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# The Voice

of Miller County Baptist Association

JANUARY 2015

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

Many people make “resolutions” at this time of year. These resolutions typically involve an intent to change some pattern of behavior. Perhaps a person resolves to quit smoking, be kinder to a neighbor or colleague. More common resolutions are to lose weight, or manage one’s money better. But seldom do we hear resolutions of greater significance.

There is a song that expresses what our hearts should express on a daily basis, but especially in this time of making New Year’s resolutions. . . .

I am resolved no longer to linger, charmed by the world’s delight;  
Things that are higher, things that are nobler, these have allured my sight.

How often, this past year, have we been charmed by the world? How desperately we need to be focused on the things of God! Philippians 4 reminds us “...whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable . . . dwell on these things. Our Lord Jesus himself admonishes us in Matthew 6.33 to seek the Kingdom of God above all else. Will you resolve, with me, for the coming year to seek the things of God and not be distracted by the things of this world?

I am resolved to go to the Savior, leaving my sin and strife;  
He is the true one, He is the just one, He hath the words of life.  
I am resolved to follow the Savior, faithful and true each day;  
Heed what He sayeth, do what He willeth, He is the living way.

Many people today live in very stressful situations. Lives are consumed in strife – sometimes even within one’s own family. Stress and strife are the result of sin – not always in the life of the one experiencing the stress and strife, but some sin somewhere. Remember, our Lord is the Prince of Peace. We just spent a few weeks being reminded of “Peace on earth”, but Jesus brings peace throughout the year, not just at Christmas. He said “Peace I give to you, not as the world gives, but My Peace I give to you.” Of course, if we recognize the Jesus has the words of life, and when we follow him, obey His Word and His will, we can greatly reduce the stress and strife in our life. Will you resolve to go to the Savior and follow him this year?

I am resolved to enter the kingdom, leaving the paths of sin;  
Friends may oppose me foes may beset me, still I will enter in.

Yes, we live in a world of increasing persecution of God’s people. The atrocities of ISIS against Christians in Syria and Iraq, as well as other persecutions in Somalia, North Korea and elsewhere should make us wake up to the blessings of our own situation; but should also make us aware that our commitment to Christ had best no be built on an expectation of worldly bliss. Paul reminds us in one of his letters to Timothy “Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted”. Will we be faithful this year even the face of opposition?

I am resolved and who will go with me? Come friends without delay;  
Taught by the Bible, led by the Spirit, we’ll walk the heavenly way.

And finally, an invitation for others to join us! In spite of the opposition, in expectation of the peace, inviting others to Jesus. Will we be resolved this year to invite others to follow Christ?

Your Fellow Servant  
Timothy



January 20-22

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield, Illinois

An equipping conference to help  
Build stronger churches and leaders  
[call the associational office for information]

### ROCKY MOUNT FOOD PANTRY BUILDING

The new Rocky Mount Food Pantry Building is coming along. Work is slow. Volunteers are needed to help with the work. If you would be willing to help, call Pastor Dan Duckworth at 392-5844.

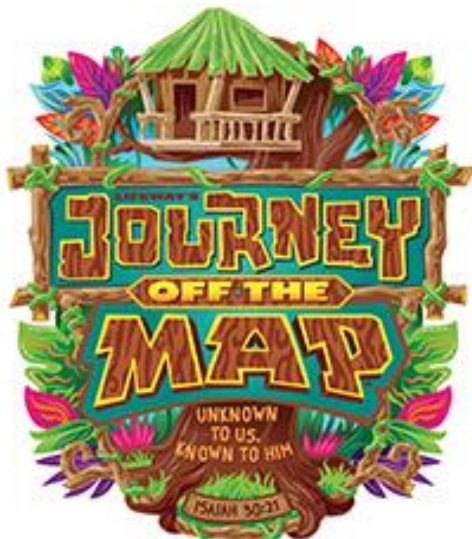
If someone has a lift and would be willing to volunteer for a day that would be very helpful.

### PASTORS FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Preachers like to eat. Preachers like to talk. And when preachers get together to talk and eat it is a good time!

We are planning another Fellowship for Saturday morning, January 10, at Blue Springs. We will meet at 8:30 am. All pastors and retired pastors are welcome to attend. Please RSVP at 392-7074 by Monday, January 5, if you are planning to attend.

If you have any questions or suggestions about this please contact Bro. Lonnie Simpson, Pastoral Ministries Director, 392-7074.



In VBS 2015 we are going to take a "Journey Off the Map - Unknown to us but Known to Him". Begin making plans now.

An Association VBS Leader Training Institute will be held Saturday, March 7, in Springfield, MO. Call the Associational Office if you are planning to attend.

Mark your calendar, Miller County VBS Training, Tuesday, April 7.

