



SBA Weekly News

September 23, 2015

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Hi Everyone,

OK Fall you are here! The official time was around 4 ish this morning here on the West coast. Is it interesting how we are? Fall just came upon us and now I've got folks looking for snow.....we do know that "to every thing there is a season and a time for every purpose under the heaven". This goes for a lot of things in our lives. So hang in there its coming!

Trinity – A Loving Church has a couple of ladies in the hospital right now. More detail in the Prayer list but if you are just glancing please keep Jeanette Allen and Heidi Merritt in your prayers.

Please be in prayer for these events:

1. Dayspring Baptist Church Revival Sept. 27 11:00 AM through Sept 30 - Gary Maroney is the evangelist.
2. Annual Church Profiles will be due the 1st of October! If you have not received your Profile let me know.
3. SBA Annual Meeting October 24 @ 10AM. You will be served lunch at noonish and then we will continue until 2 PM We meet at Lozier Lane Baptist Church. This is a Saturday! Our preacher for the day will be determined soon. The missionary speakers, Paul and Christina VanStone will be ready.

Bruce Sloan sent a message that Gary Maroney is available October 18-21, 2015. His contact information is: Cell – 254-627-9004 or Email – ddm6tx@yahoo.com

Have a wonderful day!

Nancy

September 2015

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

Ron Lloyd (ret), 5th; Brook Gates, 12th; Bruce and Cheryl Pearson, 12th; JC Barnett, 18th

9/27-30 – Dayspring Baptist Church Revival –The 27th 11:AM and 6:30 PM, 28th – 30th 6:30 PM Gary Maroney is the evangelist

October 2015

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

Jeanette Allen, 7th; Bob Batte (ret), 17th; John Dawson, 19th; Carolyn Brons (ret), 20th; Brandie Woody, 20th;
Ron Allen, 26th; Dwayne Johnson, 30th

10/24 – SBA Annual Meeting 10 AM – 2 PM at Lozier Lane Baptist Church. Lunch will be served at Lozier Lane. Please plan to be in attendance with your messengers! The meal will be a fund raiser for the Rogue River World Changers.

November 2015

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

Jorie Allen, 8th; Emilee Woody, 23rd; Josué and Janet Delgado, 26th

11/9 – NWBC Pastor and Layman conference – Portland, OR watch here or the Witness for more information.

11/10-11 – NWBC Annual Meeting – Portland, OR watch here or the Witness for more information.

- **Prayer Needs and Praises:**
- **Let me know if your church has a prayer concern it will be posted here.**
- **Updates are a great thing.**

Home:

Health/travel issues for those in our churches: **Heidi Merritt and Baby Emmelyn** – Baby trying to come early, she is at 25 weeks. **Jeanette Allen** – doing better out of ICU but doesn't want visitors at this point. **Bob Batte, Merle Woody and Paul Maurer** – Heading to Baja on Saturday to check in on the fire station; **Nate Sheets** - Health. **Gary Maroney** – evangelist traveling

SBA:

- **Our churches in transition:**
 - **Living Hope Church** for Shawn and Tina Snyder as they and their children make the transition.
 - **Waters of Life Baptist** as they continue on in the process of being a Legacy Church.
 - **Sixth Street Baptist** as they search for a new pastor.
 - **Prospect Baptist** as they reach out to their community with renewed fervor.
 - **Grace Baptist Church** they continue the process of Pastor search.
 - **Nueva Vida** for Jaime and Claudia Pantojas and their children make the transition. New Horizon is their sponsor
- **Pray for these SBA Pastor's and Wives:**
 - William and Brandi Woody, College Heights
 - Stan and Rhonda Smith, Dayspring
- Pray for Dwayne and Tammy Johnson as they wait on the Lord for clear direction in their lives.
- Pray for Lozier Lane – for direction and God's peace.
- Pray for those who attended VBSs and Youth/Children Camps for God to continue to work in the lives of these young folks.
- **Pray for our school children and young adults as they live their faith out before peers and teachers.**
- **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.**
- **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.
- **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!
- **For Youth Ministries in our churches:** College Heights, First Baptist, Grace, Lozier Lane, New Horizon, Prospect, Sixth Street, Trinity, River Valley New Hope Church. Those working to encourage Youth attendance in their churches.
- **For our churches that are struggling with both much and lack of growth and financial issues.**
- **For upcoming participation needed for new SBA leadership 2015-16**

Region 4

- 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.
- Pray for all the churches in region 4 that share the love of Jesus Christ in word and deed. Ask God for specific direction on being the churches He desires. Pray that your own church will be a community where people find hope and healing in the Lord. (from NWBC Prayer Guide)
- Pray that there would be the funds to train our folks who are coming to be church planters. That there would be funds to help them with their travels and moves.

