



Dr. Timothy Faber, Director of Missions

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JANUARY 2019

# The Voice

New Year's is a time when many people make "resolutions" and then quickly forget them. We seem to have forgotten what it means to be resolved, to be resolute about something. We "resolve" to lose weight, or get out of debt, or be more faithful in our Bible reading, or.... But by March those resolutions are all but forgotten. Some of this may be due to the type of resolutions we make – not the topic about which we make them, but what our resolutions actually say.

In order to be successful in keeping our resolutions we must make resolutions that can be kept. Resolutions that can be kept are resolutions that are specific, measurable, and attainable. For instance, if we resolve to share the gospel with more people this year, how will we even know if we have done so? We must first know how many people we shared the gospel with in the past year, right? But if we resolve to share the gospel with at least one person per week, then we can easily know if we are following through on that resolution. Resolving to lose 20 pounds this year is more likely to be of help than merely resolving to "lose weight".

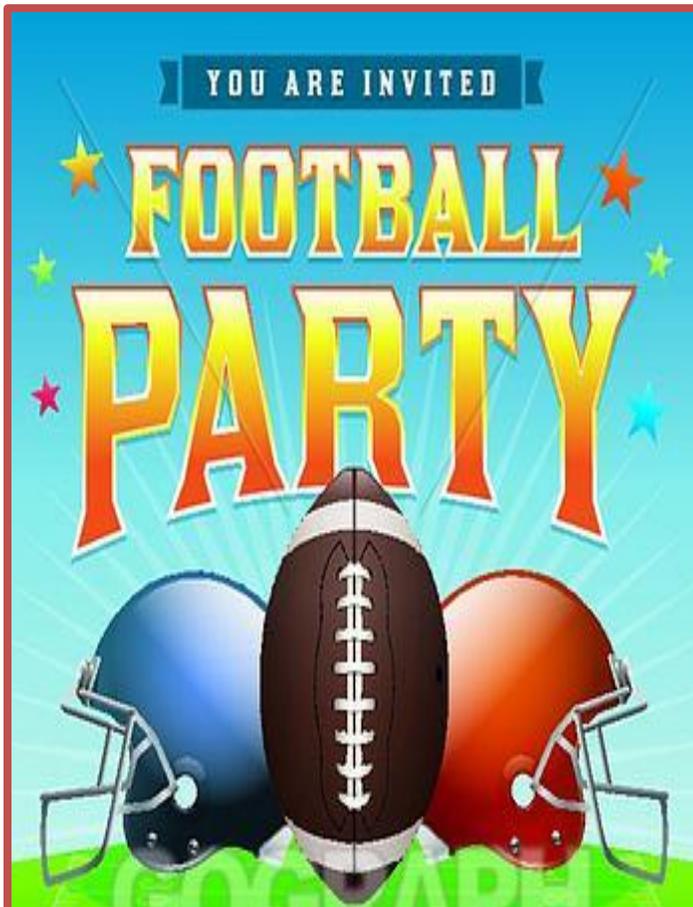
Here is another example . . . if your church would like to see more people come to Christ and be baptized, the church should resolve to conduct a Vacation Bible School this summer. Now why would I say that? Well, there is a definite connection between Vacation Bible School and Baptisms. We've heard this statistic for years, but a recent review of ACP data from our own association bears evidence of it as well.

Total average Sunday School attendance has been trending downward for the past 10 years. Total worship attendance has seen its ups and downs over the past 10 years, but is basically flat. Both Sunday school and worship attendance are down from one year ago. The one bright spot, however, is baptisms. The 92 baptisms in the association are up significantly from a year ago, and is also the fourth highest in the past 10 years. With Sunday School and worship attendance being down, it is not likely that those ministries of the church are the cause for the increase in baptisms. However, total Vacation Bible School attendance this past year was the highest it has been in at least 12 years!

Thus, it would seem that there is a direct correlation between Vacation Bible School and baptisms. I am sure we can do more to move people from VBS to Sunday School and from VBS to Worship. But it is very clear that if a church wants to have more baptism, the church needs to have a VBS.

So, if your heart says you want to reach more people for Christ in 2019, your New Year's resolutions should in some way involve a commitment to VBS. And as always, if your church needs help with VBS, please let Jane Waters or me know. Between summer missionaries and others around our association, there is no valid reason for any church to not have Sunday School. You may also want to resolve to attend the Association VBS clinic at FBC Eldon the evening of March 25.

