

The Power of Small

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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Reaching Millennials.

By Lisa Cannon Green

Americans are more open to attending small churches than megachurches, LifeWay Research shows. Only 8 percent rule out churches of fewer than 100, while 29 percent say they would never go to a megachurch.

And the leading edge of the millennial generation—Americans 25-34 years old—shows more openness to small churches than those entering middle age, according to the 2014 survey. Only 5 percent of Americans 25-34 say they would never go to a church of fewer than 100, compared to 12 percent of those 35-44.

Millennials' receptivity to small churches makes sense to Vaters, who says mobility and technology have distanced young Americans from their communities. "We don't get to know our neighbors, because we're fully entertained with the screen in our own living room and the phone in our own pocket."

As a result, Vaters says, millennials are looking for personal relationships—the specialty of small church.

"My grandparents' generation took relationships for granted and needed to build structures," Vaters says. "Having a building and a full-time pastor meant

stability and status for them.

"My children's generation takes the structures for granted and needs to build relationships—so their churches are going to reflect that."

This shift in focus doesn't mean millennials are less committed to the cause of Christ, Vaters says. Rather, they're less committed to the church as an institution and more committed to actively helping the vulnerable and the hurting.

"They show up and give passionately for hands-on service to those less fortunate than themselves," he says. "They will take their entire vacation to go to an orphanage in Mexico, where they will work in miserable conditions for two weeks. My parents' generation would not have done that."

Towns sees young Americans shifting toward online worship. "In the eyes of the millennials, who live online, that's the latest church."

Like Vaters, he sees hope in small congregations—particularly in young, energetic church plants.

"The greatest thing today is church planting, because we win souls," says Towns. "People come to a new church and get saved."

This is part two of a series taken from Facts & Trends, Spring 2016 magazine. Part three of this article will be in August's Focus.

Prayer Pointers

From Thomas E. Miller

As most of you reading this article knows, I am an old-timer and remember when our churches use to have a two-week revival each Spring and Fall. In preparation for those meetings we would have what we called cottage prayer meetings. Sometimes several cottage prayer meetings were happening on the same night in different homes, in various communities. Folks who gathered to pray for the unsaved, for the unchurched, for the Evangelist, etc. It was an important time for those committed to praying together. Let me quickly tell you about three of those prayer meetings.

While a student at Bethel Institute, I heard Pastor Harold Harsh tell a number of times about a group of faithful praying men in the Tabernacle Baptist church who had a prayer room in the church where they prayed together or individually. They had a list of unsaved men they prayed for faithfully. What became somewhat unique was that in a particular series of revival services ALL of the men on their prayer list made professions of faith in that meeting and in the order in which they were listed on their prayer list.

While Pastor of the Southside Baptist church in Peoria, we planned for a cottage prayer meeting in

the home of Martin and Martha Hoopengarer. Martha was a faithful member of our church. Martin was unsaved, but attended somewhat regularly. We had been in their home for prayer meetings before and Martin would join us in our circle of prayer, and we knew that when we came to Martin that he would not be praying, so we would skip to the next person. But on this particular night Martin did pray. He prayed to receive Christ as his Savior. There were plenty of tears in that prayer circle that night.

While I was your DOM and Pastor of the Argenta Baptist Church, Dale and Irene Leischner had returned as faithful members and were in one of our cottage prayer meetings. Afterwards, Dale asked if he could talk to me. It was a warm night so we went outside to sit on the glider. His question was one I wasn't expecting, "How do you know you're saved?" We talked a long time and I shared a lot of scripture. As a 7-year-old boy he had professed faith in Christ and he'd been baptized, but he wasn't sure he had ever truly trusted Christ as his Savior. A few weeks later Dale came to profess Jesus Christ as Savior and he became the pastor of Argenta Baptist church and was ready when the Lord called him home. My point is—This is what can happen when we pray together.

CBA Block Trailer Usage

PURPOSE: To provide resources for outreach events for CBA churches. This trailer is not to be rented, transferred, or loaned out to any other individual or group while it is in the possession of an individual church.

GUIDELINES:

The trailer and/or equipment is to be reserved **at least one month prior** to the expected date of pick up. *Call the CBA office and a form will be sent to you to fill out and send back with the check.* The trailer and/or equipment cannot be reserved more than one year in advance of intended use. A church may not reserve the trailer for more than one week in any month without special permission from the Missions Team. The form and a \$100 (non-refundable) deposit must be received at the CBA office at least 2 weeks before the trailer will be released from the designated property (Tabernacle Baptist Church). You will receive a call from Chris Granda when the form and check arrives, and at that time arrangements can be made to get copies of your license and insurance card.

