



We have several DVD's
Winter time is a great time to
Watch a movie or listen to the
Gaither's. Lots of Children's DVD's.

Veggie Tale DVD's starting at \$6.50
Also have the Veggie Tale comfy throws.

Begin the new year with a devotion book and a
journal. Several to choose from.

"Mornings with Tozer" Devotional Journal
\$12.00- SRP- \$24.99

"Halley's Bible Handbook"- \$8.00
SRP- \$15.00

Check out the books-- a great time to read.

If we don't have what you want-- will do our best
to order it.

Several In-store sales or mark downs

January

- 2 Chris Neeley
- 6 Judy Wilson
- 7 Rebecca Nance
- 14 Cathie Whitley
- 18 Gene Schreffler
- 20 Beverly Martin
- 26 Iva Gail Ratliff



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

Pastor's Luncheon

**North Grand River
Executive Board Meeting
Monday, January 19th
Mission Center-- 7:00 pm**

Items to be on the agenda must be submit-
ted by Monday morning-- January 5th.

Department Reports are due January 13th.

So far on the agenda will be to elect Judy
Vyrostek to serve as a member on the Ad-
ministrative Committee.

February Encourager Articles
Due by
January 20, 2015

**Men's Prayer
Breakfast** Edinburg Baptist Church
Saturday, 8:00 am
January 17th, 2015
All Men Invited!



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

North Grand River Baptist Association

The Encourager

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Volume 39, Number 1
January, 2015

"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

**VBS Directors and Pastor's
VBS Early Bird Meeting
Monday, January 12, 2015
Mission Center- 7:00 pm**



You can order your teacher's books and other VBS supplies to
have for the VBS Training Clinic on Monday, April 27th.

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

By way of reminder our Associational theme for the next 2 years is "ACTS 1:8- ON MISSION FOCUS". As of now these are the ministries that we are accentuating...

Our "Jerusalem"- the BSU ministry and the Bookstore ministry. Diann and Christina are doing a super job ministering to the NCMC college students- several have made professions of faith, some have been baptized and others are involved in faithfully serving our Lord in various countries. Let's keep them in our prayers, and let's keep supporting this ministry with our time, talents and gifts. Thank you.

Debbie is doing an excellent job with the Bookstore ministry. She works diligently in providing resources at the lowest prices possible. She prays fervently about doing God's will in this ministry. She is sensitive to ministering to those who need witnessing to or encouragement and prayer. Let's keep praying for Debbie as she oversees this ministry. Let's continue to support the Bookstore by utilizing it and encouraging others to do so also.

In some of the following newsletters, I will share about our "Judea", our "Samaria" and our "Ends of the Earth" ministries.

Let's continue to cry out to our Lord for REVIVAL in our churches and SPIRITUAL AWAKENING in our area. God is working. He is changing olives in spite of the enemies' attacks. I believe if we fast and pray as God leads we shall see God work even greater works!

I believe 2015 is going to be an extraordinary world impacting year. Let's be prepared in the Spirit for whatever may come!

For His Glory,

E.J. Barnes

P.S.- I'm trusting the Lord to meet our individual, family, church and associational needs according to His riches in glory. Let's remain faithful and obedient to His will. Let's be grateful for His provisions and promises!

NGR FINANCIAL LETTER

You will find included in the January Encourager a letter from the NGR Finance Committee. The committee is seeking input and information from members of the churches in the association, your opinions of what NGR should do to help the financial status. The privacy of those that send letters will be a priority. The letters that are sent will have the name covered and the contents of the letter available to the Finance Committee. Please submit letters by the middle of January.

The committee seeks your prayers as they meet and make decisions on God's leadership in the financial matters of the association.

