

CCSBA Focus on Church Growth

Over the past several weeks I've had the pleasure of doing a book study in one of our churches on Sunday afternoons. The book, **Sharing Jesus {without freaking out}**, is a book about sharing the gospel conversationally. It will help anyone be a better witness, and we know church growth doesn't happen without witnessing.

Being a good witness starts with **knowing the gospel**, and how your life has been changed and affected by it. The gospel isn't just the story of Jesus's death, burial, and resurrection. The gospel story starts with Creation, describes the Fall of mankind, identifies our Rescue by Jesus from the result of sin, and the Restoration we have to a good relationship with God by faith in Christ.

Being a good witness means **praying evangelistically**. Because there is a spiritual battle raging over the souls of many, we are called to pray for them with deep conviction that they will respond to the gospel. We must pray for those who are family, friends, and neighbors. We must pray for the leadership of the Holy Spirit in our lives, and the work of the Holy Spirit upon their heart. We must pray for others to join the task of witnessing.

Being a good witness means **having a plan for reaching others** and being intentional on carrying out that plan. Certainly gospel fluency and prayer are part of that plan. As well, our preparation of heart and mind are also part. With our gifts, talents, abilities, interests, and sometimes even our painful experiences – God will use us to share with others if our hearts and minds are focused on Him.

Being a good witness means **talking with someone rather than at them**. God wants us to have gospel centered conversations with those who don't know him. Conversations allow us to affirm and encourage others as we share Jesus with them, while presentations often leave a "buy what I'm selling" feeling.

Being a good witness is **more than talking**. Our lives must reflect being changed by God, empowered by God, and equipped by God for loving others where they are in relation to him. Actions are as loud as words.

God has created you for His glory, and has sovereignly placed you in this world at this time with the abilities and gifts you have to bring glory to him and show the joy of the gospel to others. Develop a lifestyle of sharing Jesus consistently and regularly.

CCSBA CHURCH PRAYER FOCUS

Leora



Dave Edwards, Pastor

Harviell FBC



Pastor-less

Quin MB



Jim Cornman, Pastor

Calvary, Dexter



Danny Collins, Pastor

PRAY FOR THESE PASTOR-LESS CHURCHES

**Northside Bernie
 Center Hill
 Emmanuel**

**Harviell FBC
 New Hope**

Disaster Relief Training

Sept. 14-15

Oct. 12-13

Contact Bob Stark at 573-300-3192

www.mobaptist.org/dr disasterrelief@mobaptist.org

Calendar for June & July

June 5 CCSBA Executive Board Mtg. 7:00 PM

June 10-11 National WMU Mission Celebration, Dallas, TX

June 12-13 Crossover, SBC Annual Mtg. Dallas, TX

**June 11-14 CCSBA Children's Camp, Van Buren
July 4 CCSBA Offices Closed**

**July 9 WMU Quarterly Meeting at Second Bapt.
6:30-8:30 PM**

July 19-21 CCSBA Youth Retreat, Van Buren

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)

Sandy Arnold, Office Assistant

Daniel Bray, BSU Director

CCSBA Financial Status

Sept. '17 - June '18

Budget to date	Contributions received
\$87, 000.03	\$ 87, 262.80

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 ROY & CASEY DAVIS
- 13 DANIEL & AMANDA BRAY
- 17 JIM CORNMAN
- 17 BRANDON & AMANDA SPAIN
- 23 TIM FREEMAN
- 26 GREG & PAM KIRK
- 27 GARY & STEPHANIE GILBERT

There is still time to get registered for Children's Camp. Call the office to get your name on the list. A camp t-shirt is included this year – so call soon.

CCSBA Focus on BSU

Praying for Malaysia

This spring semester the prayer focus for our college students was the country of Malaysia. Not all people in Malaysia are free to practice the religion of their choice. The country is made up of four major groups--ethnic Malay, Chinese, Indian, and tribal Malaysians. While the other three groups are mostly free to choose their religion, the largest group, ethnic Malays, are required by law to be Muslims.

Ethnic Malays are walled off from the gospel culturally, legally, and socially. Because of this isolation, most Malaysians have never met an ethnic Malay who is following Christ. Despite these difficulties, a small number of ethnic Malay believers exists in Malaysia. Pray for those suffering persecution for their faith in Malaysia. Pray for Chinese and Indian believers to know how to reach out to their ethnic Malay neighbors. Pray that God would break down every barrier so that the gospel will spread throughout this beautiful country.

Youth Retreat July 19-21

The theme of the retreat is The Upside Down Life. We'll be using the Sermon on the Mount to see the shift in perspective that comes from following Jesus.

Calling All
SUPERHEROES!

Children's Camp 2018
June 11-14
\$110
Grade 2-6

Bible Study
Swimming
Games
Friends
Crafts

Discover Your Strength in God

Get more info from your church and at www.ccsba.com