



Check out the BOOKSTORE

## Begin Your New Year

Devotional Books-  
Pre-School, Children,  
Youth, Adult- including  
Duck Commander- (Brown & Pink)

Several journals to choose from

Great time in winter month's to watch a DVD  
Beginning at \$5.00  
Several great ones at \$8.00 including  
"Amazing Love"  
Jonathan Sperry"  
"Fireproof"  
"Facing the Giants"

Several Children's DVD's

"Happy, Happy, Happy" T-shirts-  
Assorted Colors  
**\$12.00**  
SRP- \$19.00

# January



- 2 Chris Neeley
- 6 Judy Wilson
- 7 Rebecca Nance
- 14 Cathie Whitley
- 18 Gene Schreffler

## North Grand River Baptist Association

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Director of Missions  
Rev. E.J. Barnes  
Ministry Assistant  
Debbie Dickinson  
BSU Director  
Diann Barnes

## Executive Board Meeting Monday, January 20 Mission Center- 7:00 pm

Director's & Leaders- Please submit reports  
by Tuesday, January 13th.

### On the Agenda

1. Recommendation from Mission's Committee to join effort's with Iowa in Church planting
2. Approval of BSU Job Description's (Pending)
3. Nominating Committee names submitted to fill vacant spots.



### Pastor's Luncheon

Pastors Prayer &  
Fellowship Time  
at Pizza Hut  
2nd Monday  
of each month



## Men's Prayer Breakfast

Edinburg Baptist  
Saturday, 8:00 am  
January 18, 2014  
All Men Invited!

North Grand River Baptist Association

# The Encourager

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Volume 37, Number 1  
January, 2014

**"Churches working together to fulfill Jesus' Great Commission."  
Matthew 28:18-20**



## NGRBA Churches

- Alpha
- Edinburg
- Gallatin
- Galt
- Jameson
- Jamesport
- Laredo
- Lineville
- Medicine Valley
- Mercer
- Modena
- Princeton
- Ravanna
- Rural Dale
- Salem
- Shelburne
- Spickard
- Tenth Street
- Trenton First
- Union

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**COOPERATIVE PROGRAM**  
Love In Action

**NGRBA VBS Directors — Pastors**  
**IT'S COMING!!! SAVE THE DATE!!!**  
**Monday, January 13, 2014 - 7 pm**  
**VBS Early Bird Meeting**

At the NGR Associational Office



DISCOVER DECIDE DEFEND | PETER 3:15

**No Samplers or Super Samplers — Come and see the new kits and  
you can place orders for teachers books to have  
for enlistment and receive FREE shipping.**

**NGR Associational VBS Clinic — Monday, April 28, 2014**

North Grand River Baptist Association's Purpose- "To mutually and prayerfully support, encourage and challenge one another as churches to exalt Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, to edify and equip His disciples to serve him and one another, and to evangelize those who have yet to come to know Him personally." Matthew 28:19-20



## From My Heart to Yours

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8*

Our Associational theme for the next 3 years is: "ACTS 1:8- ON MISSION FOCUS." Initially, these are the ministries that we are going to accentuate...

Our "Jerusalem"— the BSU Ministry

Our "Judea"- Medicine Valley Community Ministry

Our "Samaria"- Iowa partnership

Our "ends of the earth"- Canada Mission Trip

Others, no doubt, will be added.

Please pray daily for these mission ministries and how God would have us involved as individuals, churches and as an Association. Pray that the Holy Spirit would move in and through us in ways that brings glory to God, brings growth to the church and brings souls in to God's Kingdom.

The Association has also resolved to encourage our churches to continue to grow in our prayer life, in preaching the Gospel, in teaching about Kingdom living and in being involved in healing others through the power of expressing God's love—which we have accentuated the past few years through the "Harvesting the Land" Campaign.

Let's keep praying for REVIVAL in our churches and SPIRITUAL AWAKENING in our area. We are in desperate need of both!

Hope you are able to attend the MBC EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP CONFERENCE this month. I believe it is going to be very inspirational and motivational.

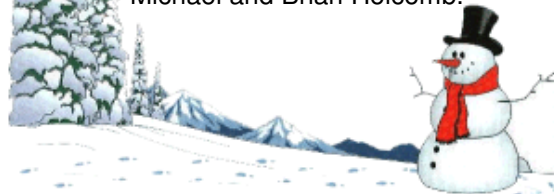
May 2014 be the best year ever for our love and service to our Lord and His Church!

For His Glory,

*E.J. Barnes*



The Administrative/Personnel Committee will be meeting on Monday, January 13. Members of the committee are Jim Whitley, Doug Crawford, Sharon Ferris, Delores Newton, David Michael and Brian Holcomb.