Your Fellow Servant, Timothy



## YOUTH SUPER BOWL PARTY

Lake of the Ozarks Baptist Association will be hosting an association-wide, Youth Super Bowl Party. All 7-12 grade students are invited to attend an exciting time of fellowship as we watch the Super Bowl and share in a short time of worship and Bible study during half-time.

The event will take place Sunday, February 3, 2019, at FBC of Eldon; doors open at 5:00 p.m. and the game begins at 5:30. We are asking each student who attends to bring their favorite drink (at least a 2 liter) to share. Food will be provided, but any individuals or churches desiring to donate snacks are welcomed to do so.

**Executive Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 8, 7:00 PM**  
**Ulman Baptist Church**  
**324 Hwy C, Ulman**

### REMEMBER OUR CHURCHES

**Without pastors**

**HONEY SPRINGS**

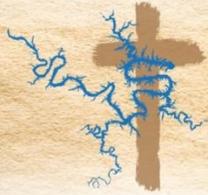
**GREENRIDGE**

**HORSESHOE BEND**

**ST. ELIZABETH**



**Pastor's & Wives**  
**Breakfast**  
**Saturday, January 12,**  
**8:30 AM**  
**Blue Springs Baptist**  
**Church**



# Lake of the Ozarks Baptist Association

PO Box 391 • Eldon, MO 65026

573-392-6591 • [lakeoftheozarksBA.com](http://lakeoftheozarksBA.com)



As the number one recreational lake in America<sup>1</sup>, the Lake of the Ozarks attracts 5.5 million people every year. . . . most of whom do not know Jesus. Reaching these tourists is a task greater than the local churches can accomplish on their own. So consider this your Macedonian call – “Come help us!”<sup>2</sup>

Spend the summer sharing the gospel in resorts and campgrounds, preaching at campgrounds, and even having opportunity to preach in some of our local churches. Opportunities will also be available for assisting churches in Vacation Bible School, camps, backyard Bible clubs, and even learning the “ins and outs” of a food pantry that serves hundreds.

We will provide housing plus \$300/week for 12 weeks.

Interested parties should email Dr. Timothy Faber at

[timothy@ephesians412.com](mailto:timothy@ephesians412.com)

[www.lakeoftheozarksba.com](http://www.lakeoftheozarksba.com)

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Lake of the Ozarks Baptist Association

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Eldon, MO 65026



1. <http://www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-recreational-lake/>

2. Acts 16.9-10

# Why is there no focus in our Sunday School Class?

What is the purpose of your Sunday School program? How will you know if your small group of Bible study is accomplishing anything? What guidelines do you give your Small group leadership for finding and using class material. A ship without a rudder is destined to wreck on the rocks.

Pro 29:18 Where there is no vision, the people perish:...

I know the word vision refers to the oracles of God but it also means sight. I am not imaginative enough to dream a house and build it from my dreams. I have to see it on paper, a blueprint. This helps everyone stay in tune with the house that is being built.

**Matthew 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you** : and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Life has a purpose. We have a purpose. Without a plan, our small Bible study or Sunday School class will deteriorate into a social club or a nest of gossip. Every Sunday School class or Bible study group needs a purpose. The purpose might be evangelism or it might be discipleship, it might be leadership. All of those are worthy purposes for a Bible study or Sunday School.

Purpose helps keep us in track or focused. It helps everyone in the group stay on track. Every runner or athlete is focused on the prize. Too often the reason we have a Sunday School is because we've always had one. That is fruitless in today's society. A purpose helps the leadership know what they are aiming for in teaching and preparing for their lessons.

If you aim at nothing, you'll hit it every time - Zig Ziglar

Helps for your Sunday School classes or small group studies are presented for your edification. They are my opinions based on 28 years of ministry and research. The opinions expressed not necessarily the opinion of LOBA or of Dr. Timothy Faber.