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 & Claudia Pantojas.** Nueva Vida
- **Waters of Life Legacy Plant** - Shawn and Tina Snyder – Living Hope Church
- **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.**
- **Pray for funds to help them get settled.**
- **Korean church in Salem OR – John Y. Lee will be the planter**

NWBC

- **Pray for our Pastor's and wives, Region 4 Team, Missionaries (IMB and NAMB) and NWBC staff** that we would work together in unity with each other and other ministry partners. Romans 15:5
- **NWBC leadership as they continue to serve Northwest churches.**
- **That the Northwest Impact offering will be funded.**
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USA

- **For the USA to turn back to God.**
- 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 who are incarcerated in another country..
- **Continue to pray for the Baptist Disaster Relief folks. Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Around the USA, Our own back yard.**

World

- For IMB missionaries as the decisions are being made to bring 600 - 800 home due to financial situation.
- For our USA churches as they step up to help our missionaries to find new ministries, work, and help with all that comes with an unexpected move.
- **NWBC East Asia Partnership.**
<http://www.nwbaptist.org/ministry/eastasia/Current%20EA%20Partnership%20Project%20Requests.pdf>
- **200 from our NWBC churches will go to Thailand for an IMB missionary meeting. This will include their children. If you feel lead to go contact the convention office (360) 882-2100 for more information.**
- **For our missionaries who are in difficult countries or working in difficult situations.**
- Pray for the missionaries who must move to be out of harm's way in so many of these situations around the world.
- **Nepal Rebuild**
- Pray for the families of those who have lost their lives because of their Christian belief.
- Pray for those who are dealing with unexpected health issues. That they will receive or be able to get to proper care.
- Pray for the Unreached/Unengaged People Groups all over the world. That many servants of God will be lead to their very door with His message of salvation, love, grace, and mercy.

NorthWest Impact Mission Offering

Has your church promoted this yet?

Saw this on Face book thought that maybe others that know them would like to help.

[Natalie Johnson](#) with [Zach Merritt](#) and [Heidi Merritt](#)

Hey friends and family

A lot of you have been asking about bringing meals for Zach and Heidi so we set up this website to coordinate that. When you go to the site enter: Merritt for the last name and: Emmelyn for the password and then you'll see the options!

[Www.takethemameal.com](http://www.takethemameal.com)



Here they come! IMB Missionaries Returning to the Northwest

by [erandalladams](#)

Susan Vessey is a Northwest Baptist who has served with the International Mission Board for about 25 years. Recently, I received an email from her that she will take a "voluntary retirement" offered by the IMB. The agency's leaders, in recently announcing severe revenue shortfalls over the last several years, have created incentive packages aimed at reducing personnel by up to 800 people. Those staff and field personnel over 50 years of age and with at least five years of service are eligible for the "voluntary retirement" packages.

I met Susan in South Asia in 1993 where she was sharing Christ with an unreached Islamic group, displaced by the Afghan war in the 1980s. She is a single woman whose entire life has been dedicated and spent for Christ's cause amongst a poor people, hopeless without Christ. Some of you might know her sister Tina, wife of Brian Duffer who is the long-serving pastor at Sequoia Baptist Church in Kent, WA. In her email Susan writes: "While the package may be called 'retirement', I am not going to do that. Now at 61, I doubt that I will be able to find other employment, Christian or secular, but I know that there is no limit to the amount of opportunities there are to be used of God and that's what I intend to do."

The planned IMB staff reduction of 600-800 missionaries impacts every Northwest Baptist and Southern Baptist personally. For over 150 years the IMB experienced steady growth in the number of missionaries sent and sustained by Southern Baptist Churches. Beginning with our first

missionary, Samuel Clopton, who was commissioned and sent to China in 1845, SBC churches exceeded 5,000 field missionaries for the first time in 1995, the 150th anniversary of SBC international missions. From our peak of more than 5,600 missionaries in 2009, we are expected to have 4,000 to 4,200 IMB missionaries under appointment when the reduction is complete.