Food supplies for the trailer will come stocked with enough supplies to serve 200 people. Additional supplies can be purchased separately.

A vehicle equipped and capable of receiving a 2 5/16" ball and a 6' X 12', 7,000 lb. trailer is required to tow it.

The driver of the towing vehicle needs to supply a copy of their license and the vehicle's insurance to the CBA office when they reserve the trailer.

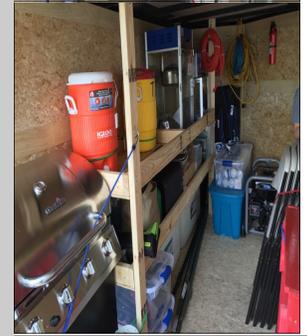
The trailer must be picked up at the designated property (Tabernacle Baptist Church) and returned there during the regular operating hours of Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM. Contact Randy Johnson (877-5653) the week of your event to arrange for pick-up. The perishable supplies and the sound system are not kept in the trailer, so they need to be loaded on before you pick it up. The hitch receiver with its lock and key will be locked inside the trailer using the two combination locks. The borrowing church assumes all financial risks for the trailer and its equipment while it is in their possession.

The trailer must be secured in a safe place while on the ministry site and must be kept locked while not in use. When the trailer is parked and disconnected from the towing vehicle, tire chocks must put in the front and back of the tires to secure the trailer.



Trailer Contains:

- Gas Grill & propane tank
- 2 Gas Generators
- Sound System
- 2 large coolers, ice chest
- 5-6' Tables & 8 chairs
- Electric cords
- Sno-cone machine
- Popcorn machine
- Football, Basketball,
- Soccer ball, Disk,
- Horseshoes, Ladder toss
- Fire extinguisher
- First Aid Kit
- Tool box, Scissor Jack
- 10 X 10 Straight Shelter Tent
- Bungee cords & misc.
- Tire chocks



Tabernacle provides:

Cups, syrups, popcorn, oil, gas for propane, and other perishables. The \$100 you give helps keep it stocked.

ATTENTION: Pastors and Clerks

The Annual Church Profiles will be mailed out the first week of July and are due back to the CBA office by August 23rd. If there is enough interest, I will schedule a ACP review.

Let me know if you're interested by July 12th.

(Elect your CBA Annual & Semi-Annual Meeting Messengers before Aug. 23rd.)

If you need help filling them out or just have a question, please don't hesitate to call me, or stop by the office, I will be happy to help.

— Chris Granda (217) 330-7593

(Tues-Thurs 9-4) 1255 S. Lake Ridge Ave., Decatur
cbaoffice@comcast.net

REACHING THE NATIONS

In North America

August 26-27, 2016

Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, TN

Church leaders will be equipped with practical tools for engaging immigrants, refugees and International students with the gospel for disciple-making. The summit will include three main sessions, practical breakout seminars and peer group strategy development.

Registration Fee: \$35

Speakers include: Ed Stetzer, Jenny Yang, and J.D. Payne

For more information, contact cregister@ncbaptist.org

CBA Pastors, Staff & families...

July



Birthdays

- 2-Clif Jones (Tabernacle)
- 9 -Bill Henderson (Hammond)
- 10-Gay McCoy (Galilee-widow)
- 12-Mitch Flesch (Calvary)
- 17-Lanny Faulkner (Atwood)
- 19-Rebecca Smith (Fellowship)
- Randy Johnson (Tabernacle)
- 20-Chad Williams (Tabernacle)
- 25-Vickie Vieth (Tabernacle)
- 27-Aaron Crowther (Forsyth)
- 30-Sheri Morrow (Summit Ave.)
- Caleb Johnson (Tabernacle)



Wedding Ann.