November 2013 Reports	Monthly Inc.	BSU Inc.	SS	AM	PM	Weds.
Alpha	\$ 265.71	\$ 25.00	9:30	10:30	6:30	7:00
Edinburg	\$ 519.00	\$ 57.67	10:00	11:00	6:00	7:00
Gallatin	\$ 943.32	\$ 50.00	9:30	10:40	6:00	7:00
Galt	\$ 299.00	\$ 50.00	10:00	11:00	6:00	7:00
Jameson			9:30	10:30		
Jamesport	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	9:45	10:45	7:00	6:30
Laredo	\$ 297.70		9:30	10:30	6:30	6:30
Lineville	\$ 243.26	\$ 81.12	9:45	10:45	6:30	6:30
M. Valley	\$ 33.81	\$ 25.00	9:30	10:30	6:00	
Mercer	\$ 193.70	\$ 25.00	9:30	10:30	6:30	6:30
Modena	\$ 76.46	\$ 150.00	10:15	9:00	6:00	6:00
Princeton	\$ 539.38	\$ 50.00	9:40	10:40	7:00	6:00
Ravanna	\$ 108.29	\$ 46.41	9:30	10:45		
Rural Dale	\$ 621.29	\$ 75.00	9:45	10:35	7:00	7:00
Salem	\$ 97.07	\$ 25.00	10:00	11:00	6:00	
Shelburne	\$ 436.37	\$ 75.00	10:00	10:55	6:45	7:00
Spickard	\$ 70.00		9:30	10:30	6:30	
Tenth St.			9:30	10:30	6:00	7:00
Trenton FB	\$1,191.04	\$ 264.67	9:30	10:40	6:00	6:00
Union	\$ 196.67	\$ 100.00	10:00	11:00	6:00	7:00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,157.07</b>	<b>\$1,124.87</b>				
Chilli, FBC		\$ 45.00				
MBC		\$ 460.00				
Gilman BC		\$ 200.00				
Highview BC		\$ 191.09				

Join any of these churches in worship

### December 2013 NGR Account

Beginning Balance	\$5,512.36
Income	\$11,373.74
Total	\$16,886.10
Expenses	\$11,853.90
Ending Balance	\$5,032.20

### Line Items in General Checking

Designated Funds	\$4,450.95
General Fund	\$581.25
Checking Balance Total	\$5,032.20

### NGR October- November 2013

(Includes designated funds)

Income	\$24,376.57
Expenses	\$22,713.78
Difference	\$1,662.79

<b>Seminary Checking</b>	\$31.21
<b>Seminary Savings</b>	\$2,081.45
<b>Benevolent Savings</b>	\$755.71
<b>NGR Savings</b>	\$434.54
<b>BSU- October- Income to Expense</b>	
Beginning Balance	\$6,025.22
Income	\$1,710.96
Total	\$7,736.18
Expenses	\$2,572.14
Ending Balance	\$5,164.04
General BSU Fund	\$4,546.12
Designated BSU Fund	\$618.02





## NGR Church News

**Edinburg-** The Christmas season is almost coming to an end, as the old saying, "Keep Christmas all year." Wouldn't it be nice if we kept that warm giving spirit at all times? As Christians that really should be our goal to show Christ all year long in

what we do and say.

Our Christmas program was on December the 8<sup>th</sup> and despite the bad weather, was a warm and true blessing to all who made it to church. Our candle light service to honor baby Jesus is on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. If you do not have a place to attend, come and sing some Christmas carols and remember the real meaning of Christmas. We wish you Merry Christmas from Edinburg Baptist Church and Happy New Year. If you are not in church anywhere we welcome all visitors to our church. Sunday School is at 10:00 am with worship at 11:00 am. Sunday evening services are at 6:00 pm.

Our church averages for November were 31 for Sunday School; 62 for Morning Worship; 24 for Evening Worship and 19 for Wednesday.

**Gallatin-** We have a new web site and encourage you to go to it and check it out-[www.firstbaptistgallatinmo.org](http://www.firstbaptistgallatinmo.org)

One of our members, Shelly Sims, will be returning to Haiti on a mission trip on January 14th. Please remember her and the team in prayer.



Sanctity of Human Life Sunday- January 19, 2014

**Medicine Valley-** In spite of the snowy weather and hazardous roads we had an excellent turnout on Sunday, December 8, for our morning services, and for our annual Thanksgiving-Christmas dinner following.

We rejoice in that two adults made decisions for the Lord on that day. We hope to be able to baptize these in the near future. While we occasionally reach somebody for the Lord we have seldom been able to baptize the individuals into the fellowship.

This week we will be distributing Christmas Food Boxes to some 110 to 125 households, assisting some 300 people to meet individual needs, and to have a happier Christmas season. We pray no child in our ministry area will go hungry.

