

Wake-up Call

The clock is ticking on American culture. God can repair our broken society, but it must start with the church. By Doug Munton, IBSA

Perhaps the greatest need of our day is revival. I'm not talking about a series of revival meetings, though that might be needed as well. I'm talking about a genuine revival in the lives of Christians that brings spiritual renewal, vibrancy, and power. What a difference it would make in our day if revival was stirring in individuals and churches and beyond!

Christian, wouldn't you like to see a move of God that changes the hearts of believers and impacts beyond to our culture? Here are three reasons why revival still matters.

We tend to drift from God.

I'm not much of a sailor, but I do know that drifting doesn't take any special effort at all. It is easy to drift from the shore. And it is easy to drift from God.

We get busy, distracted, or preoccupied and drift away. We get rebellious, sinful, or selfish and move away from God. It is easy to do and can happen with us hardly noticing.

Note that we drift from God, not towards God. Getting closer to the Lord involves intentionality. Drifting away from God can happen without any recognition or premeditation at all.

In revival, believers come back into right relationship with the Lord. In revival, there is a recognition of our sloth or sin or self-centeredness. We need revival because we tend to forget about what matters most. We tend to lose sight of God's perspective and grow stale in our religious activities.

Revival draws us back to a close, intimate relationship with the Lord.

Revival brings new life, joy, effectiveness.

Getting right with God is not to our detriment. Though there is sorrow in recognizing our sin, repentance doesn't result in our loss. Revival involves the recognition of judgment, but it leads us to restoration.

Revival is in our best interest. It leads us to the fruit of the Spirit and the joy and peace that come with walking with the Lord. Though revival can start with discomfort and even pain, it leads to healing and purpose. It reminds us of the joy of our salvation. Revival is what our soul is longing for!

Revival impacts church, community, culture.

One of the reasons we need revival so much is because of the impact revived Christians have on those around them. When churches are revived, they are more effective and focused. The revived church is more committed to evangelism and discipleships and fellowship. But, revival has an impact beyond that.

We often decry the state of our culture, and rightly so. Our culture is increasingly coarse and crude and rebellious and disrespectful to our God and the truth from God's word. Revival can open the eyes of the lost to the realities of sin and the priorities of faith. Often, revival has even resulted in large scale recognition of the need for biblical morality in the culture at large.

Let's pray for a sweeping revival in our generation. Revival still matters!



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Illinois Baptist Disaster Relief in Kentucky

DECEMBER 22, 2021 BY IBSA DISASTER RELIEF

Approaching two weeks after massive tornadoes destroyed much of Mayfield, Kentucky, and other communities and left 78 dead, Illinois Baptist Disaster Relief (IBDR) volunteers remained on the scene, providing assistance to victims and families. Three units responded immediately, and since then have been reenforced or replaced by additional units from Illinois. Some 90 volunteers from Illinois have been deployed.

IBDR state director Butch Porter reports the units hope to complete their work by Friday, December 24, however "rain has delayed our work, and some of our teams may need to return in the week between Christmas and New Year," he said. "We'll be there if we're needed." On December 18, Porter issued another call out for additional chaplains to reach a neighborhood that had not yet received recovery support.

While traveling to Benton on Thursday, a DR trailer being towed by a pick-up truck flipped on the highway and landed upside down in a ditch. The trailer was damaged, but no injuries to volunteers were reported. The trailer was insured, but Metro East Baptist Association would welcome donations to cover replacement of materials they would have used on scene.

"The Gospel impact of relief is amazing because satisfying an immediate need helps to open the heart," Litton told Baptist Press. "This is something we're proud of as Southern Baptists, in the right sense, and we should be... This is our life together as Southern Baptists at its best," Litton said. "Out here everyone knows we need each other from the associational, state level to the national level."



Litton urged continued giving by Southern Baptists to support the volunteer relief ministry and storm victims. In Illinois, donations may be given through Illinois Baptist Disaster Relief. A link and explanation are on the Illinois Baptist State Association website main page, IBSA.org.

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief is the third largest relief agency in the nation. IBDR has approximately 900 trained volunteers who specialize in storm and flood recovery, support for feeding and shower/laundry units, childcare, and chaplaincy for spiritual and emotional support.

MAKE SOME



FOR 2022, AND KEEP THEM!

BFI Educational Scholarship Application Information

BFI will be accepting scholarship applications for the 2022-2023 school year during the month of January. An online application will be made available from **January 1 – January 31, 2022**. Please visit this Educational Scholarship page during that time to apply.

Our Sympathy

Two more of our former Pastors have gone home to heaven:

Dr. James Clinton Leischner, 85, of Cisco, Illinois, died early Friday morning, December 3, 2021 in Carle Hospital, Champaign Urbana.



When Dr. James Leischner wrote a memoir of his life in 2010, he entitled it, "Meanderings of a Tortured Mind." In this book, he summarizes his life as being born in Decatur on April 30th, 1935. He lived in Decatur, Long Creek, and Cisco with his preacher Father J. H. Leischner, his Mother Virginia, and his family. After graduating from Monticello High School, he enlisted in the US Navy and retired with the rank of Senior Chief Petty Officer.