- 5-Chris & Alyssa Merritt (Tab.)
- 11-Paul & Julie Inda (Forsyth)
- 15-Doug & Leslie Davis (Arthur)
- 19-Dennis & Kathy Shaw (Lincoln)
- 29-Ron & Bonna Woodrum (Tri-Valley)





CBA Churches VBS Dates

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>TIMES</u>
Arthur	June 12-17	6-8:30 PM
Argenta	July 18-23	6-8:30 PM
Atwood	July 17-22	6-8 PM
Calvary	July 25-28	9 AM-Noon
Emmanuel	July 24-28	6-8 PM
Lincoln	June 20-24	
Mt. Zion	June 27-July 1	9 AM-Noon
Sullivan	June 6-8	9:30-11:30 AM
Summit Ave.	Aug. 8-12	6:30-8:30 PM
Tabernacle	July 17-22	6-8:30 PM

Our Amazing Race IBSA & CBA Summer Camp July 18th-22nd (6th-12th graders) Streator Baptist Camp Cost: \$150

For more information or to register, please contact:
CathyWaters@IBSA.org; (217) 391-3124

Summer Worship University IBSA event at Hannibal-LaGrange July 11-15, 2016 (grades 6th-12th)

For more information, contact Steve Hamrick
at stevehamrick@ibsa.org

Getting to Know CBA Moderator Mark Lash

Mark Lash is our first Lay-Moderator for Central Baptist Association and I thought you'd like to know a little more about him.

I'm a farmer at Findlay, Illinois with perhaps more than the normal farm background. I took over the family farm from my father in 1974, and now my son, Matthew, has taken over the lion's share of the production responsibilities. I still help quite a bit for an old guy and I try to make the finances work.

My wife Carolyn and I are fortunate to enjoy good health and some retirement perks. Our daughter, Leanne, is a PHD Neuro-Pharmacologist currently working for Abbvie Pharmaceuticals in Chicago, IL.

I was born on a farm a few miles from where we live now, and will probably complete my journey on earth right here where my family moved when I was 8 years old. My pathway has been somewhat involved over the years. I spent time in Brazil, South America where I planned and failed to establish a farming operation during Brazil's land reformation days in the 1970s. Then I moved to Louisiana to farm, thinking it would be more profitable than farming in Illinois and more secure than farming in Brazil. At about the same time, my brother and I started an accounting/consulting business which still serves several thousand farmers primarily in the Midwest. I also met Carolyn in Louisiana and started the real part of the my life and career.

In Brazil, I became Southern Baptist as a result of meeting Southern Baptist missionaries and seeing how well their efforts were organized and supported through the Cooperative Program. It was really impressive, especially when compared to other missionary efforts I had seen.

In Louisiana, Carolyn and I were blessed by the pastor and people of First Baptist Church, West Monroe, who allowed us to serve there and then sent us to Illinois as "Missionaries" when we moved back here.

We rejoined my home church in Moweaqua, but changed our membership to Findlay Southern Baptist one Sunday night when they were considering discontinuing their efforts in Findlay. Our time there was an effort, always up and down, but always staying the course with some extraordinarily dedicated Christians who earned my upmost love and respect. During our years at Findlay, they produced three pastors and one music evangelist from our membership.

We were challenged to become a part of an effort to develop a Southern Baptist work in Shelbyville. We joined two ladies who were determined that Shelbyville, IL, should have a Southern Baptist work. I can still hear Tom Miller say, "Surely with all the fine Christian people in Shelbyville and all the fine churches, there are still lost people in Shelbyville and we should do our part to reach them." We have been blessed to be there where God was working. And we have witnessed God sending the people to do the

job. It has been unbelievable. The stories I would like to share about God working.

We have been at Shelbyville about thirty-three (33) years and we've seen over one hundred (100) souls baptized. However, there have been three times when we experienced difficult times, too. Each time, no one was won to the Lord for a two-year period.

God has sent the most incredible people to work with at Fellowship. We have solid members, an active Ladies Mission effort, an outstanding children's program, dedicated Sunday School teachers, a fabulous worship team, and a men's group that is trying to get their minds on Spiritual things and praying effectively.

I am currently Moderator of Central Baptist Association. Just as I could see Mission work in Brazil, a great church effort in Louisiana, God sustaining dedicated Christians in Findlay and Shelbyville, I can see that men like myself are being urged by the Holy Spirit to lead others to pray for God to intervene in their own lives and the lives of churches and communities.

Like some others, I have never "stood out," but it is nice to have been part of some good work. I think it is obvious that there is a greater challenge ahead. If anyone has read this far and feels led to consider leading a prayer effort in your church, I will help as much as I can.



NEWS from the Pews!

Argenta-The town of Argenta had their town-wide rummage sales on the first weekend in June. ABC had a Car Wash/ Pulled Pork fundraiser that Saturday morning to raise money for a handicapped child. We raised about \$1800 with 130 people coming through.

