

The Central FOCUS

"Experiencing God Together!"

Michael McCoy, Director
Christine Granda,
Editor & Secretary

Central Baptist Association
(217) 428-1730
Email: CBAofficedecatur@sbcglobal.net

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1255 S. Lake Ridge Ave.
Decatur, IL 62521

Website: www.cbadeccatur.com

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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Focusing on Galilee Baptist, Decatur



In the past 18 months Galilee has partnered with Manna Worldwide (a recognized Southern Baptist entity) and gotten involved in international missions. It started three years ago when my wife and I went to an IMB function in Orlando where pastors were encouraged to get their churches not simply giving to missions but being a part of missions. They suggested adopting a people group that we could pray for, minister to, and even visit. We had no idea where that would fit into Galilee. But while at the conference on several occasions we were seated with some Spanish-speaking people from Mexico and Central America, my wife and I both felt led to minister to a Spanish-speaking people group. Where? We had no idea. We came back to the Church and as we met with those who wanted to get involved in missions, (without telling them about the encounters we had) the group also felt led to reach out to a

Going to Guatemala with Manna Worldwide has changed the way our church looks at missions.

Spanish-speaking group. A couple of weeks later we had revivals meetings at our church and the speaker mentioned that he was going to Guatemala with Manna Worldwide and suggested that the church send me on the trip. Isn't it funny how God Works? We ended up bringing five from our church and it has changed the way our church looks at missions.

Manna Worldwide is the best partner to church planting missionaries I have ever seen. They come along side a church planter on the field and ask them to simply run a feeding center for children. Who doesn't want to feed hungry kids, right? Manna buys the food and the supplies for the feeding center; and if they need a place to house it they provide that as well. The church planter then can make the feeding center a ministry of their church, get their people involved and with the contacts they have from feeding the kids they are able to grow their churches and see people come to Christ like never before.

Manna is funded by gifts from local churches, businesses, and philanthropist. None of their employee's draw any salary from Manna. They are all self-supported. The only overhead they have is their printed materials, website, and utilities at their headquarters, so that 96% of every dollar given towards Manna goes to feed hungry kids. No other feeding organization anywhere can boast these kinds of numbers. Missionaries who have partnered with Manna have seen their Churches explode in numbers and in conversions. They are now in 41 countries; including over 129 feeding centers, several orphanages, and Christian schools. In addition to the existing churches they have pulled alongside, they are directly responsible for over 85 new churches being started. All this within 10 years.

We have been blessed to be able to partner with Manna in Guatemala and have been there three

times in the last 18 months. Manna is working with several missionaries there. Besides churches and feeding centers in Sumpongo, La Gamera, Quetzal, and in Solo La, they have a Christian School, and an Orphanage. In Sumpongo the feeding center feeds near 100 children, and the church is running over 200 and has been turned over to a national pastor who is fully trained. The Sumpongo church is still running the feeding center, had missions conferences and is sending out missionaries.

It is so good to be a part of what God is doing for His kingdom. Along with the shortage of IMB missionaries on the field, and several countries losing any IMB presence at all, this is a great way that Southern Baptist can maintain a presence on the mission field by partnering with Churches and organizations like Manna Worldwide to make a difference for the Kingdom.

by Pastor J.J. Hairston



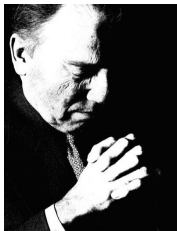
Sign up for our
e-NEWSLETTER

Email me, Chris Granda, at cbaofficedecatur@sbcglobal.net to add your address to our e-Focus Newsletter list. Please, include your name and church name with your email address.

Computer for Sale

Bought!

The Association has a 2006 Dell Dimension 9100 computer for sale. Data already cleared off. Has Windows XP Pro and Net Gear for wireless



Thursday,
May 3rd, 2012
**National Day
of Prayer**

CBA's Appreciation DINNER

& Welcome the McCoy's

**6:30 PM-May 11th, 2012
Emmanuel Baptist Church**

We'd like to welcome our new Director of Missions, Mike McCoy and his lovely wife, Cheryl to Central Illinois.

And take this opportunity to show our appreciation to those who make the Association's events possible.

Evening includes a meal, special music and speaker.

