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The Voice

of Miller County Baptist Association

NOVEMBER 2015

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

This past week I had the privilege of attending the Missouri Baptist Convention's Annual Meeting in Springfield. These are always fun to attend as they provide opportunities to re-connect with old friends, learn about new ministry opportunities, and here about how God is working in other places. As I was driving home through these beautiful Ozark hills ablaze in the autumn afternoon sun I saw many churches dotting the countryside. Some of them were newer, but most of them older. I got wondering how many years some of these churches have been around and how many lives they have changed and ministered to.

Then I got to wondering about our own churches here in Miller County Association. Many of our churches have been around for 125 to 150 years. In fact, our association was formed in 1844. There have certainly been a lot of changes since those days, and I am sure a lot of lives touched by the ministry of these churches.

Some of those churches are long gone now, other churches have been started. If the Lord tarries, some existing churches may in the future close their doors, and yet new congregations will be formed.

To move from nostalgia to some facts and logic I decided to do a little comparing of our current records with our past records, and 100 years seemed like a good number for comparison. So, compared to 1915, what do our current statistics reveal about our success in reaching our communities with the gospel. This is what I found

	1915	2015	change
County population	+/- 17000	+/- 25000	+ 8000
Number of churches	24	23	- 1
Total Ave. SS attendance	745	746	+ 1
Baptisms	121	82	- 39

So what does this mean? This means that even though the population of our county grew by 8000 people in the past 100 years we have roughly the same number of churches, the same number of people in weekly Bible Study, and we are baptizing about 2/3 of the number of people we did 100 years ago.

I know we can discuss a myriad of reasons for these statistics – factoring in one or many of the changes that have taken place in the past 100 years – but some very important things are still true, still the same.

1. People are still destined for an eternity in hell unless they know Jesus Christ

2. The grace and the power of God has not changed

3. The mandate of our Lord to share the gospel with the world – beginning in our own communities – has not changed.

So the destiny of people without Jesus has not changed, the power of the gospel has not changed, our mandate to share the gospel with people who need to hear it – especially in our own communities – has not changed.

100 years ago our forefathers reached .7% of the population with the gospel. Last year we reached .03% of the population – a bit less than half as effective as that previous generation. If we were to be as effective as “we” were in 1915, we would see about 180 baptisms per year and our churches would have about 1100 in weekly Bible study . . . and that is just to be as effective as 100 years ago.

Again, if the destiny of people without Jesus is the same, and God is the same, and God’s Word is the same, the only factor that has changed is us. What will we do to be more effective in reaching people with the gospel? Will you do your part?

Your Fellow Servant
Timothy



**REMEMBER TO CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS
AS DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS NOVEMBER 1**

PASTOR'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 8:30 AM
Blue Springs Baptist Church
RSVP by Monday, November 9, 392-7074

DEACON CONFERENCE

For All Deacons and Potential Deacons

NOVEMBER 6-7

MT. CARMEL BAPTIST CHURCH

6:45 Friday Dinner with your wives

Jim Jones, Deacon, FBC Bolivar, MO

Dinner Speaker

**Cost: \$15.00 for dinner and workshops,
\$10 dinner for wives**

**Register by calling 573-392-6591, or
by emailing millercba@sbcglobal.net
no later than Thursday, October 29**

Saturday Workshops 8:45 – Noon

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A DEACON
DEACON QUALIFICATIONS AND ORDINATION

DEACONS AS PEACEMAKERS
DEALING WITH CONFLICT WITHIN THE CHURCH

DEACONS MEETING PRACTICAL NEEDS
DEALING WITH TANGIBLE MINISTRIES

APT TO TEACH
DEACONS AS GUARDIANS OF SOUND DOCTRINE

DEACONS AND HOSPITALIZATION/PASTORAL CARE

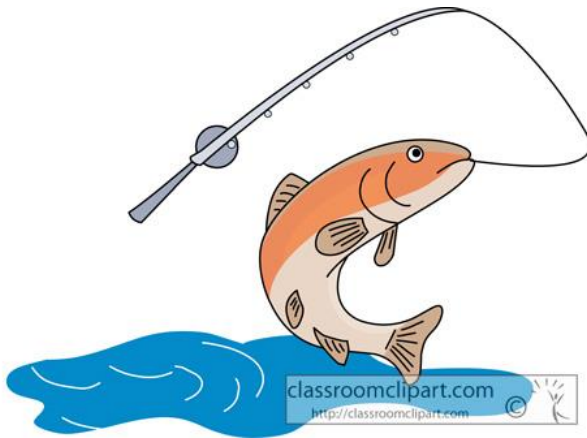
DEACONS AND EVANGELISM/OUTREACH

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND

**SPRING GARDEN BAPTIST CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO A
DEACON ORDINATION SERVICE FOR
DUANE FARRIS & JEFF HINKLE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2:30 PM
128 OPIE ROAD, OLEAN MO
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW**

RSVP IF POSSIBLE 680-4028

**5th Sunday Sing
Mt. Herman
Baptist Church
November 29
6:00 PM**



SPRING FISHING TOURNEY BEING PLANNED

A Fishing Tournament is being planned for this Spring. If you would be interested in helping to plan this activity a meeting is being held on Tuesday, November 17, 6:30 pm at the Miller County Baptist Association Office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 30-31: Rocky Mount Food Pantry Open
November 1: Daylight Saving Time Ends - Fall back one hour
November 6-7: Deacon Conference - Mt. Carmel Baptist Church
November 14: Pastor's Fellowship Breakfast - Blue Springs
November 15: Deacon Ordination - Spring Garden Baptist Church
November 17: Planning Meeting for Spring Fishing Tourney, MCBA Office
November 20: Assoc. VBS Directors Advance Training, Jefferson City
November 26: Thanksgiving
November 27-28: Rocky Mount Food Pantry Open
November 29: 5th Sunday Sing - Mt. Herman Baptist Church
December 4: Pastors and Wives Christmas TBA
January 9: Pastor's Fellowship Breakfast - Blue Springs
January 12: Executive Board Meeting, FBC Iberia
February 11: Associational Valentine Banquet - TBA
February 13: Pastor's Fellowship Breakfast - Blue Springs

**REMEMBER OUR CHURCHES
WITHOUT PASTORS
TUSCUMBIA
ST. ELIZABETH**



Miller County Baptist Association
P.O. Box 391, Eldon, MO 65026

