

---

**T**he first quarter is usually the slowest time during our ministry year. However, if that is to remain true for this year then I cannot imagine how the rest of the year is going to be! All of our key ministries are fully active now. Over the past five years we have been focusing on one of them each year. Beginning with the Baptist Collegiate Ministries as they literally rebuilt their ministry from the ground up, then focusing on Peaceful Valley Camp which is still continuing rebuilds and remodels of the facilities to better accommodate today's camping and retreat needs. Next, we focused on the Church Planting Center and began to work toward the emergence of an international church which naturally led to our focus on Partnership Missions. This year we have been focused on church revitalization and are already in the process with three churches and two waiting for us to help them. Of course, the work does not stop or pause for any of these as we began ramping up the next area of ministry. If you have been seeking ministry opportunities that reach beyond your local community in your commitment to fulfill the Great Commission, there is definitely a place for you to partner with other churches in our association in all five of these ministry areas.

There are two things that I have observed or learned over the past three months. The first is regarding the understanding our church members have of the basic doctrines we hold as Baptists. I have been teaching the Baptist Faith and Message on Sunday evenings in several of our churches. There are many church members in churches that did not grow up Baptist and even though they are now members of a Baptist church, they are still unaware of our most fundamental doctrines. As churches, we assure the Southern Baptist Convention, the Missouri Baptist Convention, and this association that we agree with the Baptist Faith and Message. Historically I believe this has been true, but how can we continue to say so with integrity when our people do not know these basic doctrines? In light of this, I believe it would be profitable and beneficial for each of our churches to go through the study produced by Lifeway in 2008, <https://www.lifeway.com/en/product/baptist-faith-message-2008-P005035536>, which is a six

Continued from Page 1

week study of the most current version of our document, often referred to as The Baptist Faith and Message 2000. This is especially important since any prior version is no longer a valid document as relates to being Southern Baptist. Even those that have been Baptist for years may be unaware of the changes that were made, specifically regarding the new Article of Faith on the Family that was first added in 1998. Please give me a call should you wish to discuss this further.

The second thing I have observed is the need and renewed focus on evangelism in our convention and association. Johnny Hunt, former President of the SBC, is now working on staff at the North American Mission Board (NAMB) to help churches reengage their communities with the gospel. To this end, NAMB had a simulcast January 31 to issue a challenge called "Who's Your One". Basically, it is for every member of every church to prayerfully ask God who he would have them pray for and share the gospel with this year. Your church can order a free kit at this link: [https://www.nambstore.com/shopping\\_product\\_detail.asp?pid=286](https://www.nambstore.com/shopping_product_detail.asp?pid=286). Many of our members feel under-equipped to share the gospel with someone. There are several good tools available today to help them. I would recommend the 3 Circles as one simple way and it even has an app you can download for your phone or tablet called "Life on Mission". An additional tool I just learned on a mission trip to Edmonton, Alberta Canada with a team from the Baptist Collegiate Ministries is Soularium. There is also an app for it by the same name but I have several kits in the association office for you to look at and even try using with someone. Its strength is starting a spiritual conversation in a simple, nonthreatening way. I would be happy to go with you and demonstrate either of these tools.

Blessings,

John Vernon, DOM

To view the association's most current financial reports as well as previous ones, please visit the association website:

[https://www.capebaptist.net/financial\\_reports](https://www.capebaptist.net/financial_reports)



## *Baptist Collegiate Ministries*

Since the beginning of the school year the Lighthouse has been focused on leadership development and reaching out on campus. At the beginning of January, we took a trip with a group of students to Colorado Springs to attend a discipleship conference. And recently in February, we attended the Great Commission Conference in Kansas City.

In March the Lighthouse traveled to Kansas City for our Spring break trip. We joined with Collegiate Impact, an organization supported by the MBC, to be a part of college ministry at the University of Missouri, Kansas City. Not only that, we also assisted two local Kansas City ministries that help sex trafficking victims and refugees.

In addition, a group of seven students from Lighthouse traveled with an association team to Edmonton Alberta Canada where they engaged students with the gospel on four different university campuses. This team was able to help the new BCM work in that city begin developing a contact list that will prayerfully lead to a core group for this new ministry.

We have been having really great Monday meals and have been averaging around 85-90 students every week. Our international student presence is continuing to increase and the gospel is being shared with students from around the world and from around the country.

We recently finished the book of Mark during our weekly worship and have begun a new series on the New Testament's use of the Old Testament.

We're looking forward to growing in our understanding of Biblical Theology and how all the promises of God have been fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Finally, please keep praying for us as a ministry.

Reese Hammond, Director



## *Partnership Missions*

One of the great blessings of being in an Association of Churches is the ability to partner together for the Great Commission. The Cape Girardeau Baptist Association knows that we can be better stewards of our time and resources by partnering together.