All Association Pastors, Staff, and Leadership Team members, Executive Board Members, Camp Workers, VBS Clinic Helpers, Senior Adult Event workers, Annual Meeting Ad Hoc committee members, are invited to attend the Banquet.

Please contact the CBA office by noon on May 1st to make reservations for yourself or your church.

Annual Illinois Women's Missions Celebration May 3-5

at Tabernacle Baptist Church in
Decatur

Theme: *The Story Lives On*

Attendees will hear from international & North American missionaries: Ann & Kelly, Sub-Sahara Africa; Ronny & Beverly-East Asia; Carrie-Kentucky; Mark-IBSA; and will have an opportunity to choose from breakout sessions on various WMU ministries and missions initiatives.

"Someone passed along the story of the Gospel to each of us, and it shouldn't end with us," Serena Butler said, explaining the theme. "We all have a story to tell. It should live on through us."

Registration is \$20 (includes lunch on Friday); missionary speakers, worship, Bible Study, practical ministry breakouts.

Free childcare for birth through age 12.
Email BarbTroeger@IBSA.org for more information.

CBA Pastors, Staff & families...

Anniversaries & Birthdays

May



- 1-Kathy Shaw (Lincoln)
- Jessica Davis (Arthur)
- 4-Sylvia Jackson (Shiloh)
- 5-Bonna Woodrum (Tri-Valley)
- 8-Chase Smith (Fellowship)
- 9-Richard & Dot Tribble (Emmanuel)
- 11-Justin Woodrum (Tri-Valley)
- 22-Mike & Cheryl McCoy (CBA)
- 23-Steve & Triece Lindstrom (Findlay)
- 29-Brian Minott
- Kellijo Leach (Tab)
- 29-Jim & Linda Allen (Great Comm.)

- 1-Don Lusk (Sullivan)
- 1-Ava Smith (Fellowship)
- 2-Joshua Ratts (Forsyth)
- 4-Chris Vieth (Tabernacle)
- Dale & Chris Granda (Emmanuel)
- Frank & Jeanne Marshall (Mt. Zion)
- 5-Crisse Hairston (Galilee)
- Lloyd & Sylvia Jackson (Shiloh)
- 6-Jim & Dee Leischner (Boody)
- 7-Katlyn Davis (Arthur)
- Clif & Sue Jones (Tabernacle)
- 11-Leslie Davis (Arthur)
- 16-(Mary) Sue Jones (Tabernacle)
- 17-Caleb Feltner (Tabernacle)
- 18-Alyssa Vieth (Tabernacle)
- 19-Nanelle Hairston (Galilee)
- 20-Chris & Vickie Vieth (Tabernacle)
- 25-Dennis Shaw (Lincoln)
- Meredith Jones (Tabernacle)
- 26-Bob Hickman (Tab)
- 27-Josiah Ratts (Forsyth)
- 30-Penny Davis (Tabernacle)

2012 SBC Annual Meeting

June 19-20, 2012

Ernest N. Morial
Convention Center

900 Convention Center Blvd.

New Orleans, LA 70130

Go to www.SBCAnnualMeeting.net for how to be a messenger and additional information.

Churches 2012 VBS Dates

Argenta	Aug. 6-10
1st, Atwood	June 3-8
Emmanuel	July 8-13
Fellowship	June 18-22
Forsyth	July 15-19
Heyworth	Aug. 6-11
Lincoln	June 25-29
1st, Mt. Zion	June 25-29
So., Sullivan	June 4-8
Tabernacle	July 22-27
Tri-Valley	Aug. 5-9

CBA Churches "On Mission"

Tabernacle's Phase 3 of their
Vision "Going to the World"

Mission Projects 2012

Missions in Decatur: March 11-April 15 (Local community outreach)

Missions to Illinois: June 9 (Missions Spectacular), Cost: \$25.00

Mission to North America: June 17-23 (Lebanon, OH), Cost: \$100

Mission to the Nations: July 7-14 (Guatemala), Cost: \$1000.

Christ's Outreach for the Blind: (KY) Fall 2012

Extended-weekend Trip: (Juarez, MX), Fall (tentative), Cost: \$700 (approx.)

