

**CCSBA Needs YOU!**

One of the great needs we currently have are volunteers who will join us in advancing the gospel together as an association by participating on various ministry committees. We need people to help with Children's and Youth Camp, Student Work, Pastor Education, Finance, Personnel, Fixed Assets (Building & Grounds, etc.), Missions, and more. We've got lots of talented God led adults in our churches who could be part of what God wants to do across CCSBA. Maybe you are one of those. Please pray about being part of your associational ministry. Call us if you can serve or have questions.

**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

- 4 JIM GENTRY
- 7 CAROLYN CORNMAN
- 10 STEPHEN & STEPHANIE PATTERSON
- 11 DONNY EMMONS
- 16 MONTY FLANIGAN
- 17 CASEY DAVIS
- 25 MAY SEBAG
- 25 JIM & LAURA GENTRY
- 26 LONNY & JOYCE MITTAG

Calendar for August & September  
**August 20-21 MBC Executive Board Meeting**  
**September 3 CCSBA Office Closed for Labor Day**  
**Sept. 11 CCSBA Executive Board Meeting 7:00 pm**  
**Sept. 14-15 DR Training at Green Valley, St. Joseph, MO**  
**Sept. 16-23 Week of Prayer for Missouri Missions**  
**October 1 CCSBA Annual Meeting Memorial Baptist Church, Poplar Bluff**

**IT'S TIME TO SIGN UP FOR THE BSU LUNCHEAS AT TRCC. CONTACT DANIEL OR SANDY ASAP TO GET GET YOUR CHURCH ON THE LIST.**

**CCSBA CHURCH PRAYER FOCUS**

Northside, Bernie



Bloomfield FBC



Jerry Darby, Pastor

Trinity



Eldon Wheelis, Pastor

Lone Hill



Scotty Smothers, Pastor

**PRAY FOR THESE PASTOR-LESS CHURCHES**

**Northside Bernie**

**Harviell FBC**

**Center Hill**

**New Hope**

**Emmanuel**

**CCSBA Financial Status**

Sept. '17 - July'18 Budget to date : \$106,333.37

Contributions received: \$103,758.80

CCSBA Office Hours  
 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday – Thursday  
 8:00 am – 12:00 pm, Friday

Web: [www.ccsba.com](http://www.ccsba.com)  
 Facebook: @CaneCreekStoddardBaptistAssociation  
 Address: 2090 Three Rivers Blvd.  
 Poplar Bluff, MO 63901  
 Phone: 573-686-1115 Fax: 573-686-1116

Ministry Team  
 Jim Gentry, DOM (ph: 870-219-2355)  
 Sandy Arnold, Office Assistant  
 Daniel Bray, BSU Director

**Disaster Relief Training**  
 Sept. 14-15  
 Oct. 12-13

Contact Bob Stark at 573-300-3192

[www.mobaptist.org/dr](http://www.mobaptist.org/dr) [disasterrelief@mobaptist.org](mailto:disasterrelief@mobaptist.org)



Pastor/staff  
 and family  
 Fellowship

August 10  
 6:00-7:30

@ the BSU

Bring your  
 family and  
 join us!

RSVP by Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> 573-686-1115

**CCSBA Focus on Church Growth**

Recently I've been reading and thinking about Solomon's words in Ecclesiastes. He concludes several true things about man – and several true things about God. Understanding these help us get to a basic principle needed for church growth.

About man, he concludes that there is evil in the heart of every man which drives him to selfishness, putting himself first over everything else. He goes on to conclude that all men face the same destiny – death. Paul agrees with this when he says in Romans 3:23 & 6:23, “all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God” and “the wages of sin is death”.

About God, he concludes that there is a righteousness which men can't truly understand – but that God is righteous, all-powerful, just, and yet merciful, gracious, and compassionate. He is the giver of wisdom, knowledge, happiness, gladness, and satisfaction. Therefore, Solomon demands that we “must stand in awe of God”. He finally declares, “Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.”

Knowing all this will drive a man to do all he can to gain God's forgiveness. Yet, the gospel – the good news – is that God's forgiveness doesn't come by “works”, “but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” God's gift to man is Jesus, and all He wants from us is that we accept that gift by faith, believing in and following Jesus as Lord.

Paul learned and shared this beautiful truth with all he came in contact with. Rom.8:1 “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.” This is the gospel – that God has forgiven us and set us free from death through Jesus Christ.

Church growth comes when those in church understand the gospel and begin to share it with others. Will you pray for an opportunity to share this today, tomorrow, this week, next week? Will you take what you know and share it with those you come into contact with? Church growth can result from you following the commandment – “Go and make disciples”. Make the commitment to follow Jesus' commandment because He is your Lord.

Knowing and following the “Great Commission” will lead to church growth.

CHURCHGOERS: HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE GREAT COMMISSION?

Barna

