

CCSBA Focus on Church Growth

If you've been reading along the past few months then you will have noticed that I've put a lot of emphasis on evangelism when it comes to church growth. Church growth isn't just evangelism though. There are several important factors which go into church growth, and evangelism is one of them. And statistically, most churches today are not doing a very good job at evangelism or any of the other components which lead to church growth.

I saw this statement in one of the books I'm reading about witnessing. The author wrote, "There are more people outside the church who are willing to hear the gospel (and have conversations about it), than there are people inside the church who are willing to share the gospel with outsiders."

Wow, what an "in our face" statement. But the bad thing is, he is right. Most people today are often unwilling and usually not ready to share the gospel with those God brings along their path. If we are to see our churches come alive and once again growing, we've got to make some changes and get to action.

There is no better time than December, the month of Christmas, to share the gospel with family and friends. Dr. Alvin Reid, in his book *Sharing Jesus Without Freaking Out*, says that we must "develop a way to talk about Christ that is biblical, practical, and personal." What's more practical and personal than talking about Christmas during December? A conversation about Christ might begin with a simple question – and here are a few for you to try.

How will you celebrate Christmas this year? What does Christmas mean to you? What would be the best Christmas present of all? Is Christmas more meaningful for you now rather than in the past? Why do you think some people don't observe or celebrate Christmas? Would you say that Christmas is about blessings? Are you more excited about what you're giving to others or about what you might get for Christmas? Try one of these each day and see how God blesses you and others.

CCSBA CHURCH PRAYER FOCUS

Twin Oaks



Billy Herren, Pastor

Stringtown



Garry Vester, Pastor

Memorial



Dennis Ward, Pastor

First Liberty MB



Nathan Kirkley, Pastor

PRAY FOR THESE PASTOR-LESS CHURCHES

**Essex
Northside Bernie
Emmanuel
Harviell FBC**

**Trinity
Center Hill
Black River**

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

Web: 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)
 Daniel Bray, BSU Director
 Sandy Arnold, Office Assistant

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 DONNY & LINDA EMMONS
- 3 KEITH & FREDA BOYER
- 3 DON MAYO
- 6 DENNIS & BARBARA WARD
- 8 JIM PAGE
- 8 TRUMAN CHATMAN
- 18 JAMES CAPPS
- 19 STEPHEN PATTERSON
- 20 JIM & CAROLYN CORNMAN
- 31 ROGER MAYO

CCSBA Focus on BSU

November was a busy month at the BSU. Our bonfire was rained out, but we had a big fall party at the BSU instead. We also had students over to the house.

We are planning a mission trip to St. Louis the second week of December. We will be partnering with a local church to receive cross-cultural training and to work with Syrian and Bosnian refugees in the community. Pray that many students will participate. Also be praying for the students taking their finals and the new students who will be starting in January.

Calendar for December & January

- Dec. 2 Pastor/Spouse/Staff Christmas Party at Temple Baptist 4:30 PM
- Dec. 3-10 Week of Prayer for Lottie Moon Offering
- Dec. 5 CCSBA Executive Board Meeting 7:00 PM**
- Dec. 25 & 26 CCSBA Office Closed for Christmas**
- Jan. 1 CCSBA Office Closed for New Year's**
- Jan. 8 WMU Quarterly Meeting at Third Baptist in Poplar Bluff 6:30-8:00 PM
- Jan 13 Gospel Outreach Workshop

CCSBA Financial Status FY'18

Sept. '17- November 30, 2018

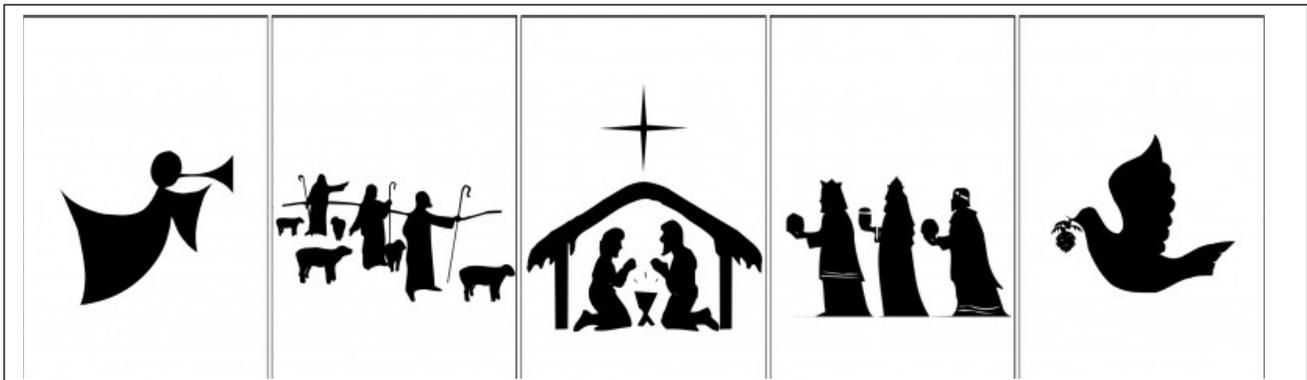
Budget needed	Contributions received
\$ 29,000.01	\$ 24,775.31 (-\$4,224.70)