We covet the prayers of God's people in support of those who are now participating in "Celebrate Recovery Services" and the children who participate in "Celebration Station". Pray with us that adults will overcome addictive habits, and that the children we work with will be spared the bitter experiences associated with a life of dependence on drugs and alcohol.

A grant has been requested through the Central Missouri Food Bank for funds to improve the operation of food pantry. There is a need for new cold storage equipment and better means of the handling (unloading and storing) the regular food products. Pray with us that only God's will be done in this.

Consideration is again being given to seeking a younger minister and family to occupy the parsonage at Newtown, and assist bi-vocationally with some aspects of the ministry. Join us in praying for the Lord to send much needed workers as our ministry continues to expand.

We wish one and all a blessed New Year, one filled with service to the Lord of Lord's and King of Kings. Our thanks again to all who give support to this mission in your own backyard.

**Princeton-** Our Pastor has been having prayer and Bible Study on Wednesday evenings, We are being blessed with our youth as they have been out shoveling snow for those that can't clean driveways and sidewalks off. Our youth are very considerate of helping others, pray for continued growth with them.

The youth had a sled party after shoveling snow with several in attendance.

The WOM I & II held there monthly meeting in accordance with the Week of Prayer.

The Kings Kids help fill our Shoe Boxes as part of their mission lessons on giving to others and what missions meant to those around the world.

Several went caroling and delivered Christmas plates to the shut-ins.

Christmas Candle Light Services well be held Christmas Eve, beginning at 7:30 pm, the true meaning of why we celebrate Christmas is the birth of Jesus our Lord and Savior.

Youth will be having a lock in on New Years Eve 7:00 pm to 7:00 am.

The adults are holding a New Years Eve party from 7:00 pm to ? with each one bringing snacks and games. A fun evening is planned.

Remember those who are less fortune, sick having problems that we may not know about, pray that each and every one will have a true blessing through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ may everyone have a Blessed Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year.

I'm blessed for my health that has been restored I can only praise the Lord above for what he has done for me this past year- when you turn it over to him let him take control. Pray each and every day for what He's done for you, you'll have the richest gift ever given. Take time to thank the Lord above for all that he does for you.

**Trenton FBC-** This year our church again was beautifully decorated. Thank you to all who helped. Many in our community enjoyed the many music programs. High School Vespers, Middle School winter concert, Grand River Community Choir and Orchestra and FBC choir musical "Hallowed Manger Ground". We count it a privilege to share with the community the blessing God has given to us.

Awanas went caroling Wednesday evening the 18th and Area 56 youth went caroling the 21st. We are promoting the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for IMB missionaries.

### 2014 State Evangelism-Discipleship Conference January 27-28, 2014 Sowing in Tears Conference in Springfield

Crossway Baptist Church  
2900 N Barnes Ave  
Springfield, MO

Church leaders go to [www.mobaptist.org/sowing](http://www.mobaptist.org/sowing) and register or call the Evangelism-Discipleship office 1-800-736-6227, ext. 319.

#### Highlights of the Sowing Conference:

- Excellent world-class speakers – pre-session dinner with Sammy Tippit
- Pre-conference Monday afternoon led by Vocational Evangelists
- 12 breakouts which repeat
- Jason Crabb, award-winning musician bringing his pianist, too
- Crossway Baptist is hosting us – located I-44 & Glenstone in Springfield
- Many hotel and restaurant options

## BSU @ NCMC

Because BSU missed the deadline for last month's newsletter and there are several people needing to be thanked, I thought I would insert some "Thank You's" before looking at the Spring term.

Thank you, ladies and churches for your help with the Thanksgiving Dinner mission project. Stephen Williamson spoke to the students during the meal, and lots of friendships were strengthened for the purpose of sharing Jesus with these students. When you read about meals in the NT, you realize that Jesus was either going to a meal, coming from a meal or creating a miraculous meal. Jesus knew the value and opportunity a meal provided to share with people how valuable they are. Without saying words, Jesus told people He cared deeply for them by sharing their meal. This is also why the Thanksgiving Feast we do in Nov. is so valuable. We are able to tell students, "each of you is valuable and Jesus cares very deeply for you." Eight students learned this concept when they studied the book "A Meal with Jesus" during November.

Another book "Tactics" was also studied by 5 students. The ultimate purpose of both books is to teach students how, when, where and what we do to share Jesus' story on a 1 to 1 basis. If you have a craving to share more with others in a non-threatening way and in a way that will make the listener really think, study one or both of these books. Both can be obtained through our bookstore.