Watch for it!
On Mission Celebration,
Oct. 12-16, 2013

ATTENTION:

SUMMER CAMPS 2012

Theme: Obstacles

Youth Camp-July 23-26, 2012

10 AM-Monday thru 10 AM Thursday

Early Registration Cost: \$140

Add \$10 after July 2nd

Director: Travis Brown

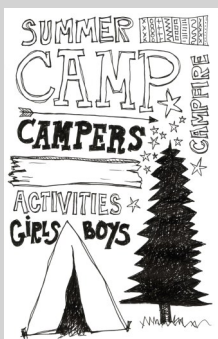
Children's Camp-July 26-28, 2012

10 AM-Thursday thru 2 PM Saturday

Early Registration Cost: \$85

Add \$10 after July 2nd

Director: Stella Eads & Lynette Wilson



Each church is responsible for transportation to and from Camp Maranatha. Youth and Children's Directors and Leaders, talk it up with your kids and remind them how much fun they had at Camp.

Missionary's Focus: Are YOU "Plugged In"?

In my brief time here in Central Association I have enjoyed visiting many of our churches. While I am excited about what God is doing in our churches I am painfully aware that we are barely scratching the surface of what we need to do to reach Central Illinois.

I submit that part of our problem is that we have become so focused doing our "stuff" in church we think is so important that we miss out on the Spiritual foundation that empowers our work.

Are you Spirit-led and Spirit Focused? Are you as a Spiritual leader seeking to discern the leading of the Holy Spirit?

John Bailey of NAMB wrote:

"As we reflect upon the effectiveness of the local church in North America we have to be honest about its inability to reach the radically unchurched and push back the darkness. Why, with the right number of staff members, the right programs, Bible Study materials, financial resources and an abundant number of prospects has the church tended to lose ground rather than gain ground?"

I would submit we're not plugged into the power source to get it done. Rather than looking for next great app. to come from Atlanta or Nashville, why don't we get on our knees and get plugged in.

Some key questions we need to ask ourselves in order to develop some very important disciplines:

Who am I and Where Am I in God's plan? Who is in Control here? "Failure to manage oneself leaves a leader vulnerable to self-sabotage or derailment" (Bailey)

How am I being fed? How do I grow as a follower of Christ apart from the work? Do I spend time in His Word apart from sermon Prep and Bible study prep? Paul prayed that we would be "rooted and firmly established in love." Eph. 3:17

Who is following me? Even a leader needs community. Do we seek time with fellow believers to strengthen us for engaging a lost world?

Do I get time alone? Getting away from the ministry, work, & life to pursue the presence and voice of God.

The great commission Challenges us to go into the world to make disciples. What

would it be like if every one of our churches had at its core a **PASSION** to **reproduce disciples**, leaders and churches?

What would happen if every church believed that every disciple was ordained by God for ministry and it is our job to turn them loose?

How can we begin to "**comprehend with all the Saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God's love.**" (Eph. 3:18) If we could understand that, it would radically transform every one of us for His Kingdom's work. The only way to begin to comprehend is to follow Paul's example and get down on our knees before him.

At our recent Leadership meeting of the Association I began rolling out a process by which we will begin to refocus our Association to assist and resource our churches. The Association doesn't exist to keep Churches "**engaged**" w/ Association. The Association exists to help the Churches be "**engaged**" in the world. Jesus invested his life in training his disciples to be fishers of men. They had but one assignment & that was to **Make Disciples**.

One would wish that this expectation would be a given for every believer, but such is not always the case. The challenges of ministry consume the time previously committed to studying the Word. The enemy is delighted when the good work of ministry distracts from the imperative work of Bible study.

This basic instruction serves as a reminder that the Word of God is alive and powerful (Heb. 4:12), converting the soul (Ps. 19:7), and protecting us from sin (Ps. 119:11). The simple phrase, "It is written" was enough to cause Satan ultimately to back down from the battle when he attacked Jesus (Matt. 4:1-11), and the "sword of the Spirit" (Eph. 6:17) remains today a vital weapon against the enemy.

Do not accept the enemy's lies that personal Bible study really does not matter. No believer can experience genuine spiritual victory without a consistent, personal time with God.

Mike McCoy, Director



NEWS from the Pews!

Fellowship-had a successful Date Night (babysitting for parents) on Friday, April 13th. This is an outreach ministry to young families who are primarily unchurched. On March 24th, a number of church members delivered outdated literature to Love Packages in Butler, IL and spent the day helping sorting, packing items and sending fliers.

