

# MSWSBA Messenger

September 2016

As I look back and reflect on the past year, I find myself encouraged as to where the Lord has led Mt. Salem-Wyaconda Southern Baptist Association. One of the areas where I am finding encouragement is progress in an area that I believe to be foundational for our ministry as an association, which is our unity. When I started sensing the Lord calling me into this position, I fell under the conviction of John 17:20-21 where Jesus prayed, *"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me."* Did you catch that last statement? We are to be one and united so that the world may believe in Jesus. The unity of the church is essential if we are going to see lost people saved. Through our efforts of coming together, the community around us does not see a bunch of different churches that exist because people can't seem to agree or get along. Rather, they see a bunch of people who love each other the same way that God loves, and they work together in cooperation to do great things.

This passage also shows us what this unity should look like. It should look like the relationship between the Father and Son. With that in mind, when people see the way that we love each other within our local churches and also throughout the body of Christ in our fellowship together as an association, they should see the way that God Himself loves. By this, they have the opportunity to see the love of God played out before their eyes and see the need for it themselves. If the world does not see that love in us expressed to each other and also to them, they will not see the love of Christ in us and we will then find ourselves standing opposed to the work of the Holy Spirit. Love is an indicator that we are in Christ and the lack thereof reveals that a person is lost as 1 John 4:20-21 says, *"If anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother."* Our working together as an association brings God glory as it shows this love to the world, creates resources that we cannot create in our churches alone in order to take the gospel to people, and creates a greater fellowship in a more diverse group that helps us to get a little closer to the kind of relationships that we will experience in heaven.

Throughout the past year, I have had the privilege of coming and preaching at several churches around the association as they have invited me. I thoroughly enjoy doing this as it gives me an opportunity to give pastors a week to rest at least from sermon writing and it gives me the opportunity to meet new people around the association. I greatly appreciate the hospitality and love that has been shown to my family and me as we have come and visited. Whether by visiting your churches or by crossing paths as we minister together, I have greatly enjoyed getting to know so many wonderful people throughout this association. We will leave this world as naked as we came in, but one thing that we will take with us is our relationships and fellowship that we enjoy together. I love you all and am looking forward to another great year of growing closer in unity and love for the glory of God so that our worship can be deeper and our love can show Jesus to the world.

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## Local Missions Opportunity

When: Saturday, September 25

Where: Clark County

What: Old Settlers Day, Evangelism

Contact Pastor Floyd Pyle for further details

## Another Local Missions Opportunity

When: Wednesday, September 28

Where: Highland High School

What: See You At The Pole, Come and pray with students

Contact Pastor Ted Middleton for further details

## Upcoming Events

Tuesday, September 13

**Hymn Sing**

7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Southern Baptist Fellowship Church, Wayland

Saturday, September 25

**Clark County Settlers Day**

Missions Event

Wednesday, September 28

**See You At The Pole**

7:30am

Highland High School

Tuesday, October 4

**Missions Team Meeting**

6:30pm-7:00pm

Ten Mile Baptist Church

**Camp Team Meeting**

7:00pm-8:00pm

Ten Mile Baptist Church

## Missouri Missions Offering

“The biblical text for this year’s Rheubin L. South Missouri Missions Offering is Hebrews 13:16 – “Do good and share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”

This year’s MMO allocations budget is focused on three areas of ministry that correspond to the MBC mission of making disciples, multiplying churches, and developing leaders – all of which support our vision of transforming lives and communities with the gospel.

Take special note of the projects included in this year’s offering. As in the past, some churches are “owning” certain projects by providing the funds for a summer missionary or the cost of a retreat for a pastor and his family. What can your church “own?”” –Dr. John Yeats