

# The Central FOCUS

"Experiencing God Together!"

Central Baptist Association  
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## Churches:

Argenta  
Arthur  
Atwood  
Boody  
Calvary  
Emmanuel  
Fellowship  
Findlay  
Forsyth  
Galilee  
Hammond  
Heyworth  
Lincoln  
Lovington  
Mt. Zion  
Shiloh  
Sullivan  
Summit Avenue  
Tabernacle  
Tri-Valley  
Trinity

## 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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# What Happened?

There have been some questions as to how the property left by Mrs. Zeva Johnson to the Central Baptist Association was handled and where the money from it ended up. Hopefully, this article will answer those questions.

Mrs. Zeva Johnson died March 9th, 1981. She willed her property located at Christmas Tree Rd. to the Central Baptist Association with the stipulations as to how it should be developed over the next 15 years (by 1996).

The stipulations were:

1. Build a Southern Baptist Church, or
2. Build a Nursing Home for people in this association and others, or
3. Build a church camp.

If these conditions were not met within the 15 years (by 1996), the property will revert to the legal heirs in the amount of \$25,000 cash. Any profit from real property to be used in development.

The city of Decatur would not rezone the property for a nursing home or a church camp, so that only left a Southern Baptist Church.

The Association offices were located in the house on the property at that time and some of the land was used for a church league softball field, pavilion, and an all-purpose metal building with restrooms was placed behind the house.

In 1989, Central Baptist Association leased to Christmas Tree Rd. Baptist Church 1.1 acres (amount according to measurements and according to zoning laws) of land for the purpose of building and developing facilities necessary for the church to carry out its worship and church growth goals. No money was exchanged at this time. Central Baptist Association moved their offices to another location.

By 2000, Christmas Tree Rd. Baptist Church was struggling and the CBA moved its office to the church and gave a donation each month to help offset the cost for utilities.

While the CBA offices were at Christmas Tree Rd some of the additional property that

wasn't being used by the church were sold to three separate individuals.

In February 2002, the Burgeners purchased 5 acres for \$23,000. After title, attorney, recording fees and taxes, the net proceeds were: \$21,569.

In March 2002, the Balls purchased 10 acres for \$42,000 and the net proceeds were: \$40,983.82

In April 2002, the Klepzigs bought 6 acres for \$30,000 and the net proceeds were: \$28,711.98.

The total was \$91,264.80 which was then deposited into the Baptist Foundation was added to the \$55,000 already in that account.

In 2002 Christmas Tree Rd. Baptist Church disbanded. The CBA bought the church building for the money still owed to the bank-\$138,000, using the Baptist Foundation funds that included the sale of the 21 acres.

Lanny Faulkner, DOM at that time, started a new church start/mission in the building calling it GraceWay Mission.

In February 2004 it was voted to merge the mission with Galilee Baptist Church and it was done. Lakeview Baptist Church also merged with Galilee around this time. During the following summer months, Galilee grew and asked to purchase the church building. The \$150,000 sale price would repay the \$138,000 paid for the building and for some investments made in the property.

The amount of \$10,000 was paid by Galilee as a down payment/earnest and the rest was loaned to Galilee from the CBA to be repaid in installments of \$500 a month. The down-payment was used to move the office again and purchase some much needed new computers.

In February 2008 the Galilee Baptist Church paid off the remaining \$90,000 owed and it was put back into the Baptist Foundation. Now you know what happened!

The documents from which this information was taken are in the CBA office files.

# New Co-partnership Director's Vision for CBA

By Pastor Randy Johnson,  
Tabernacle Baptist Church

On January 2nd, I drove into Decatur with my family, one moving van, and an eagerness that God was going to use us to make a difference for His glory.



One of my first questions about the area after arriving as the new pastor of Tabernacle was about the health and activity of the CBA. I began sharing, with the staff and with fellow pastors, my desire to see Tabernacle become more involved in the association, and to do whatever I could to help our sister churches grow and become a stronger lighthouse in their community.

When Rich Ratts left to pastor a church in Monticello, I told the Central Baptist Association's Leadership Team that I would be willing to do anything they needed me to do. They asked me to take on the role Rich had filled, at the pleasure of the Executive Board, and at least until the Annual meeting in October. I told them I would be glad to do so, and would continue on

into the future, if the association would like for me to continue in that role.

My desire for our association is to see every one of our churches become healthy and strong, and share a focus on missions and church planting, but also develop a network between churches to share resources and ideas so that we can be an encouragement to one another. I want to see our churches focused on "Rebirthing congregations" that have faced a serious decline and see little hope for the future, on "Renewing congregations" that need to be strengthened in certain key areas like children, youth, music or discipleship, and on "Reaching communities" around us that have no strong gospel presence. If our association can come together and have a commitment to do more together than we can do apart, I know God will bless our efforts in seeing His Kingdom advanced, His Church healthy and vibrant, and His people out in the fields that are white for harvest!

