

The Central FOCUS

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"Experiencing God
Together!"

Focusing on Christian Baptist Church



I'm Richard Morlan and I'm the pastor of Christian Baptist Church which was started on November 20th, 2011. We started with eight people who wanted to know more about God. Another family was interested in having a Bible study in their home as well. So we started having two Bible studies each week in two separate homes.

Here's a little background of how this came to be: Even though I'd had a Bible study back in the 90s and 14 people were saved and 13 of them were baptized, I wasn't pastoring a church. (I had left Calvary Baptist to pastor Trinity Baptist as an interim pastor for four years and I really enjoyed pastoring.) Well, I had been back at Calvary Baptist for 8 years serving in many areas of the church, such as teaching Sunday school, ushering, counting money, visiting people in their homes or hospital, and sometimes filling the pulpit or just assisting Pastor Mitch Flesch when needed. But God was still prodding me to preach.

It was after helping out with Calvary's new program with Muffley school, called Kids' Club, that I came under deep conviction from God. I'd been wanting to preach again and had been praying to God for guidance. I felt guilty about doing everything I was doing, but it wasn't what God wanted me to do, which was preach and pastor. It was during this time I talked to Pastor Mitch and told him all that was going on in my life. How I was so upset with everything going on and I knew in my heart that God wasn't pleased with me. I was sure in my heart that God had called me to preach the Word and I had pastored a church before and had enjoyed it very much.

Pastor Mitch told me after I had shared my heart with him that he felt God was calling me to start a new church. He said a

new Director of Missions was coming soon and that I should meet with him. I met with Mike McCoy and he shared with me that home Bible studies were good, but since the people really wanted to start a new church I could be a "Church Planter."

I met with Charles Campbell, Illinois Baptist State Association's Associate Director of Church Planting, who shared with me what was involved in being a new church plant.

So I shared with our Bible study groups what Mike McCoy and Charles Campbell had told me about "Church Planting" and our group prayed about it and decided to go forward with becoming a new church plant in Decatur.

We went from having two separate home bible studies to meeting in my home, right across the street from the Central Baptist Association office. We started right off with a Sunday and Wednesday night service. We added Sunday School which starts at 9:15 a.m. and Church is at 10:30 a.m. with a 15 minute break in between for refreshments. We have a potluck dinner the first Sunday of each month.

I have led 12 people to the Lord and have baptized 8 of them. The Lord has blessed us with people who are sincere in their commitment to the Lord and have used them to supply the needs of a new church start. Things like a heater for the garage, playground equipment for the kids, and a large sign to hang out on Sundays.

My desire is to reach the unchurched. It's important to us as a church to reach the lost. We are praying that by the time we are a year old, that God will bless us with a building to meet in, since we are meeting in my garage now. And that our sponsoring church, Calvary Baptist, will help us become recognized by the state as a church.

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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in Focus

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2012 Summer Camp Reports



YOUTH CAMP: Youth Camp was held at Camp Maranatha, about 12 miles south of Pana off of Hwy 51, on Monday, July 23rd through 10 AM on Thursday, July 26th.

The weather was very hot, in the 100s, but the Lord provided lots of bottled water donated by Decatur Culligan and the teens stayed inside the air conditioned buildings during the day. They also spent time swimming in the pond to cool off. They enjoyed it as you can see from the smiles.

Twenty-eight teens from nine of our churches attended and 10 of them made professions of faith in Jesus Christ during Camp. That definitely makes it all worth the effort!

Camp Director: Travis Brown **Camp Pastor:** Chase Smith

CHILDREN'S CAMP: The theme of our camp this year was "Overcoming Obstacles." We had a total of 26 children and 17 staff members. Our pastor Chase Smith from Fellowship Baptist in Shelbyville led us in our worship services. His topics were: "Dead in Our Sins" from Ephesians 2:1 on Thursday evening; "Counting the Cost of Our Faith" from Luke 14:28-30 Friday morning and "Parable of the Sower" from Matthew 13:19-23 that evening. He finished out with "We are Jesus' Ambassadors" on Saturday morning before we dismissed at 2 PM. Although we didn't have any professions of faith, and only one came forward to follow Christ in baptism, many seeds were planted!