Bob VanderBerg, Associational Sunday School Director

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 12: Pastors & Wives Fellowship Breakfast, Blue Springs Baptist Church, 8:30 AM**

**January 17: Camp Committee Meeting, 1:30 PM**

**January 17: Missions Committee Meeting, 3:30 PM**

**January 25-26: Rocky Mount Food Pantry Open**

**February 3: Associational Youth Super Bowl Party, FBC, Eldon, 209 S Aurora St., 5:00 PM**

**February 9: Pastors & Wives Fellowship Breakfast, Blue Springs Baptist Church, 8:30 AM**

**February 22-23: Rocky Mount Food Pantry Open**

**March 9: Pastors & Wives Fellowship Breakfast, Blue Springs Baptist Church, 8:30 AM**

**March 10: Daylight Saving Time Begins. Spring forward 1 hour**

**March 25: Associational VBS Clinic, First Baptist Church Eldon, Time tba**

**March 29-30: Rocky Mount Food Pantry Open**

**March 31: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Sing at Mt. Herman Baptist Church, 6:00 PM**



First Baptist Church, Elston (west of Jefferson City) seeks a bi-vocational pastor. Bible based preaching, congregational care, and growth are priorities. Resume & references required; send to Tisha Huffer, Pastor Search Committee Secretary, [churchinfo@fbcelston.org](mailto:churchinfo@fbcelston.org) or FBC Elston, 1204 Route T, Jefferson City, MO 65109.

# TGE Conference 2019

## Trust God in Everything – Proverbs 3:5-6

TGE is sponsored by the Women's Ministry of the Missouri Baptist Children's Home.

An event unlike any other offered anywhere is the TGE Event! This is an opportunity for girls in grades 3-12 (broke up by grade 3-6, 7-8, 9-12), and women of all ages. It's a time to meet together for times of Praise and Worship, fun and fellowship, then have breakout sessions designed specifically for them. This is a great opportunity for mothers & daughters, grandmothers & granddaughter, aunts & nieces, all women regardless of age to get together for a "special weekend".

The girl's classes provide fun & interactive activities that teach and reinforce the Scriptural theme. This year's theme is "Tangled, Untangling the Issues in our Culture Today."

Some Breakout Sessions include:

Abortion – Suicide – Parenting Teens – Parenting Younger Children – Witnessing – Prayer – Marriage - Living out your faith in a Hostile Culture – Ministering to Alternate Lifestyles – God's Love and Forgiveness – Blended Families and more.

DATE: February 23-24 Saturday, 12:30 – 5:30 PM & Sunday 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Saturday night is free to see & do things (swimming, shopping, eating, Bass Pro, etc.)

LOCATION: Oasis Hotel & Convention Center, Springfield, MO

COST: \$40.00 Per Person



## SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHMENT POSSIBILITY

We are blessed here in Missouri to have two fine Baptist universities – Southwest Baptist University, and Hannibal LaGrange University. As fine as these schools are, however, students and their families often struggle covering the costs for their education.

In our January Executive Board meeting (Ulman, Jan. 8 @7:00pm) we will have the opportunity to discuss and perhaps approve the establishment of a scholarship for students from any of our churches that are attending either SBU or HLG.

This scholarship would be funded from gifts and offerings, and not from the budget. Other details are still being worked on, and may even be considered during the discussion time in the executive board meeting.

Please be in prayer about this opportunity, and be sure to participate in the discussion on the 8<sup>th</sup>.



**CAMP COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 1:30**  
**LOBA OFFICE**

**MISSIONS COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 3:30**  
**LOBA OFFICE**



**2019 Mid-Missouri  
Biblical Preaching Conference**  
**“EXALT!”**  
**January 25-26, 2019**  
**Concord Baptist Church**  
 Friday, 6-9 p.m. - Dinner included  
 Saturday, 7:30-noon - Breakfast included  
  
 “Proclaim the LORD’s greatness with me;  
 let us exalt his name together.”  
 Psalm 34:3 CSB  
  
 Mark your calendar now and watch for coming details regarding  
 conference leaders, cost, and registration.  
Sponsored by Concord Baptist Association and Concord Baptist Church.

## MID-MISSOURI BIBLICAL PREACHING CONFERENCE

January 25-26, 2019  
 Concord Baptist Church Jefferson City

This year’s theme, “Exalt” will examine all aspects of worship while emphasizing preaching as worship. Be sure to register early as the first 100 to register will receive an excellent book upon check in to the event. While this is a preaching conference all are welcome especially those involved in worship leadership.

You are also encouraged to invite your family and church to the Friday worship beginning at 7:00 P.M. The evening will include worship through music led by The Missouri Music Men, worship through scripture reading, worship through prayer and worship through the preaching of the word. It is not necessary for those only attending Friday worship to register.

Registration is open at  
<https://cbamo.org/event/mid-missouri-biblical-preaching-conference/>



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