God is strengthening our connections with students. Pray for Zach, Markwan, Reese, Treyvon, Devante, Kelsi, Kelsy, Sabrina, Felicia, Monica, Kevin G, Kevin, Keaton, Destiny, Charles, Lowell, Makayla, Jordan, Avion, Xavier, Brandon, "Red", Bola, Dawn, April, Ashley, Emerson, and Jory. These are only a few that God is burdening us with. He has prompted us to do this by eating lunch every Thurs. at the cafeteria, and hanging out at Cross Hall sandwich shop on Mondays. The last Monday (finals week) I passed out brain-food (bubble gum) to students as they headed to finals. God let me talk to 50 students, many new faces I had not met this semester, and was privileged to pray with a staff person in the middle of the cafe, with students passing us on either side.

Our Wednesday Lunch Ministry had value again this year. We experienced one student salvation and 6 other deep conversations with different students. Numerous new friendships were made, and we are praying that God will explode the harvest this spring. It is one of the largest lost or unchurched people gathering on a weekly basis in our area. We still have 2 Wed. open dates in the spring term if you would like to help us share Jesus with students. Help us evangelize NCMC campus by doing what Jesus did—Share a meal with a lost person.

There are several upcoming evangelistic spring events. Pray and ask God to engage all the students He desires to call unto Himself as His children. The dates are: Winter Retreat: Jan 24-25, at Grand Oaks (partnering with MOWest, NortWest, Truman State) to train students to be missionaries on their own campus; Engage: Feb 21-22 in KC, to develop church leaders; Spring Break Mission Trip: March 20-23, partnering with another college to share Jesus with their students; Canada Mission Trip: May 31-June 9 to share Jesus with Indian children on White Dog Indian Reserve (1<sup>st</sup> trip installment due Jan 20<sup>th</sup>). All these events are designed to promote our three-prong mission statement: 1-Disciple, 2-Mentor (train), 3-Send on Mission. Pray that God will reach the hearts of many for His Glory and to advance His Kingdom.

As you can tell, the BSU has the opportunity to involve students on a monthly basis in some kind of discipleship or mission work. There is only one negative. We have **no way** to take these students, and some drop out or don't go when they learn they have to drive. (A year ago NWMS students caravanned to GetAway and 4 cars were in a serious accident.) Because of these reasons, the BSU Advisory Council has approved a fund raising campaign "A BUS for BSU" in Feb. to raise funds for a used non-CDL bus that can be used to continue ministering and developing NCMC students (and Internationals) for His glory. I Cor. 16:1-3 (Watch for more details.)

He Is Worthy to Receive the Rewards of His Sacrifice—Souls Diann



## World Day of Prayer Celebrated by Associational WMU

NGR Associational WMU Baptist Women along with the rest of the Christian countries celebrated World Day of Prayer November 4<sup>th</sup> at Trenton First Baptist Church.

We opened the meeting with prayer requests and Bev Martin asked for special prayer for locally known missionaries Madonna Eckard Meurer who is starting a school for handi-cap children, Andrea Brummet and John Mark Clifton a church planter in Kansas.

Because this is the month to give thanks, each member gave a statement of what they were thankful for. We all have much to be thankful for and we occasionally need to be reminded, even when we are enduring trials of life and health.

Virginia Crumpacker gave an inspiring program on prayer needs throughout the world with our members spending much of the hour in prayer for special needs in different continents.

One of our lessons verses: Eph 3:18-20- *"May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love and may you be able to feel and understand, as all God's children should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high His love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves, though it is so great that you will never see the end of it or fully know or understand it."* (Living Bible)

The Associational WMU met December 17 at the Association office for our final meeting of the year. All the members were in a holiday spirit as we are in full swing of celebrating the Christ season.

The meeting opened with prayer request from the members present with many needs brought to light.

Emma Bankson, from Shelburne Church gave a report on her trip to Denver to help process and get ready the shoe boxes being sent overseas to bless children for Christmas. Most of the boxes she and her husband processed will be going to Mexico because of the location of Denver to the south. The Denver location will process over 600,000 boxes in a week with a goal of 10,000,000 for all sites.

Belinda Hogan and a group of 13 from Trenton First went to Minnesota to do the same thing.

Dan Wilford was a special guest for the day.

Virginia Crumpacker gave our devotion on 1 Samuel 1: 1-28, the plight of Hannah and the answer from God. We also prayed for all the missionaries who had birthdays on this day.

Shelly Sims gave a history lesson on Lottie Moon, an early missionary to China and all the things she did in her life. She encouraged the formation of WMU which was then started by Annie Armstrong and the idea of a Christmas offering for all foreign missionaries.

Shelly requested prayer for her Haiti mission trip that she will leave for on Jan 14.

For fun we played two Christmas games that made us think a bit.

The next meeting, weather permitting, will be at Belinda Hogan's. It will start at 11:30. The alternate site will be the Mission Center. Bev Martin will be the leader for the meeting.

The Bible verse for this month is Matthew 23:11 from the Living Word; *"The more lowly your service to others, the greater you are. To be the greatest, be a servant."*

*Shelly Sims*