Jane Waters, VBS Team Leader



## PRESS RELEASE FOR 2015 BUCKET CHALLENGE

Sub-Saharan Africa is more heavily affected by HIV/AIDS than any other part of the world. Nearly 23 million people are living with HIV in the region. In 2012, 1.2 million people died from AIDS related diseases there and 1.9 million people became infected with HIV. Since the beginning of the epidemic, 14.8 million children have lost one or both parents to HIV/AIDS related diseases.

In many countries of sub-Saharan Africa, AIDS has erased decades of progress made in extending life expectancy. Average life expectancy in sub-Saharan Africa is now 54.4 years and in some more heavily affected countries is below 49 years. Households are severely affected by: loss of income earners, necessity to provide home-based care for sick relatives, and orphans left behind who must be cared for by members of extended family or siblings as young as 8-years-old.

Baptist Global Response (BGR) has found that that sharing a five-gallon 'Bucket of Love' may be the most effective way to open doors to share the love of Christ with these folks who are at death's door. BGR has researched and worked with partner organizations to determine the best resources to include in the Hospice Kits. One kit costs around \$85. A detailed shopping list is available and nothing more or less should be included for the sake of customs regulations and a need for uniformity. A step-by-step guide for assembling the 'Bucket of Love' is also available so that all items will fit properly in the five-gallon bucket.

Most importantly, as the buckets are delivered by missionaries, volunteers and Baptist partners, the gospel is shared and opportunity to make a decision to follow Christ is given.

BGR has given Missouri Baptists the challenge of filling 5,000 buckets in 2015. We hope that your church will include the Bucket Project as part of your missions' outreach. If you are interested in filling buckets, or would like more information, please contact the Association Office, 392-6591, for a list of items for the buckets. As you fill buckets you may also drop them off at the Association Office.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

January 5: RSVP for Pastors Fellowship Breakfast  
January 6: Associational Council Meeting, MCBA Office, 7:00  
January 10: Pastors Fellowship Breakfast, Blue Springs , 8:30 AM  
January 13: Executive Board Meeting, Spring Garden , 7:00  
January 20-22: Advance Midwest Leadership Conference, Springfield, IL  
February 5: State Evangelism Conference  
February 12: Associational Valentine Banquet, Riverview Baptist Church, 6:30  
February 20-21: Experiencing God Retreat, Parkade Baptist Church, Columbia MO  
March 5: Discipleship Training Conference, FBC Eldon  
March 7: Assoc. VBS Training Institute - Springfield MO  
March 29: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Sing, Mt. Herman Baptist Church, 6:30  
April 7: VBS Clinic  
April 11: Youth & High School Bible Drill, FBC Odessa, MO  
April 14: Executive Board Meeting - Flatwoods Baptist Church, 7:00  
April 17-18: RA Congress, MO State Fairgrounds, Sedalia MO  
April 25: Children's Bible Drill, MO Baptist Building, Jefferson City, MO

## SAVE THE DATES



### *Associational Valentine Banquet*

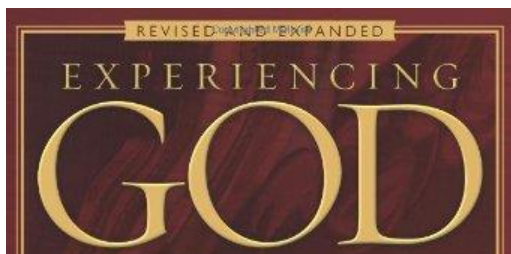
*Thursday, February 12*

*6:30 PM*

*Riverview Baptist Church*

*Call or email the MCBA Office  
if you are planning to attend*

## EXPERIENCING GOD RETREAT



FEBRUARY 20-21, 2015  
PARKADE BAPTIST CHURCH  
COLUMBIA, MO  
[SPONSORED BY MBC & LIFEWAY]



# MCBA CHURCHES CALL PASTORS

## HICKORY POINT CALLS NEW PASTOR

Hickory Point Baptist Church recently called Rev. Kelvin Ray Walker as their new pastor. He will begin his pastorate Sunday, January 4, 2015. Kelvin and his wife, Cheryl, will be coming from the St. Louis area. They have three adult children, Christopher, Daniel and Melissa.

Kelvin's education includes a BSEE from Purdue University and a MDIV from Liberty Theological Seminary. His favorite verse of scripture is I Corinthians 15:3-7 and his hobbies include woodworking and fishing.

We welcome Kelvin and Cheryl to Miller County Baptist Association.

## BRUMLEY & TUSCUMBIA CALL PASTORS

Brumley Baptist Church and Tuscumbia Baptist Church have recently called pastors.

Brumley has called Warren Mitchell who was serving as co-pastor with Vernon Arthur.

Danny Evans has been serving as interim at Tuscumbia and was recently called to fill the pastor position.

Pastor profiles will follow as they are received.

Pray for these churches and pastors as they begin ministries together.

**Miller County Baptist Association**

P.O. Box 391, Eldon, MO 65026

