

MSWSBA Messenger  
February 2017

From the Director of Missions

As we enter the coldest time of the year I am reminded of my childhood and how I often dreaded this season. For me, I rarely enjoyed the wintertime after deer season as it provided far less recreational activities for those who enjoyed the outdoors. I often tell people that Missouri is not for the faint of heart. In the summertime we get the extreme heat of the south and in the wintertime the extreme cold of the north. I have come to (perhaps strangely) enjoy the vast changes of weather however as it provides opportunities to do different kinds of work. In church life we often find ourselves very busy putting on camps, VBS, and other activities during the warmer months. The holidays of course bring a great deal of busy work. At face value, this time of the year seems as if it could slow down, but in reality this makes a great time for strategizing.

As I consider where we stand as an association of churches I am reminded of our mission of "Doing together that which we cannot do by ourselves." What does this mission look like in practice? As I consider this, I am drawn to notice two things about it. First, we see that we are to be doing together. If we are working together in unity, then we will be able to accomplish things for Christ that we simply could not do alone.

The second part of this statement is that which we cannot do by ourselves. Just as Christians were never intended to live in isolation from the Christian community (Heb. 10:25) so churches were not intended to be isolated from the larger Christian community either. We see evidence of this throughout the New Testament. In Romans 15:25-27 we see Paul writing about the churches in Macedonia and Achaia giving material blessings to Jerusalem while Jerusalem provided for them gospel ministry. They put resources together to help one another in order to accomplish ministry that stretched beyond their local church and reaped benefits from those other churches that partnered with them (see also 1 Cor. 16:1-4). We also see Paul charging Titus to a ministry of working with a number of churches throughout Crete (Titus 1:5). We also know that the letters and epistles were circulated through the churches.

What does all this mean for our association? It means that just as the New Testament local churches worked together toward a common purpose of taking the gospel to the ends of the earth, so we have the responsibility to do the same as an association of churches. As you plan ministry to reach your local community within your local church or plan mission trips, I urge you to ask yourself if this is something that could be done even better with some extra help and resources. If so, give me a call so that the other churches in the association can join with yours for the cause of Christ. We have a great deal of potential in our churches and most importantly we have the gospel bearing the authority of Christ (Matt. 28:18) and the power of the Holy Spirit. Let's work together this year and do together that which we cannot do by ourselves.

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## Upcoming Events

February 7, Tuesday  
Camp Team Meeting  
@Ten Mile  
7:00pm

February 9, Thursday  
Disaster Relief Team Meeting  
@FBC Ewing  
7:00pm

February 10-11, Friday and Saturday  
Disaster Relief Blue Hat Round Table  
@MBC Headquarters, Jefferson City  
Contact Tamara Parry for more information at  
1-800-736-6227 x 317 or  
tparry@mobaptist.org

February 12-19  
Focus on WMU Week

February 14, Tuesday  
Hymn Sing Cancelled

February 20, Monday  
Presidents Day-Office Closed

February 23-25, Thursday-Saturday  
Great Commission Conference  
In Springfield MO. Contact Eric Barb for more  
information at 1-800-736-6227 x 365 or  
[ebarb@mobaptist.org](mailto:ebarb@mobaptist.org)

February 25, Saturday  
Girlfriends Café  
10:00am-12:00pm  
Brunch at Mt Olivet for Bible Study, coffee,  
and friends.

March 5-12  
North American Mission Board Week of  
Prayer

## Pray For Church's Seeking a Pastor

Wyaconda Baptist Church  
South Wyaconda Baptist Church  
Liberty Baptist Church  
FBC LaGrange  
Providence Baptist Church

## Pray For The Tripoli Outreach Center

Tripoli Outreach Center Update:  
The Civil Prosecutor Decided To Transfer  
Our Case To The Military Prosecutor After  
We Testified, Since The People Involved In  
Closing The Center Are Military; So We Are  
Getting There, At Least They Allowed Us To  
Testify And Keep The Case Open.  
Keep On Praying, We Are Looking For A  
New Location In Tripoli To Start In Our  
Ministry Because It Might Take A While  
Before We Are Given Back The Present  
Center.

In Lebanon Justice Moves Like A Turtle But  
It Gets There

-Mohammad Yamout

## Pray For Your Pastor

Seek out your pastor and ask him how you can  
specifically pray for him and his family.

Seek the Lord and ask how you can bless your  
pastor and his family.

## Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

State Goal: \$2 million

This helps fund the North American Mission  
Board and church planting efforts across the  
continent.