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## What if we throw reasoning out the window?

What if we throw reasoning out the window?

I have been in ministry in North America for almost 30 years. I have seen a lot of things going on in churches. I have had a lot of experiences, many good, some not so good. There are several really good things going on in the churches of Gateway Association. However, I don't see a great deal of activity that would suggest that we are actively partnering with God on issues that are of interest to Him. If that was occurring, I believe we would be getting numerous stories indicating God's supernatural involvement in our churches. I am talking about seeing spiritual activity that can only be explained by His supernatural involvement.

Let me challenge you with a thought. I would like for you to do this activity for 6 months to see what would happen. Here is my suggestion:

Focus on the activity of God in your church and community. Don't take any initiative through the church until the church is convinced that God is leading you to accomplish something. I fear that we are making decisions based on man's reasoning rather than on the Lord's direction. God is at work around us all of the time. We just need to be spiritually alert to understand when and where He is working. Obviously when we see Him working, we must understand the He is inviting us to join Him in His work.

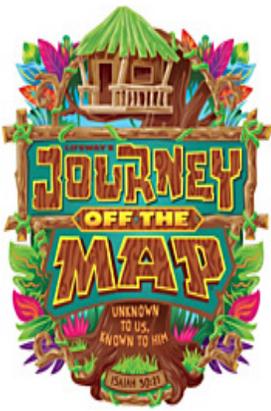
Here is a simple example: If you see a group of youth being saved through the ministry of the church, maybe God is saying to the church that you need to put much more thought to how you can give greater spiritual support and resources to the youth ministry.

Where have you seen God working in your church or in your community? If you can answer that question, the Lord may be trying to get your attention to address a church or community need.

Normal reasoning in church life yields activity that taps man's potential to get something done. I long to see a movement of God among our churches. I long to see our churches deciding to partner with the Lord as we allow Him to work through us to do something supernatural!! His empowerment is the KEY to doing effective Kingdom work that will produce change in our churches and communities. I think it is time to start throwing reasoning out the window and let God lead.

*Taken from Gateway Baptist Association's July/Aug 2013 newsletter; an article written by Director Larry Richards. Reprinted with permission.*

**CBA Annual Meeting Date Set  
For October 3rd  
at Lincoln Baptist Church, Lincoln, IL  
10 AM-2:30 PM  
With a Continental Breakfast & Lunch**



# Send Pictures & Reports

**PICTURES**-Send me your VBS pictures with who is in the picture, what's going on, and church name, and I'll post as many as I can on our website under VBS 2015. Send to Chris at: cbaoffice@comcast.net.

**REPORTS**-Please fill out your VBS reports and send the CBA a copy as soon as your VBS is over, so you don't forget.

Mail to: 1255 S. Lake Ridge Ave., Decatur 62522



**CBA HAS A NEW PHONE NUMBER**  
**(217) 615-0192**



Please make note of this number to make calls to the CBA office. It's a Skype number, so please be patient as we get used to it, too.

## CBA Senior Adult "Old Fashioned Revival Meeting"

August 11, 2015

Tuesday from 10 AM-Noon

At Tabernacle Baptist Church

Meal: \$5

Three preachers have been asked to bring an "Old Fashioned Revival Message". Several of our CBA churches will bring special numbers, and we will sing lots of "Old fashioned gospel hymns."

Please pray for power and leading of the Holy Spirit as we meet.

More information will come in a flyer and the next Focus.

**"Revival is falling in love with Jesus all over again."**

—Vance Havner



# Mission Projects Fuel Community Outreach

**First Baptist Church, Mt. Zion**-A woman left a Huck's gas station crying on Saturday, June 6th. But it was a good crying, she told a member of FBC, Mt. Zion.

"One of the guys from FBC came over to pay for \$5 of gas, and then I left a blubbering mess...Today would have been my brother's 39th birthday. I knew I'd be crying at some point, but I didn't think it would be when I got gas!"

Paying for gas and praying for patrons at the pump was just one ministry Pastor Tracy Smith's church chose for its Missions Spectacular outreach. Across the state, more than 400 volunteers working in and around six host cities engaged in the annual one-day mission project.

In Mt. Zion, a few miles southeast of Decatur, more than 50 people from First Baptist Church showed up on Saturday morning to distribute door hangers, wash cars and pump gas.

"It was awesome to see members of FBC holding hands with strangers at the gas pump of Huck's and praying with them," Smith reported to IBSA's Mark Emerson. "Thank you for the inspiration of Missions Spectacular!"

Excerpt from IBSA's Illinois Baptist, June 29th, 2015 issue, page 14.

**Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of JULY**



Let Freedom Ring...