Many of these international missionaries were and are from the Northwest. A mission field ourselves, with about four percent attending church on a given Sunday, Northwest Baptists have dozens, perhaps 100 or more serving with the IMB. The exact number is difficult to define because the numbers can include those who connect to the Northwest through previous ministry, place of education, or origin of spouse.

What we do know is this – some of our Northwest Baptist IMB missionaries are “retiring” early because those age 50 and above, with five or more years of experience, are being asked to consider “retiring” from IMB service. If this voluntary retirement initiative fails to net the needed numbers to balance the budget, the IMB will take other steps to achieve the staff-reduction target number. Some of those who retire, or return for other reasons, will be Northwesterners like Susan Vessey. Others will want to come to the Northwest because they are missionaries and they want to serve on a North American mission field. We have already heard from missionaries who want to come to serve with us.

What does this mean for us? How might we respond to the down-sizing of the IMB and the returning of hundreds of missionaries?

First, be open to returning missionaries. Many of these are in the prime of life and ministry. They have tremendous skills and giftings – linguistic, cultural, and biblical skills that would greatly bless our work in the Northwest. They have learned to live and serve effectively among a people different than them. Moreover, they have honed their missionary and ministerial gifting through perseverance in difficult circumstances. Missionaries know how to sacrifice, overcome adversity and work hard. Most importantly, they have lived by faith in an all-sufficient God and not by sight. Some are preachers and pastors. Others are able servant leaders who could help a church get to the “next level” in small groups, organization, missions and evangelism. Be open to these returning missionaries as you seek a pastor, staff member, or volunteer servant leaders. If you’re a business person, consider hiring a returning missionary. Many have real-world job skills, which combined with a large heart for God and for people, will make them great employees. Some of you might be in a position to give a car to a missionary, or provide housing for a period of time. Be creative, and generous, as you think of ways to bless these dear servants of God.

Second, and really first, pray for all of our IMB missionaries. Pray for those who are not contemplating early retirement (can you really call it retirement at age 52, or even 61?), and pray for those who remain on the field. There is great uncertainty and heartache among our missionaries. Some of our younger missionaries will be left without their supervisors and mentors. It takes seven years or more for an international missionary to acquire the necessary skills to be fully effective. With some of our most experienced missionaries leaving the field, younger, inexperienced missionaries will be the only ones remaining in some places. They need encouragement and prayer.

Third, consider raising the Cooperative Program (CP) percentage that your church gives to support missions. I wrote last week that if our churches gave the same percentage through CP that we did 30 years ago (10.5 percent on average), the IMB would have about \$85 million more dollars annually. But not only would the IMB have more resources, our seminaries would have more, and could thus train more leaders and charge them far less money. NAMB would also have more resources, as would state and regional conventions, such the NWBC. The Southern Baptist denomination was built through sacrificial levels of cooperative giving that enabled us to support a “system” of missions and education. For example, in the Northwest we used to fund collegiate ministry in a much larger way. Now our college ministers must raise their own support, or work bi-vocationally. Only in the south do we still find state-convention supported collegiate ministers, and even there such ministry is declining. I believe this is a tragedy and it is a direct result of decreased missions giving through CP.

Could your church increase CP by one percent in 2016? Perhaps your church doesn’t have CP in the budget at all. Would you consider adding mission giving through CP to your church budget? If all churches increased giving by one percent the IMB would have \$17 million additional dollars next year. And because CP lifts all boats in SBC life, increasing it will enable us to educate those missionaries and do the work in North America and the Northwest that is required to impact lostness in our own neighborhoods.

Remember, being a Baptist is about a biblical and theological conviction. But being a Southern Baptist, and a Northwest Baptist, means that we have made a missions commitment that requires cooperation. There have always been those who liked to do things their own way and wouldn’t support what they couldn’t control. You’ve got people like that in your church. But the genius of the SBC system is that we bring a coordinated and comprehensive approach to missions that accomplishes what an independent approach cannot. In the Northwest, we see this in pastor-cluster training, church planting amongst multiple language groups, disaster relief, and the Pacific Northwest Campus of Golden Gate Seminary, just to name a few things.

Would I change some things if I had absolute power in the SBC? O course! But do I withhold my support from the SBC system of missions because I would do some things differently? Absolutely not! I didn’t appreciate that response from church members when I was a pastor and I don’t agree when that approach is extended to our cooperative work.

We’re in this thing together, always together, never alone. Praise God!