Pastor Will led an Outreach Bible Study in the town's community center on Monday nights in June with an average attendance of 12; all of whom had not been to Argenta Baptist Church. Seven of them have presently joined the church. ABC helped the town put on a community movie in the park and helped raise funds for future community activities. Pastor Will "won" the "Kiss the Pig" event and had to kiss a pig. ABC hosted a "Parent Night Out" on the last Saturday night in June from 6-9. The church made several good connections with young families and that

Sunday morning had a new couple come with a baby for the nursery. (The first baby in a long time). The last Tuesday every month about 10 of ABC's Senior Adults (OWLS--Older Wiser Loving Saints) go to the nursing home to serve the people there. We are going to celebrate Independence Day with a Combined Community Worship in the Park on July 3rd with a cookout and lighting off our own fireworks in the evening. We are getting ready for our VBS that goes from July 18-22 with a family day on the 23rd.

Heyworth-Last Sunday, June 19th, 2016, Le Roy First Baptist Church voted on Pastor Chris Baker to become their pastor. This is in addition to the position he will continue at Heyworth. He will be starting there on June 25th with an earlier 9 AM main service, then drive to Heyworth for their 10:30 AM service. Both churches will have an additional midweek and other activities as the Lord allows. Heyworth is planning

a Block Party on August 6th, using the new Block Party Trailer. Pastor Chris Baker will be ordained August 21st.

Summit Ave.-is having their first VBS in 3 years, August 8th-12th, with a Block Party on the 13th. The baptismal waters are stirring. We've had 3 baptisms since May.

Tabernacle-Our summer started off with a bang in our "Superheroes of the Bible" Preschool Camp; followed up with our teens doing block parties in communities from Maroa to Mt. Zion each Wednesday evening, using the new CBA Block Party Trailer. Attendance & support has been great.

Our annual Kidz COLLAGE began June 27 for a week where kids up thru 6th grade learned music, art, sculpting & more. We'll follow that up with our "Submerged" VBS starting July 17th, also open to everyone, age K-6th Grade. Open to all kids, not just TBC kids.

PRAYER REQUEST: Please pray for our churches searching for a pastor: Fellowship, Findlay, Galilee, and Lincoln.

21st RELAY FOR LIFE of Macon County July 15-16, 2016 — 6 PM to 6 AM

There are many ways you and your congregation can be involved. Information about all of the opportunities can be found at www.RelayForLife.org/MaconIL



Pastor Dennis Shaw Retires

Pastor Dennis Shaw has retired as of the end of June 2016 after serving as Pastor of Lincoln Southern Baptist Church for 19

years and three months. (That's our longest tenure pastor at the same church since I've been the Ministry Assistant.)

The church held an appreciation dinner for him and Kathy the 26th of June, at 12 noon at Lincoln So. Baptist Church.

Kathy Shaw will continue as the adult women's Sunday School class teacher.

The church has asked Dale Granda to be the Interim Pastor while they search for a new Pastor.



PLEASE MAKE NOTE:
The CBA OFFICE PHONE NUMBER is now a landline



Call: (217) 330-7593
(The other numbers won't work)

Mark Your Calendar

July 2016 Prayer Emphasis

4th-INDEPENDENCE DAY

5th-ACP's mailed out to churches

5th at 7 PM-Church Relations Team Mtg. at Emmanuel

11th-15th-Summer Worship University at Hannibal/LaGrange

15th-16th-Relay for Life of Macon County

18th-22nd-Children's Camp at Streator Bapt. Camp

August 2016

13th-Softball Tournament at Rotary Park, Decatur

16th-at 10 AM-Senior Adult Revival at Argenta

16th-iConnect at IBSA Bldg.

23rd-ACP's due into the CBA office

FOCUS FUNNIES--More Wedding Bloopers

6. The groom's ex-wife stood in the back of the sanctuary yelling "not" as the pastor read 1 Corinthians 13.
7. Pastor was officiating a wedding on the bay when a man comes up in a paddleboat and says, "Don't do it." The bride responds by yelling expletives at him.
8. At another outdoor wedding, the bride and groom were joined in the front by a goat as the vows began.
9. One more outdoor wedding had a stray dog as a guest. He kept bringing a tennis ball to the pastor and putting it at his feet.
10. A pastor was asked to officiate a wedding by talking through an animatronic deer head.