Church Giving

Church Service Times

November 2014 Reports	Monthly Inc.	BSU Inc.	SS	AM	PM	Weds.
Alpha	\$ 144.72	\$ 25.00	9:30	10:30	6:30	7:00
Edinburg	\$ 510.26	\$ 56.70	10:00	11:00	6:00	7:00
Gallatin	\$ 686.24	\$ 50.00	9:30	10:40	6:00	7:00
Galt	\$ 263.00	\$ 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	\$ 552.30	\$ 150.00	9:30	10:30	6:30	6:30
Lineville	\$ 182.76	\$ 60.92	9:45	10:45	6:00	6:00
M. Valley	\$ 24.00	\$ 25.00	9:30	10:30	6:00	
Mercer			9:30	10:30	6:30	6:30
Modena	\$ 109.35	\$ 100.00	10:15	9:00	6:00	6:00
Princeton	\$ 324.82	\$ 50.00	9:40	10:40	7:00	6:00
Ravanna	\$ 108.00	\$ 46.26	9:30	10:45		
Rural Dale	\$ 664.61	\$ 75.00	9:45	10:35	7:00	7:00
Salem	\$ 137.48	\$ 25.00	10:00	11:00	6:00	
Shelburne	\$ 552.60	\$ 75.00	10:00	10:55	6:00	6:30
Spickard	\$ 70.00		9:30	10:30	6:30	
Tenth St.	\$ 858.65	\$ 143.11	9:30	10:30	6:00	7:00
Trenton FB	\$ 861.46	\$ 191.43	9:30	10:40	6:00	6:00
Union			10:00	11:00	6:00	6:00
Total	\$6,075.25	\$1,148.42				
Chilli, FBC		\$ 45.00				
MBC		\$ 460.00				
Gilman BC		\$ 200.00				
Highview		\$ 45.52				

Join any of these churches in worship

November 2014 NGR Account

Beginning Balance	\$5,676.88
Income	\$14,265.52
Total	\$19,942.40
Expenses	\$14,813.56
Ending Balance	\$5,128.84

Line Items in General Checking

Designated Funds	\$4,868.34
General Fund	\$260.50
Checking Balance Total	\$5,128.84

NGR October—November 2014

(Does not include designated funds)

Income	\$21,646.09
Expenses	\$21,565.21
Difference	\$40.17

Seminary Checking	\$263.21
Seminary Savings	\$2,288.99
Benevolent Savings	\$768.37
NGR Savings	\$425.05
BSU- November- Income to Expense	
Beginning Balance	\$690.04
Income	\$2,641.88
Total	\$3,331.92
Expenses	\$1,980.18
Ending Balance	\$1,351.74
General BSU Fund	326.24
Designated BSU Fund	\$1025.50



NGR Church News

Medicine Valley- Our Annual Thanksgiving/Christmas Dinner was held on Sunday, December 14, following the morning worship services.

On Wednesday evening December 2nd we had a number of invited local Christians at our home in Humphreys for dinner and a viewing of the movie "Last Ounce of Courage". This included people from Newtown, Osgood and Humphreys all of whom seemed to enjoy the meal, the movie, and the fellowship.

On December 15 the message in the morning services at Newtown was delivered by Brother George Covey of Osgood. This was his first ever experience at delivering the Gospel message to a congregation. George and his family reside at Osgood and have attended service at Newtown for some time.

George has felt God's call to the Gospel Ministry and we expect to license him as a Christian minister in the near future.

This coming Sunday, December 21, we expect to be joining with the multitude of other Christians across the nation in praising God for the coming of Christ the Savior into the world.

So we echo the message of the angels on that glorious day and pray for peace on earth to men of good will!

We thank God for the birth of Jesus and for all his people in their support of this mission in your own backyard.

Princeton- The WOM Groups collected enough items for our annual shoe box drive, mailing out 51 boxes to the Samaritans Purse. Thank you to those items donated for this important project, also thanks to Amy Chandler for wrapping each of the boxes, she does a great job.

Have several youth attending on Wednesday night youth meeting. The youth went skiing December 21 at Weston during Christmas break.

WOM I & II met December 2nd for the World Day of Prayer meeting with 15 present. The ladies of the Church met on Thursday Dec. 4th to decorate for Christmas. The church looks real nice. Thank You ladies.

There was no TeamKids or youth meeting on December 24th or December 31st- closed for the holidays.

Be with the committees in prayer as we look for a new Pastor and Youth Pastor in the coming months and pray for guidance for God do his work and bring them to God's Church.

Have a blessed day in the Lord and give Him all the praise and glory for what he has done for you.