There are many great locations for us to work together. In North America, we have partnerships in North America: St. Louis (the Good Neighbor Initiative), Quad Cities (Jon Sedwick), and Alberta Province, Canada. There are 5 trips to Canada planned for 2019. Internationally, we have partnerships in El Salvador and Northeast Italy. There are 3 trips to Belluno, Italy planned for 2019 and a November trip being planned for El Salvador.

Please pray for those who are going and pray about how God wants you to be involved in giving and/or going.

Blessings,  
Jeremy Sells



## Bible Training Centre for Pastors and Leaders

Five years ago at the beginning of 2014 the Cape Girardeau Baptist Association started BTCP at Fruitland Community Church. They graduated the first class last year. Now we have six (6) churches that are hosting Bible Training for pastors and leaders.

They are as follows:

1) Fruitland Community Church where they are now in the second group of training up individuals. The teachers are Mike Parry, Craig Petzoldt and Kevin Lasher, who received his Certificate of Completion last year. They have five students who are studying Old Testament Survey;

2) Perkins Baptist Church where John Vernon and Josh Boley are teaching. There are four students that are studying Missions, Evangelism and Discipleship;

3) Brush Creek Missionary Baptist Church in Puxico where Lewis Scott and Marshal Link are teaching. They have four students that are studying Bible Doctrine Survey;

4) Greater Dimensions Church in South Cape where Clif Crosnoe and Al Flohr are teachers. They have four students who are studying New Testament Survey;

5) Trinity Baptist Church in St. Mary where Irvin Brooks, who received his Certificate of Completion last year, and Matt Butrum are teachers. They have six students and plan in the fall to study Missions, Evangelism and Discipleship; and

6) Our newest host First Baptist Church Scott City where Jeremy Sells is teaching. They have four students that are studying Bible Study Methods and Rules of Interpretation.

Also in 2014 the Association began a partnership with the El Salvadorian Brethren to train pastors and leaders. Last year twenty-five received their certificate of completion.



## *Church Planting Center* *of Southeast Missouri*

It seems that every new organization, every new church has small beginnings. This has been true of the Filipino ministry under Ednor Sebag's leadership. In a quick time, Ednor has contacted many Filipinos and their families, held special events, and held Bible studies and worship services. This year he is in the process of organizing the Cape/Jackson group into a church. This group is growing, taking ownership, giving, and growing in worship and Bible study. It is so encouraging! The above picture was taken at one of their bi-monthly worship services.

Ground work is being laid in the Poplar Bluff/Doniphan/Puxico area for a 2nd Filipino church to be formed next year. The Cane Creek Stoddard Association and the local area there is supportive and it will be exciting to see what the next year brings.

In April, Omar Segovia from the MBC, will be meeting with the DOMs and leadership from the CPC to discuss bringing in a catalyst like Ednor, for either Hispanic work or work among African Americans in the region. Please be in prayer for this meeting.

For the Kingdom!  
Mike Parry



## Church Revitalization and Strengthening

### Camp Ministries

Work has begun on remodeling and upgrading Blanche Bunkhouse. When finished the Bunkhouse will feature LED lighting, ADA accessibility, updated decor, modern restrooms and climate controlled sleeping quarters.

If you or your group is being led to assist, please send us a text or email at: [813-727-2077](tel:813-727-2077) or [jknesans@msn.com](mailto:jknesans@msn.com).

#### Dates for Associational Camps are:

**YOUTH CAMP**  
JULY 8<sup>TH</sup> to 12<sup>TH</sup>

**1st & 2nd GRADE OVERNIGHT**  
JULY 12<sup>TH</sup> to 13<sup>TH</sup>

**GIRLS CAMP**  
JULY 15<sup>TH</sup> to 19<sup>TH</sup>

**BOYS CAMP**  
July 22<sup>ND</sup> to 26<sup>TH</sup>

Registration forms available online at [www.capebaptist.net](http://www.capebaptist.net). Click on Ministries, then Camps & Retreats.

With over 70% of SBC churches plateaued or in decline, we are excited to take part in a movement to strengthen struggling churches throughout Southeast Missouri. The Renovate SEMO team has engaged with three Cape & Charleston Baptist Association churches in the first phases of the process to pursue new life and vitality. Pray for the team as we work alongside churches to explore their communities and spiritual health and develop strategic plans to leave a renewed, refocused, and resounding legacy.

Another great need to address the overwhelming number of dying churches is a leadership pipeline that contributes trained and equipped men to lead churches toward revitalization and replanting. In the fall of 2019, we will be launching the Renovate SEMO Residency program. Men called to ministry will be able to receive 18 hours of master level credit through the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary while being mentored and gaining ministry experience in our associations' churches. We are excited to begin raising up a generation of men passionately devoted to the ministry of revitalization.

For more information, visit [renovatesemo.com/residency](http://renovatesemo.com/residency). And if you or someone you know is interested in the residency, please contact [brandon@renovatesemo.com](mailto:brandon@renovatesemo.com).