Overall, the camp was a huge success! We may have been low in numbers, but we were high in spirit! The kids were well-behaved and the staff was great! God blessed us with a slightly cooler weather during our part of the camp and we were very thankful for that!

Camp Directors: Stella Eads and Lynnette Wilson

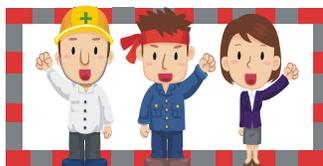
CBA Summer Camp Dates

July 22-27, 2013

Please keep this week **open** in your church calendar.



CBA office will be closed Monday for the Labor Day holiday!



NLPC Banquet for Life

Tues., Sept. 18th, 2012

Theme: *Game On* with special guest speaker Pam Tebow (Tim's mom)

CBA Pastors, Staff & families...

Anniversaries & Birthdays

September

- 3-Bill Tankersley (Argenta)
- 5-Vickie Marshall (Mt. Zion)
- 6-Brandon Smith (Mt. Zion)
- 9-Bill Henderson (Hammond)
- 10-Dale Granda (Summit Ave.)
- 21-Tom & Pauline Miller (Heyworth)
- 23-Bethany Andrews (Grace Fellowship)
 - Linda Allen (Great Commission)
 - Renee Smith (Mt. Zion)
- 24-Loretta Tankersley (Argenta)
 - Julie Andrews (Grace Fellowship)
- 28-Rich Ratts (Forsyth)

October

- 8-Diane Peterson (Heyworth)
 - 10-Lois Henderson (Hammond)
 - 17-Taylor Smith (Mt. Zion)
 - 18-Macy Smith (Fellowship)
 - 20-Nathaniel Ratts Forsyth
- Church Ann.**
- 1998-Steve Lindstrom (Findlay)
 - 2001-Christine Granda (CBA Ministry Assistant)

Annual Meeting Dates

CBA: Central Baptist Association's 63rd Annual Meeting will be held at Sullivan Southern Baptist Church on **Saturday, October 13th, 2012**. Please remind your Messengers of the date.

Messengers need to register at door, but all are welcome to attend.

We do need a number of how many from each church will be eating the meal provided, sent to Chris, by Mon., Oct. 8th.

IBSA:

Illinois Baptist State Association's 2012 Annual Meeting will be held in our Association at Tabernacle Baptist Church on November 13-15.

Pastors' Conference is Tuesday, November 13th and the Annual Meeting is Wednesday, November 14 through Thursday, November 15.

Messengers need to register, but all are welcome.

Church Library

Conference

September 29th

at First Baptist, Carmi;

9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.



Speakers are: Hope Ferguson, LifeWay Christian Resources' Church Library specialist, and Steve Bond, Senior Editorial Director for Bibles and Reference Books at B&H Publishing Group.

To register, call or email Debbie Muller at (217) 391-3126 or Debbie

Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries

Shepherd's Haven of Rest Ministries is a ministry for Pastors & their wives who are in crisis dealing with discouragement, depression, burnout, terminations, etc. who need a place to rest and retreat to heal; or a place to rekindle the sparks in their marriage; or just to rest and refocus.

They have several retreats coming up. With October being Pastor Appreciation Month, this might be something to consider for your pastor and his wife.

RETREATS

October 15-19, 2012 in Townsend, TN

February 1-4 in Memphis, TN

Ministry couples attend SHOR Retreats at no charge. Pastors & wives are allowed to rest with no agenda. Charlie and Suzanne Grigsby are available to talk and pray with each couple. Contact SHOR Ministries at (901) 867-3843 or email at info@shorministries.com. Visit them on the Web at www.shorministries.com

Baptist Children's Home & Family Services

Their Annual Fall Festival is September 15th at 949 Cnty Rd. 1300 N., Carmi, IL. Bring the whole family out for rides, games, free food and entertainment and of course the quilt and silent auctions!