Remember the reason we celebrate Christmas is the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To each and everyone, have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Salem- On December 14th, we had our Christmas program led by the youth. They directed a shadow play of the Nativity telling the story of Jesus birth. The children of Salem performed and they did very well. It was very good. We are so blessed with talented teens and youth in our church. We all enjoyed it and it was a complete surprised. Following that we had a Christmas sing, a gift exchange and sacks were passed out to the children filled with fruit goodies. It was a fun night of fellowship.

On Christmas Eve we will have our Candle light service with communion.

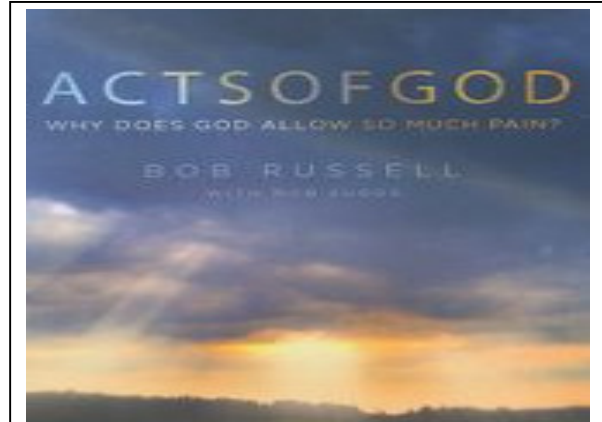
It is hard to believe Christmas is next week. Where has this year gone? We want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year from Salem Church.

Trenton First- What a great month when we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ through music, preaching and studying God's Word. During our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering emphasis, we encouraged believers to find their place in God's Story by worship, prayer and serving Him.

December 15th was the beginning of our Bow Shoot Ministry for this year. A very good number of people came the first night. They meet at 7:00 pm on Mondays at the Activity Building behind the church.

Pastor Bro. Denny and his wife have announced their retirement effective after the morning service on December 28th. They have served and been a blessing to our church for almost 11 years. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin this new adventure. Please remember our church as we begin the process of searching for a new pastor.

We look forward to what God has in store for First Baptist this coming year- praying many will come to Christ as their Lord and Savior.



Rural Dale Baptist Church
Invites you to join them
Sunday, January 11, 2015

Watch the movie- "Acts of God"

Why does God allow so much pain?

The church will be doing a study of this film in the weeks following the film. You are welcomed to join them for the study.

"Why God? Why did you let this happen? Why do you allow so much pain?" Be it a job loss, illness, or loss of a spouse or child, these are questions we've all had. It's as much a cry as a question; a wound; a shout of betrayal of all the rules of life and fairness as you knew them.

Bob Russell offers no trite platitudes to answer the questions in *Acts of God*, the accompaniment book to the Acts of God videos and curriculum. Instead, through the biblical story of Joseph, he provides assurance that we are in a bigger story than the pain, suffering, and trials tell us we're in. Whether you're in the middle of suffering, processing something from your past, or seeking answers to the suffering you see around you, *Acts of God* shows a way back to hope; hope in God that brings hope to our circumstances.



North Grand River
Mission Center
Will be closed
Thursday, January 1
And
Friday, January 2

BSU @ NCMC

Christmas is quickly approaching, and the new Spring semester follows quickly behind. The following are some evangelistic and discipling mission opportunities we have planned for our students.

1. January Winter Retreat, Friday-Saturday, Jan. 30-31 at Grand Oaks—NW-Maryville, MOWest-St. Joe, and our campus will be hosting a 22 hour weekend to challenge students to strengthen their personal evangelism skills by seeking ways to share Jesus on their campuses.

2. Engage Conference, Feb. 20-22, 2015, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Purpose is to raise up kingdom leadership among our college students.