In June, Carolyn Lash and daughter, Leanne, are going on a mission trip to Thailand with a group from Metro East association to minister to missionary families doing Vacation Bible School. Our VBS is planned for June 18-22. We had over \$400 given towards Annie Armstrong.

Heyworth had a goal of \$400 for Annie Armstrong and have received \$450 (will continue to receive through April). We had an attendance of "55" on

Easter Sunday. Our VBS dates are August 5- 9, 2012, with Heidi Spaulding, Miranda Carl, & Erin Edwards as directors. (All three new at putting together VBS but they are off to a great start.) Three "Mom's" and between them have "10" rambunctious kids who will motivate them every step of the way. (Of those "10" rambunctious kids "9" are boys and "1" little girl.) It will be the first Heyworth VBS in several years. Thank you for praying.

Sullivan Southern Baptist Church's VBS is June 4-8, with a light supper at 5:45 pm, and VBS from 6:30-8:30 pm.

Our Annie Armstrong Easter offering goal was \$500 and so far we've received \$565. Praise the Lord. Finished 8-week study with *Courageous* (from movie) for men. Six men going through the "Resolution Ceremony." A new changeable sign is ordered. Showed "Flywheel" on Apr. 21st at church.

Tri-Valley-Pastor Ron has been teaching the Winter Bible Study on Ecclesiastes during adult Sunday School hour. Pastor Ron preached a series of

messages on Making Disciples and the series was followed by Tim Sadler teaching the Reach Program. We had 15 commitments to "Pray for Two, Twice a day." All messages & teachings are on the web site www.trivalleybaptistchurch.com.

We are working on implementing the Reach Program through the Sunday School. We've also started a Sunday night small group in the homes of members with the goal of reaching unchurched families. We have planned a VBS for this year from 6:30-9 PM, August 5-9, with Jeannie Cleaver as Director. Our Annie Armstrong Offering Goal was \$750 of which nearly \$1200 plus has come in. We hope to reach \$1500. Kevin Webb took the youth to Peoria to attend Winter Fest. The young people were blessed by the contemporary Christian music/bands and came home praising the music of Skillet most of all. We have had several new families visit, and most have continued to return for several Sundays. Pray that God will lead them to join us. Our high attendance during this time was on Easter Sunday, with 61 in morning worship.

Sullivan Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Purchases Two New Trailers

In the beginning, we had a group of men and women who had Illinois Disaster Relief training and wanted to serve the Lord by helping people and we had a five-gallon bucket; a borrowed Stihl chain saw and a handful of wrenches. Unit IL #4 was started in the fall of 2002 and in the Spring of 2003 we had already made several trips to disasters with our "bucket" of tools.

One of our volunteers, along with his wife, purchased a trailer for the unit and donated it to Sullivan Southern Baptist church, which really got things going. May God bless them for their generosity! Since then, God has always provided the money to buy what we need in the way of tools or someone has donated the right tools at just the right time. We believe God is behind everything we do and everything we accomplish. With the flooding getting worse each year, it seems, we started adding tools for flood work and had to purchase another trailer to use for mud-outs—Mud-out Unit, IL #22.

Having outgrown both original trailers we purchased two new Haulmark Kodiak double axel bright yellow trailers. Did I mention that they are both "bright yellow"? God has ALWAYS provided everything we've needed.

If you have the finest trailers, tools, plenty of money and the best leaders available, it wouldn't mean a thing without good volunteers. Our team is made up of great volunteers from Lincoln, Mattoon, Ashmore, Sullivan and all over Illinois.

Wonder what would happen if we had just one or two volunteers from each church in Central Association to train and be ready to serve in Disaster Relief?



Mark Your Calendar 2012



3rd-National Day of Prayer
3rd-5th-Illinois Women's Mission Celebration at Tabernacle
6th-Senior Adult Sunday
11th at 6:30 PM-CBA Appreciation/Welcome New DOM
13th-MOTHER'S DAY & BCHFS Offering
20th-26th-Baptist Association Emphasis
28th-MEMORIAL DAY-Office Closed

9th-Missions Spectacular, various locations in Illinois
17th-FATHER'S DAY & Baptist Men's Emphasis
19th-20th-SBC Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA
24th-30th-Super Summer at Greenville College
27th-30th-IBSA Children's Music Camp, Hannibal, MO