The 15th Annual Southern IL Golf Scramble at Green Hills Golf club in Mt. Vernon, IL is October 6th. Just \$65 per golfer gets you 18 holes of golf, lunch, access to driving range, team picture and you help the BCH&FS. For more info: www.BCHFS.com or (618) 382-4164.

Missionary's Focus: Planting And Growing the Kingdom of God in Central Illinois!

What is our Vision?

If your plan is for a year then plant corn.

If your plan is for ten years then plant trees.

If your plan is for a lifetime then plant people.

Chinese Proverb

“Planting and Growing the Kingdom of God in Central Illinois”

I foresee a time when we have strong healthy churches and ministries that are growing and planting new works throughout this region. The role of the association is to assist the church in reaching that vision.

Prayer – That each of our Ministry points would be houses of prayer.

God specializes in the How...

- He knows how to reach your neighbor.
- He knows how to reach your spouse.
- He knows how to reach your community.
- He knows how to grow your church.
- He knows how to plant that new church and where to do it.
- He knows how to meet your budget needs.
- He knows to accomplish His will through you.

The key is plugging in to Him so that you can learn how to do this. Rather than chasing after that new program or idea because you are

convinced that is the great new thing that is going bring success. Let's get plugged into God & His vision and He will lead us.

Planning

Knowing where you are going and how we are going to get there is fundamental. The other part of prayer is planning. This is the how we are going to do the task that the Lord has called us to.

One of the first things I would like for us to do is to use this opportunity to strategically plan for what God is calling us to.

Our refocusing process is a tool to help us

Our refocusing process is a tool to help us realistically assess where we are as an association. Identify the key needs of our area then develop a strategy and plans to meet those needs.

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Provisions

Remember when the angel told Mary that she was going to have the Son of God. Her response was “How can this be?”

Gabriel said “Nothing is impossible with God!”

God has blessed with all of the resources that we need to accomplish His purpose. He will not call us to a task without also providing the necessary tools and resources to get it done. For too long we have merely tried to get by on what we have.

Far too many churches are living on the edge financially. So often that's because too many of God's people are also living on the edge financially. We are so committed financially to other debts that when it comes time to put our offering in the plate we have nothing left to give.

If a church is going to teach tithing, then that church should also practice tithing through its support of CP and CBA missions.

I have experienced in my own ministry that when we committed to give God first place financially He provided the means to do that. There are

many testimonies of pastors and churches that have made the same commitment and have been richly blessed. If I can help your church in any way, please don't hesitate to call.

Power

Churches that are Kingdom Focused are ones that are focused on the basics of the great commission. We are to be going about and making disciples. That is to lead them to the saving power of Jesus Christ. The other half of evangelism is to help the new believer to grow in their walk with the Lord so that they get to the point that they are able to lead others to know the Savior. So let's do it!

Missions Opportunities with Manna Worldwide

If you are interested in church planting missions, supporting missions or even going on mission trips you need to come when Bruce O'Neal, President and CEO of Manna Worldwide, will be at Galilee Baptist Church on Sunday, November 18th.

Bruce is willing to put on a luncheon for Pastors, lay people and business men and women so he can share the vision of Manna

and what it does for international church planting missions. He can meet with those interested in the luncheon on Sat. the 17th or Mon. the 19th, to share the vision of Manna Worldwide.

Call JJ Hairston at (217) 412-2230, if you're interested, so he can get a consensus of which day would be better. Galilee is located at 3470 Christmas Tree Rd., Decatur.



NEWS from the Pews!

Emmanuel-has called David Daniels as their Pastor Aug. 19th. Pastor Dave and his wife, Johnnie and their 13 year-old daughter, come to us from Richmond, IN.