3. Spring Break Mission Trip: March 19-22, 2015, a team of our NCMC students will be working directly with Mitch Green, pastor of Country Roads Church, Lenox, IA. NGRBA has established a partnership with Mitch to help grow their mission church plant. The BSU has chosen this church plant ministry to give the students the opportunity to learn how to DO missions and opportunities to share their personal stories with people. Some of the ministries our team will do is: 1. prayer walk the neighborhoods, 2. conduct children's Bible clubs, 3. hand out new 9-volt batteries to homes for their smoke alarms as a gift from Mitch's church. We would like to have 1,000 batteries to put into neighborhood homes. Would you or your church help us buy batteries for this mission project? The batteries would have a mailing label identifying Mitch's church as the gift giver. 4. Help an area elementary school by repairing their carnival games with carpentry repairs and painting. Do you have left-over paint that our team could use? Let Diann know.

4. Canada Trip, May 29-June 6, 2015. WhiteDog Indian Reserve north of Kenora, Ontario. This will be our 6 year to do a mission trip to the First Nation's People, and the 3rd year to return to WhiteDog to work in their school K-12, teaching children Bible lessons during the school day within the classroom setting, ministering to faculty-staff during lunch, conducting backyard Bible clubs after school and serving supper before worship services for the reserve residents in the evenings. If you love to interact with children, playing games and sharing Jesus, and you care for teachers who struggle to educate children, then this mission trip is the perfect fit for YOU. First trip payment needs to be made in January 2015. Cost is \$400. Contact Diann, 660.654.0785, to make your reservation or for more details.

5. We are also praying about how to offer ESL (English as Second Language) classes to our international students. Pray as we seek God on how this mission endeavor is to look.

6. We have at least 3 college students who are seriously praying about committing to summer mission work for this 2015 summer. Pray for Jefferdson, April, and Alyssa. There are other students who are considering this mission work, but have not had a chance to visit with me as of this date.

Matthew 28: 19-20 "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Most of us are very familiar with this passage. In fact, for Baptist it seems to be our "Banner". But how seriously do we actually take this COMMAND? Because, as one of my colleague's said, "Jesus phrased these words in such a way that as a believer, we are required to obey. It's NOT an option." We MUST make disciples. Are you intentionally making a disciple? Pray how you can help the BSU "make disciples" among our NCMC students this coming new year. Shalom—

HE is worthy to receive the rewards of HIS sacrifice—Souls Diann



Women wanted for Mission minded work Under the supervision of God

December 16 was the Christmas luncheon meeting for the Associational WMU. The meeting was held at the Mission Center in Trenton with 5 churches being represented. Each member gave their favorite Christmas thing. Prayer requests were taken and a special emphasis was placed on the declining moral climate in this country along with the need to support the military and police.

Shelly reported on some good choices for Christmas donations with Lottie moon being at the top of the list. It is the largest amount of money raised by any group supporting missionaries and 100% going to support the missionaries. Crossover Ministries is another group that mails tracts to Turkish speaking Muslims in various countries. Also Heifer International sends chickens, pigs, goats and cows all over the third world to help families become self sustaining.

Plans were made to make two silent auction baskets for the annual state wide WMU meeting in St. Louis in April. One will be a sewing basket and another will be a Christian book basket. We will be putting these together at the February and March meetings.

The Northwest Regional fall meeting will be held September 17 at Grand Oaks Camp. Put it on your calendar now!

Virginia Crumpacker gave the devotional from Matthew 26:69-27:5.

Isaiah 1:18 *"Come, let's talk this over! Says the Lord; no matter how deep the stain of your sins, I can take it out and make you as clean as freshly fallen snow."* (Living Bible)

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 20 at 11 am.

Merry Christmas and Happy and Blessed New Years to All

Shelly Sims

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Missouri State Evangelism Conference

This is to invite you to register for FURNACE, the 2015 State Evangelism-Discipleship Conference. It is scheduled Thursday-Friday February 5-6, 2015, at Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Springfield. The theme is based on Daniel 3:25 "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." (KJV)

For details about the schedule, pre-conferences, conference leaders, and breakout sessions, visit www.mobaptist.org/furnace. Dr. Greg Frizzell has been invited to serve as our event pastor, leading prayer and invitation times throughout the conference. Charles Billingsley will be leading worship.

Register by January 2 to receive 21 Day Revival and Evangelism Guide by Sammy Tippit

I prayerfully look forward to seeing you there.

In Christ,

Mark Snowden
Evangelism-Discipleship Strategist