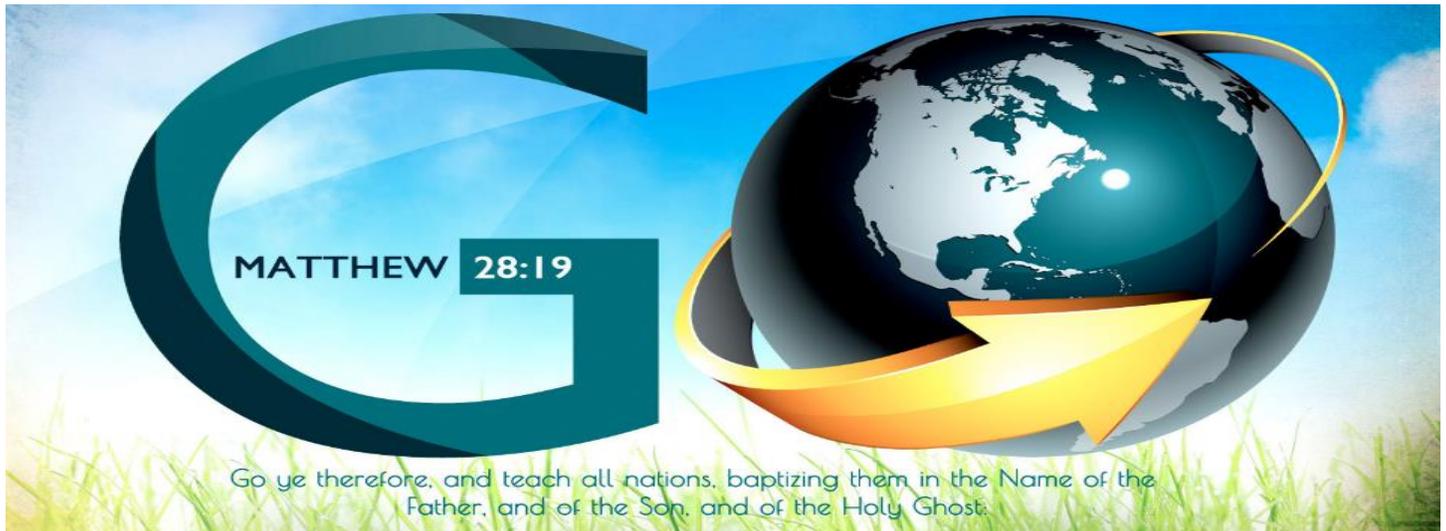


CHRISTMAS TREATS



- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| BUCHE DE NOËL | FRUITCAKE | ORANGES |
| CANDY CANE | FUDGE | PUMPKIN PIE |
| CHOCOLATE | GINGERBREAD | SCRUMPTIOUS |
| CLOVES | GOOSE | STUFFING |
| COOKIES | GRAVY | SUGARPLUMS |
| CRANBERRIES | HAM | SWEET POTATOES |
| EGGNOG | MINCEMEAT | TURKEY |
| FLAT BREAD | NUTS | |





Gospel Outreach Workshop

Saturday 1-13-18 9am-4pm
Friendship Baptist – Dexter, MO

Conversational Evangelism
Creation to Church
The 3 Circles approach
Prayer Walking and
Evangelistic praying
Creating Community for a
gospel witness
Using Tracts Effectively
Sharing Jesus Without
Freaking Out

Our most important task is to
share the gospel of Christ.
This training can help you get
on track to do that in 2018.

Register by email or phone:
ccsbaoffice@gmail.com
1-573-686-1115

Lunch provided.
Workshop sponsored
by the Southern Baptist
Associations of SEMO.