## CBA Pastors, Staff & families...

# July



### Birthdays

- 2-Clif Jones (Tabernacle)
- 4-Calle Hairston (03) (Galilee)
- 9 -Bill Henderson (Hammond)
- 10-Gay McCoy (Galilee-widow)
- 12-Mitch Flesch (Calvary)
- 17-Lanny Faulkner (Atwood)
- 19-Randy Johnson (Tabernacle)
- 20-Chad Williams (Tabernacle)
- 25-Vickie Vieth (Tabernacle)
- 30-Sheri Morrow (Summit Ave.)
- Caleb Johnson (Tabernacle)

### Wedding Ann.

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



# from the Pews!

the tarps, if the weather permits. If you'd like to join us, come on.

**Fellowship, Shelbyville**-is looking for a new pastor. Pastor Chase Smith took a pastorate in Texas.

**Galilee**-fell into a unique opportunity several months ago. Pastor J.J. volunteers to pastor the Elementary Chapel each week. Just in casual conversation with students and parents, it became apparent that many of the families involved didn't attend church anywhere. After approaching school superintendent Randy Grigg the school agreed to allow us to have a worship service at the school in their gym on Sunday afternoons, "The Gathering" started with our teen ministry and progressed from there. The first Sunday we opened it up to local families we had 46 in attendance and have been in the mid to high 30's consistently. We are seeing God move in lives and people coming to worship that previously were not. The last several weeks we have been blessed to have a group of young musicians from TBC come and lead

worship with us. It's been an exciting adventure. Please pray that God would use this opportunity to bring glory to himself.

**Tabernacle-Parent's Day Out** is a fun and educational preschool program for children, ages 3-5, starting this fall at Tabernacle. It's ideal for parents who are looking for part-time child care or for a stay-at-home parent who needs a few hours per week to get errands done, household chores completed, etc. The program will be every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 AM-2 PM throughout the school year. It's scheduled to start August 25th and end May 19th, 2015. The curriculum is a Christian based and includes learning centers and group activities as well as activities for pre-reading, pre-writing, phonics, and number skills. Admission is open to anyone in Decatur and all surrounding communities. Go to Tabernacle's website to register: [www.tbc.church](http://www.tbc.church)

**First Baptist Church of Atwood**-is continuing to have a Thursday Night Theology class the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. The class runs from 6:30-8:00 pm.

We're looking forward to a Dinner Concert on Saturday, July 18th at 6 pm which will feature the musicians of our congregation. A love offering will be collected to help a family in our church with the adoption of their son from Ethiopia.

**Emmanuel and Summit Ave.**-are joining together to celebrate the Independence of our country on Sunday, July 5th with a Patriotic Praise & Picnic. Starting at 4 PM there will be a joint choir, and we sound good, singing patriotic songs in the sanctuary and then dismiss to enjoy some hamburgers and hotdogs off the grill. Side dishes and lawn chairs are expected to be part of the fellowship and food. We'll eat outside under

## NEXT PASTOR'S GATHERING

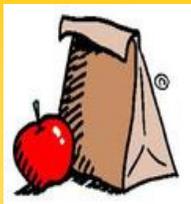
**DATE CHG: Tuesday, July 14th, 2015**

**12 Noon at Emmanuel Baptist**

**Fellowship Hall Room**

**Bring your lunch and stay awhile.**

**Drinks: tea, coffee, water are provided.**



## Associational Newsletter Access

The Central Baptist Association's Focus Newsletter will be done online as an e-mail through Constant Contact twice a month to the email addresses

I have been given. If you'd like to be added to this e-mail list, please Contact Chris at [cbaooffice@comcast.net](mailto:cbaooffice@comcast.net) or by calling (217) 615-0192.

In addition, one copy of the Focus will be sent monthly to the church pastor or secretary to be printed and given out to those who don't have e-mails or prefer a paper copy.

# Mark Your Calendar

## July 2015 *Vote for your Annual Meeting Messengers*

2nd-5th-Tabernacle's SEND Denver Trip

4th-INDEPENDENCE DAY

6th-Office Closed for Independence Day observance

6th-10th-3rd Week of Children's Camp

13th-17th-Summer Worship University, Hannibal, MO

13th-17th-FBC, Mt. Zion's Guatemala Mission Trip

19th-24th-Tabernacle's VBS

20th-24th-4th Week of Children's Camp at Streator

27th-Aug. 3rd-Tabernacle & Galilee going to Antigua, Guatemala

## August 2015

2nd-8th-Tabernacle's Mission Trip to Dominican Republic

10th-11th-Association Leadership Retreat

28th-29th-Sunday School Resource Conf.

25th-ACP's due into the CBA office

## 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 25th.

(Elect your CBA Annual & Semi-Annual Meeting Messengers before Aug. 25th.)

**Please read the instructions carefully before filling out the forms. I can't tell you how many times I have to make corrections because this wasn't done. Give the directions to each person contributing to the ACP information.**

IBSA has updated the ABES site for entering them online.

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) 615-0192,

[cbaooffice@comcast.net](mailto:cbaooffice@comcast.net)

1255 S. Lake Ridge Ave., Decatur