



SBA Weekly News

February 25, 2015

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Good afternoon!

Some up and coming events this weekend and in March: Are you registered for the Fir Point Winter Youth Camp (this weekend)? Is your church taking part of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and Week of Prayer (3/1-3/8)? The VBS and CM52 is on March 6-7, are you packed yet? Revive This Nation simultaneous revivals are the week of the 8th. We have two churches (that I'm aware of) participating in this event. The MAPs conference is the next weekend. Can you tell this is mentoring/training month? To top off March, the SBA gets to get together at Lozier Lane Baptist Church on the 29th to fellowship and praise the Lord in song and joy! Find details below or give me a call and I'll try to inform you better!

Next week is mail out week. If you want any flyers, etc in this upcoming News Letter let me know by 3/3/15.

Have a wonderful day!

Nancy

February 2015

February Birthdays and Anniversaries: Please remember to pray for these on their special days.

Stan and Rhonda Smith, 1st; Ron and Carol Lloyd (ret), 6th; Sean Sullivan, 6th; Ron and Jeanette Allen, 16th; Bev McKinney, 16th; Susan Sloan (Region 4), 19th; Jim Hildebrand (ret), 23rd

2/27-28 – Youth Retreat at Fir Point Camp Ground. Cost \$30 Guest Speaker Ken Harmon of West Linn, OR

Registration 5:00 – 6:30 Dinner at 6:30

Bring: Bible, note taking materials, Sleeping Bag or Bedding, A friend and a Good Appetite (They do feed well at Fir Point!!)

March 2015

March Birthdays and Anniversaries: Please remember to pray for these on their special days.

Linda Darr, 6th; Josué Delgado, 15th Jim McKinney, 16th; Larry Brons, 17th

3/1-8 Week of Prayer for North American Missions and Annie Armstrong Offering

3/6 Assoc. VBS Team Training Longview, WA

3/6-7 **CM52** - NWBC Kids Ministry Conf - Longview, WA

3/8 Daylight Savings Time – Forward (YEA!)

3/8 -11 Revive this Nation Revivals: Grace Baptist and College Heights are taking part in this annual event. College Heights visiting preacher and wife are Greg and Taylor Nelson. Service on Sunday the 8th at 11 (pot luck to follow) and at 6 that evening. Monday – Friday will be meeting at 7.

3/13-14 MAP's Conference—Vancouver, WA-Ministry Assistants, 541-659-7261 - Registration to be mailed by March 1st.

3/27-28 Disaster Relief Roundtable(Training)

3/29 Palm Sunday

3/29 5th Sunday Sing – Lozier Lane – 5:00 Potluck – 6:00 Sing!

April 2015

April Birthdays and Anniversaries: Please remember to pray for these on their special days.

Marla Cain, 1st; Bruce Sloan (Region 4), 22nd; Carol Lloyd (ret), 23rd; Betty Batte (ret), 25th; Tabitha Badley, 28th

4/12/14 Co-op Program Sunday

4/17-18 NW Women's Summit

4/20 – 7 PM - Regular Executive Board Meeting, Waters of Life, Medford

4/24-25 NWBC Student Conference

• Prayer Needs and Praises:

- Let me know if your church has a prayer concern it will be posted here.
- Updates are a great thing.

- **Health issues for those in our churches:** Pray for, Emilee Woody as she has an Ultrasound at 2pm today for the cysts on her ribs; Rachel Bell, Cancer treatments (College Heights), Jimmie Roberts (W of Life) healing nicely I understand; Jenny (College Heights); Harrison, Cancer (College Heights) and several other veteran SBA folks as well.
- Pray for the families of those who have lost their lives because of their Christian belief.
- Pray for the missionaries who must move to be out of harm's way in so many of these situations around the world.
- Pray that we here in the USA will rise up to support, pray, encourage those who are in these areas of the world.
- Pray that our government will do the right thing for our Christian brothers and sisters.
- Continue to pray for Bob and Betty Batte – He and Betty are in Mexico at this time. Betty not feeling so well.
- Pray for the contacts and salvations that were accomplished in His Name by the Grace Baptist Street Ministry.
- **For our churches who are taking part in the SWBTS Revivals, week of March 8th.** Others are planning revivals later. Grace Baptist and College Heights are two who are meeting that week.
- **For Region 4 and So. Oregon New Work and Church Renewal** that we would be reaching out to our neighbors in a way that gets them to thinking about God and Jesus.
- **For the planning and execution of plans made here in and through SBA and our churches.** That He will be glorified in all that happens and that many would come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior.
- **SBA teams to be energized with new participants and helpers** – Pray about how you can be serving our churches in our association.
- **Continue to pray for the Baptist Disaster Relief folks. Northeast winter storms. When they are not serving they are training.**
- **For our missionaries who are in difficult countries.**
- **NWBC East Asia Partnership.** Pray that the teams needed for special projects in 2015 will be filled.
<http://www.nwbaptist.org/ministry/eastasia/Current%20EA%20Partnership%20Project%20Requests.pdf>
- **For the USA to turn back to God.**
- **Prospect Baptist** as they look for a new pastor. Richard Giles is Interim.
- **Waters of Life Baptist** as they continue on in the process of being a Legacy Church.
- **Pray for these SBA Pastor's and Wives:**
 - Bruce and Cheryl Pearson, First Baptist, Phoenix
 - Jimmie and Barbara Roberts, Waters of Life, Medford
 - Richard and Tricia Williams
- **Pray for our Pastor's and wives, Region 4 Team, Missionaries (IMB and NAMB) and NWBC staff** that He would give us all hunger and thirst for Him and His word. Heb 5:14
- **NWBC leadership as they continue to serve Northwest churches.**
- Pray for the family of Mona Conley (Bruce Sloan's request) as she passed away suddenly on Monday due to a heart attack. Her husband, children and extended family needs Gods peace and direction.
- Tim and Sherrie Foster's (FBC, Myrtle Creek) grandson Micah Gillis fell and hit his head very hard. Pray for those who are working with him as there are complications. He is at Randall Children's Hospital. Pray for the family as well.
- **For ministries and outreaches throughout our SBA area that are reaching out to their greater community.** (SOS, Lozier; U-Turn, Lampman Rd; River Valley New Hope Church; Southern Oregon Truck Stop Ministry and others) Want to join them give them a call!
- **Pray for U-Turn** as they need a separate place from Lampman Rd BC due to space issues. Give Kevin Darr a call if you see something promising.
- **For Youth Ministries in our churches:** College Heights, First Baptist, Grace, Lampman Road, Lozier Lane, New Horizon, Prospect, Sixth Street, Trinity, River Valley New Hope Church
- **For our churches that are struggling with both much and lack of growth and financial issues.**
- **For our churches that are in the midst of remodels/redecorating.**
- **For the Admin Team, Fellowship Team, Missions Team, Children & Youth Team as we work to accomplish the task that you have assigned us to do, that we would be unified in what God would have us to do.**

