.*

CBA Leadership Meetings



Thursday, Feb. 25th, 2016

5:30 PM-Meal

6:00 PM-Meeting

At CBA Office/Emmanuel Baptist Church
Fellowship Area

Anyone interested may attend the Meeting.

Join the Community Choir Festival

Come and Be Part of a "Heavenly Mass Choir"

2 PM-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.



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!

January 8th & 9th

Dinner 6:30-7:15 PM

Concert 7:30 PM

January 10th, 2015

Lunch 12:30-1:30 PM

Concert 2 PM

Purchase tickets at:

The Decatur Park District

www.decatour-parks.org

or call (217) 422-5911

by January 6th

\$23/person for dinner & show
\$10/person for show only

(Limited number of show seats available!)

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 leaders to join him at the conference.

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



MAKE NOTE OF NEW CBA
PHONE NUMBER
(217) 615-0192





NEWS from the Pews!

Tabernacle-Our Christmas program "A Charlie Brown Christmas" was a great production enjoyed by 1,837 in four performances. We held a Family Ministry Christmas party for our children & youth with food, music, games, white elephant exchanges & more. TBC's Sunday School classes were able to partner with NE Community Fund to "adopt" families & provide Christmas baskets this year.

Our volunteers served at Good Samaritan on Christmas Eve day & our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service was at 6 pm. The church offices will be closed Dec. 24-Jan. 1 & reopen Jan. 4. Coming in January, AWANA begins Jan. 6 at 6 p.m. with an open house & our students will head off to a Winter Retreat at Great Wolf Lodge in Wisconsin midway through the month.

Atwood, First-This past month we were blessed with our Children's Christmas Program "Christmas Is Jesus." There were 36 children and teens involved and each one gave their best to honor God! We also enjoyed the ministry of various musicians in our church on December 20, along with an encouraging Christmas Message from Pastor Lanny.

Emmanuel-was flooded from the deluge of rain from Saturday and Monday. It was discovered Monday, Dec. 28th, that all the rooms around the sanctuary were standing in a inch of water, including the CBA offices. Thank you to everyone from Emmanuel who banded together to clean up the water and pick up stuff from the wet floors.

They have a New Year's Eve service planned for 7 p.m.-12 a.m.

Men's Prayer Group
Our new Moderator, Mark Lash is trying to figure out how to go about having a Men's Prayer Group who will meet together and pray to support our Association, churches and pastors.
Mark is going to contact every CBA pastor and some laymen to ask about their interest in such an undertaking.
If you would be interested in this, please call Mark Lash at (217) 273-3403.

Senior Adult February Event
February 9th, 2016
10 AM-Tabernacle Baptist Church
Watch for more information!

Update from Darlene Mohammed
Thankful for the continuous support which blesses and helps many people in her prison ministry. Her health problems include: cataracts in both eyes, carpal tunnel in prominent hand, and atrial fibrillation. Asking for prayer for her healing so she can get back to work for our Lord Jesus.

Mark Your Calendar

- 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
13th & 14th-CBA Office Closed (Chris in SC)
17th-Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
18th- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
21st at 11:30 AM-Pastors' Lunch at Emmanuel/Staff Mtg. to follow
23rd-Prayer Drive-visit & pray for each CBA church
24th-Community Choir Festival at Tabernacle
26th-27th-Midwest Leadership Summit 2016 at IBSA Bldg.
27th at 10 AM-Minister's Wives Brunch at Tabernacle

- February 2016** *True Love Waits Emphasis*
9th at 10 AM-Senior Adult event at Tabernacle
11th-Pastors & Wives Dinner
14th-Valentine's Day
15th-President's Day
15th-16th- "Rekindling the Call" Retreat at Lake Sallateeska
18th-iConnect at IBSA Bldg.
20th-Church Tech. Conf. at IBSA Bldg.
25th-6 PM-Leadership Team Meeting at CBA office
27th-VBS Clinic (Central IL) at IBSA Bldg.

New Addition To the Baker Family
Chris & Julie Baker welcome their newest daughter Samantha Jane Baker, born December 3rd, 2015. She weighed 7 lbs and 4 oz. and was 21.5" long.
Chris Baker is the pastor at Heyworth Baptist Church and this makes 4 children for them. Two boys and two girls. She's beautiful.

Congratulations!



NEXT PASTOR'S GATHERING
Thursday, January 21st, 2016
11:30 AM at Emmanuel Baptist Fellowship Hall Room
Bring your lunch and stay awhile.
Drinks: tea, coffee, water are provided.

