

## Christian Life - Cape Girardeau Baptist Association - 2016

This past year saw another record number at our MBC Annual Legislative Prayer Service at Concord BC, with approximately 60 of our elected officials being present. House of Representatives, Senators, Supreme Court and Governor's Staff all came out for prayer. We are in the middle of plans for 2017 that includes Concord Baptist Church assuming ownership for the event. Your Christian Life Commission will still be involved and will help with the funding, but on site ownership will be Concord. **Worldview Conference hosted by Hannibal LaGrange University was also another home run!** We are also in a planning mode for HLGU to assume ownership of this annual meeting. I ask you to be much in prayer for both of these events as plans become finalized.

**Ballot information was made available for every Missouri Baptist Convention Church.** *What would happen in our electoral process if every Christian voted! I encourage you to vote and vote your Christian Values. "Not to vote is a surrender, not a protest".*

**I like to share numbers and events because Numbers and events are important! Very simply, if you can't measure it, you can't manage it.....** "Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor". (Eccl. 4:9). How much better are 15,499,173 working together? 15,499,173 is the current membership in more than 46,499 Southern Baptist churches across the United States, that baptized 305,301 people last year. And the "back-bone" of our SBC is the **SMALL BAPTIST CHURCH!** 67% of SBC churches have 100 members or less. Churches with more than 1,000 members contribute \$85.8 million to our Cooperative Program. However, churches with 250 members or less contribute nearly \$196 million. Smaller churches provide the fuel that drives our denomination!

I encourage all of us to;

- ✓ Pray for harmony and unity for our SBC, MBC and CGBA, so that God will be exalted.
- ✓ Be involved in our SBC, MBC and CGBA, so that God will be exalted
- ✓ Be faithful in our giving to SBC, MBC and CGBA, so that God will be exalted.

Our 182nd Missouri Baptist Annual Meeting will take place Oct. 24-26, 2016 at the St. Charles Convention Center. Messengers representing Missouri Baptist churches will gather to be reminded of this year's theme: "**Not Alone**" taken from Deuteronomy 31:6. The annual meeting will feature addresses from J.D. Payne, Steve Gaines, Daniel Sangi Im and our own Missouri Baptist leaders.

Doug Austin

October 2016