Region 4 Church Plants: Pray for these Pastors, their leadership teams and the many partners helping to start and grow these works.

- **Hispanic Church plant in Medford – Pastor Jaime Pantoja of Madras OR will be the planter**
- **River Valley New Hope Church** - Sean & Christina Sullivan
- **The Branch in Corvallis** - Pastor Josh Howeth
- **Freedom Pointe Ministries** - Bobby J. Blake Church Planter, Willamette Valley Baptist Association
- **Two Micronesia Churches** –Kieny & Antonette Aisek, Tigard and Salem. The language group is Chuukese.
- **A church plant for Vietnamese in Salem.**
- **Pray for those who are considering coming to the NW to either plant a new work or to take a pastorate.**
- **Korean church in Salem OR – John Y. Lee will be the planter**



The Math of a Growing Church

By Randy Adams, Executive Director Northwest Baptist Convention

If you can do fourth-grade-math, you can calculate the numbers of a growing church. I learned this while in my ninth year of shepherding churches. I don't remember why, but I decided to study the Sunday school organization of our church. I began by adding up the number of classes and dividing our average annual attendance by that number. What I learned was that we averaged ten persons per class.

I remember thinking, "That's interesting. I wonder if we averaged the same attendance per class the year prior?" I discovered that we did. I then examined every year for the past 15 years. I learned that no matter the average annual attendance, we always, and I mean always, averaged ten per class. I served that church for almost 11 years and we never averaged nine or eleven per class. We always averaged ten. And for every net increase in the numbers of classes, our attendance increased by ten people per class.

When I started serving in denominational leadership I began calculating the average attendance per class in other churches. With few exceptions, the average was ten. The number ten seems to work whether the church is small or large.

This observation led to several conclusions. First, attendance goals are not as significant as goals to start new classes. Attendance increases as the number of classes increases. This means that recruiting and training new teachers must be a top priority. Recruit, train, and begin new classes. Doing these things enabled us to reach and teach more people.

Second, some classes will average more than ten. Demographics, exceptional leadership, and adequate space, allows some classes to grow larger. It is not necessary to divide these large classes, but we did train new leaders from their members. We were also able to show that, while they may average more than ten, they too reached a maximum average. Some classes maxed out at six or seven, others at twenty, but the church-wide average was always ten.

Third, while the square footage of your education space is important, so is the total number of meeting rooms that you have. If you have a total of ten rooms for classes, you will not exceed an average attendance of 100 without adding meeting rooms or using rooms for multiple groups.

Fourth, increasing numbers came to faith in Christ as our Sunday school enrollment increased. If we could connect a person to a Sunday school class, our opportunity to lead them to Christ, and see them follow Jesus in baptism, greatly increased. As I studied our Sunday school, the attendance-to-enrollment percentage became unimportant to me. What I wanted to see was an increasing number of classes and an increasing enrollment. If those two things grew, I knew attendance would increase, and we would see more people come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

I strongly believe that churches need to emphasize growing the numbers of Sunday school classes, or small groups, if you will. The only way to do this is by increasing the number of small group leaders we have. People are reached, taught and cared for by committed small group leaders.

How about a little fourth-grade-math homework assignment? Add up the total number of Sunday school classes, or small groups, in your church. Divide the average attendance for the 2013-2014 Sunday school year by the number of classes. If you are like the vast majority of churches, you will average about ten per class. Next, develop a plan to train new teachers and start new classes. Failure to do so will result in declining impact on your community. But, if you will do the work, you will increase your impact, to the glory of God.

And here's an opportunity for you. On March 6-7 there is a training conference for all who work with preschoolers, children and their families. It's called CM52, because Children's Ministry is 52 weeks a year. First Baptist Church, Longview, WA is hosting the event. You can register at www.nwbaptist.org. If your church doesn't have a quality children's ministry, with trained workers, you will find it impossible to reach and keep young families. I highly recommend this event. Ongoing training of small group leaders is key to a growing church.