Hammond Missionary-sent four youths to camp this year and they reported that it was a special, meaningful event for them. They want a remote to fast forward them to next year's camp. One of our attendees says she was made stronger by the event. So much so that it influenced her decision to change her life and make God her first priority.

First Baptist Church of Mt Zion: Is excited to announce that Saturday evening,

September 22nd, we will have the ribbon cutting and dedication of our new addition. God has blessed us and we would like to invite anyone who can to join us as we open our fellowship area that includes an elevator and handicap restrooms. There will be some light refreshments for everyone to enjoy. The time is still to be announced.

October 5th and 6th FBC of Mt Zion will be hosting our 2nd Annual Men's Conference. This year our guest speaker is former Major League Baseball Player Les Norman. He will be challenging men to live transformed lives at work and at home. We would like to invite all the Men's Ministries in every church to join us for a great time of fellowship.

Southern Sullivan-The Divorce Care Group for Women Only, will start over with a new session at 7:00 p.m. on Oct. 11,

and will continue to meet every Thursday night in the Youth House by the church at Sullivan Southern Baptist Church. If anyone has any questions they can call the office at 217-728-8471. Leave a message, if no one answers.

Tabernacle-is hosting a TORNADOS: Are you Ready for the Ride?, on Saturday, Sept. 8th from 10 am-1 pm at Tabernacle. Eddy Weiss (founder of Chasing4Life.org) is a disaster preparedness expert offering a unique way to prepare you for the most important 8 seconds of your life. The Red Cross will also have info. and children's activities & lunch will be available to purchase. The first 500 to RSVP (877-6042) will receive a gift at the HCE "Door Prize" booth. Registration not required, but please bring a non-perishable food pantry item to donate.



Registration Approaches 100!

(Only 50 Spots Remain) The response to our Illinois Changers Pilot Project has been overwhelming. We have seen nearly 100 registrations in the past three weeks.

There are only 50 spots left, so register now by contacting

BarbTroeger@IBSA.org Youth leaders may reserve spaces by calling Barb in the missions office (217) 391-3138. **All registration fees must be received by October 1.** The target age for Illinois Changers is students in 7th-12th grade, however we will work within the parameters of your youth group. Illinois

Changers will be held at Lake Sallateeska Baptist Camp from Friday night, October 19 through Sunday morning, October 21. The cost of the weekend is \$25 per person which includes accommodations, project supplies and event apparel (hoodie in picture). Hundreds of Illinois Baptist students have participated in World Changers. Illinois Changers is similar except that it is a weekend event instead of week long projects. At Illinois Changers, students will enjoy the opportunity of serving alongside other students in ministry projects and participating in three dynamic worship experiences planned by Tim Sadler, IBSA Director of Evangelism.



CBA Leadership Meetings

**Leadership Team Meeting
7 PM-September 11th, 2012
At Emmanuel SBC/CBA Office**

CBA's 63rd Annual Meeting

October 13th, 2012

2-7 PM

Southern Baptist Church of Sullivan

Please make a meal sign-up sheet for your church & turn in the number by Oct. 8th to the CBA office at 428-1730.



Mark Your Calendar 2012



3rd-LABOR DAY-Office Closed

11th-Reports from ALL Teams & Committees due

11th-Associational Leadership Meeting at Office

15th-BCH&FS Annual Fall Festival, Carmi

16th-23th-State Missions Emphasis-Illinois Missions Offering

26th-See You At the Pole

29th-Library Conference at IBSA Bldg., Spgfld

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

7th-Soul-Winning Commitment Day

8th-Columbus Day

13th-2-7 pm-CBA 63rd Annual Meeting at Southern, Sullivan

27th-VBS Preview at IBSA Bldg., Spgfld

Thank you-the Praise Fest was a nice event with several taking part, and the food was good & hot! Over 50 pairs of shoes and socks were collected for the *Shoes for Orphan Souls* ministry. Thank you to everyone who contributed. *Sue McClelland, PF Team Leader*