While in the Navy he married Delores "Dee" Hubler. After leaving the Navy, he surrendered to the ministry and served as Associate Pastor at the Lakeview Baptist Church in Decatur, Outreach Minister at Forsyth Baptist, and then as Pastor at First Southern Baptist in Findlay, New Salem Baptist in Owensville, Missouri, and Boody Southern Baptist Church. He also served for several years on an Evangelism and Revival Team with his brother Dale and Matt Underwood. During his ministry, Dr. Leischner earned Bachelor, Master's, and Doctorate Degrees in ministry.

Dr. Leischner passed into the presence of Jesus on December 3rd, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Dee, their children, Melody, Duanna, and Gary and their families. He was preceded in death by his parents, his son Sherman, and his brother Dale.

Well done, good and faithful servant... well done indeed.

Michael Rutledge, Pastor of Mission church in Tuscola and Pulpit Supply joined the souls in heaven on Dec. 10th. (see Pulpit Supply article for picture and more information).

Psalms

JANUARY BIBLE STUDY

January 2022

6 PM



Bundle up and come on out to hear some good teaching on Psalms.



Jan. 2nd-	Oreana	Pastor Ron Woodrum	Psalms 22-24
Jan. 9th-	Arthur	Pastor Scott Andrews	Psalms 19
Jan. 16th-	Emmanuel	Pastor Doug Davis	Psalms 40
Jan. 23rd-	Summit Ave.	Pastor Lanny Faulkner	Psalms 84
Jan. 30th-	Forsyth	Bro. Chuck Courtney	Psalms 100

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.

Meet Our Pulpit Suppliers



We're continuing our piece each month on one of our CBA Pulpit Suppliers so you can get to know them better. This month we're focusing on Mike Rutledge. Mike passed away Dec. 10th, 2021.

Mike Rutledge lived in Arthur with his daughter Sarah. His wife Mary Ellen passed away in 2020. Mike graduated with a degree in Physical Education from McKendree College (now McKendree University). His hobbies included watching the Cubs and Illini Basketball.

Mike was called to preach in 2003, and has served as Senior Pastor at a mission church in Tuscola and at Nebo Baptist Church in South Western Illinois. He has also served as CBA pulpit supply since 2013.

Mike preached the Gospel with enthusiasm, whenever and wherever he could. Mike called frequently to ask CBA about churches without pastors. He preached a Friday night message every week on his personal Facebook page. To send a sympathy card to Mike's daughters: Sarah & Susan Rutledge, 406 Forest Ln., Arthur, IL 61911

From Mike's Pastor, Doug Davis: On Wednesday, December 15th, I said goodbye to my friend and Deacon, Mike Rutledge. Mike passed into Glory at 12:45 am on Friday, December 10th. Mike has left two daughters (Sarah and Susan) here, but he has gone home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and he has been reunited with his wife of 50 years (Mary Ellen), and a daughter (Elizabeth). Mike was a faithful member of the Arthur Southern Baptist Church for decades. Mike loved to tell anyone who would listen about Jesus. God called him to preach, and he loved to preach God's Word. His dear wife, Mary Ellen had faithfully prayed for him for years before Mike placed his faith in Jesus, and faithfully walked beside him as he pastored churches in Tuscola and Nebo, and filled pulpits throughout Central Illinois. Mike was constantly in awe of the faithful love of God, and reminded people to be encouragers while recognizing and praising God for his grace. Countless lives were blessed as God used Mike to minister to needs. Mike considered all things joy because of the Lord. Mike had gone through a series of difficulties in recent years with the passing of his wife and daughter and his battle against cancer. Mike's body lost that battle, but Mike found victory in the presence of his Savior. I will miss my friend until that glorious day when he and I once again get to praise God together, this time at the feet of the one who saved us.

What's Happening?

Calvary Southern Baptist Church in Decatur (the first Southern Baptist Church founded in Decatur) has voted to close as of December 31st, 2021. They have deeded the property to a group who will be planting a new Church at the CalvarySBC location.

The new church plant will be named "Logos Church of Decatur."

Lanny had an excellent meeting with the Pastor/Planter Tom Gensler. He said that they currently have a core planting group of about 40 people (including children) and plan to hold their first service as a church on Easter Sunday, April 17th, 2022.

Pastor Tom recently received a Master's Degree in Theological Studies from our Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri.

Lanny assured Pastor Tom of our prayers for him, and his wife Lisa, and their family, and for this new Church! I will post additional information about this new work in Decatur as I have it.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"...we shouldn't put the Christmas Spirit away with them."

from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*
Reprinted with permission of Bill Keane

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
CBA Semi-Annual Meeting
is scheduled for Sat., April 9th.

CBA Pastor's **Breakfasts**

With Lanny
have been cancelled.

Central Baptist Association
has a new phone number:
(217) 859-8222

Calls go directly to Chris Granda's cell phone, but it is a business number.

Please take note: The (217) 330-7593 number was disconnected in December.

Churches:

Argenta
Arthur
Atwood
Emmanuel
Fellowship
Findlay
Forsyth
Galilee
Hammond
Heyworth
Lincoln
Lovington
Mt. Zion
Oreana
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.

Coming Events

January 2022

1st-Happy New Year
2nd @ 6 PM-January Bible Study at Oreana
9th @6 PM-JBS at Arthur
13th-IBSA Tax Seminar @ IBSA bldg. Spgfld.
16th @ 6 PM-JBS at Emmanuel
16th-Sancitivity of Human Life Sunday-Support your local Pregnancy Center
17th-Martin Luther King Jr. Day
18-20th-Midwest Leadership Summit at Crowne Plaza, Spgfld.

Central Baptist Association

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