



**Clearance**

Duck Commander Items  
"Happy, Happy" T-Shirts  
Now \$5.00- SRP- \$19.99  
SI's Tea Glass & other items

Men's Polo Shirts- \$7.00

New Shipment of Boxed Cards have arrived

Children's Summer Fun Novelty items including  
Bubbles, Clappers, Sidewalk Chalk, Sunglasses

**JUST RELEASED!**

"Old Fashioned" DVD

Have you reserved your DVD copy of  
"Do You Believe" for \$14.50  
Call the Bookstore and reserve your copy

NEW CAPS- only \$8.50

Montana West Ladies Handbags

Many Bibles to choose from including  
Compact to Super Giant print

**Stop by and check out the Bookstore  
A Ministry of NGR Association**

**July**

2 Ron & Iva Gail Ratliff



**2015 Brush Arbor- Lineville Park  
July 6-12 7:00 pm**

A different message each night  
From area pastors

Friday Night- July 10  
Special Guests- Ray & Cindy Hilsinger  
Missionaries to Tibet, China

Great Gospel Music every night

In case of rain- services will be at  
Lineville Baptist Church



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

**Pastor's Luncheon**



**Men's  
Prayer  
Breakfast**  
  
**Modena**  
**Saturday, 8:00 am**  
**July 18, 2015**  
**All Men Invited!**

**North Grand River Baptist Association**

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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 7  
July, 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



**Baptist Global Response- Bucket Project Update**

Last week Missouri's first 486 buckets for 2015 arrived at the Houston port and will be soon headed to Mozambique. The next load of buckets is promised to Togo and will be distributed in Togo, Ivory Coast, and Burkina Faso. Please let your people know of our appreciation of those who have already contributed and please encourage those who have not taken the opportunity to fill a bucket to make it a summer family or group project.

Stories arrive on a regular basis of folks whose lives have been changed for eternity because someone loved them into the Kingdom through A Bucket of Love.

You are a major key to the success of this project and we truly appreciate your help in continuing to get the word out as we push forward toward the challenge of filling 5,000 buckets in 2015.

Be sure to remind everyone that donations may be sent to First Baptist Church, Raytown, 10500 East 350 Highway, Raytown, MO 64138. Checks should be made payable to First Baptist Raytown with the notation "For Bucket Project".

Remember to go online to [www.gobgr.org/buckets](http://www.gobgr.org/buckets) to find any information you might need, and don't hesitate to reply to this e-mail or call us at 816-830-5367 or 816-809-2267 if you have further questions.

May God bless your summer in a mighty way,

Bill and Carol Bowers  
Missouri Coordinators for The Bucket Project

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

*"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."*  
2 Corinthians 3:17 (HCSB)

*"Christ has liberated us into freedom. Therefore, stand firm and don't submit again to a yoke of slavery."* Galatians 5:1 (HCSB)

*"For you are called to freedom, brothers; only don't use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love."* Galatians 5:13 (HCSB)

*"As God's slaves, [live] as free people, but don't use your freedom as a way to conceal evil. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the Emperor."* 1 Peter 2:16-17 (HCSB)T

The focus in July, at least in our country, is Independence Day, which has to do with celebrating freedom. We should cherish our freedom as a nation, but we, especially us Christians, should realize that true freedom comes from our Lord, and it (the ability to do what we 'ought' to do not necessarily what we 'want' to do) is maintained by practicing...

Justice	Amos 5:24
Understanding (God's Will")	Ephesians 5:17
Love	Matthew 22:37-35
Yearning (For God)	James 4:4-5
Faith	Hebrews 11:1-6
Obedience	Romans 6:16
Uniting (In Prayer)	Acts 1:14
Righteousness	Proverbs 14:34
Truth	John 8:32
Humility	1 Peter 5:5-7

If we are not ONE Nation under God (the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) we shall be a Nation under godlessness and thus experience bondage and God's judgment rather than freedom!

For HIS Glory,

*E.J. Barnes*

P.S.– Remember the Executive Board Meeting on July 20th at 7:00 pm. This is a very important meeting concerning the future of our Association and the position of the Director of Missions. Please pray for God's perfect will to be done!

### Church Giving

### Church Service Times

May 2015 Reports	Monthly Inc.	BSU Inc.	SS	AM	PM	Weds.
Alpha	\$ 193.92	\$ 25.00	9:30	10:30	6:30	7:00
Edinburg	\$ 644.49	\$ 71.61	10:00	11:00	6:00	7:00
Gallatin	\$ 613.31	\$ 50.00	9:30	10:40	6:00	7:00
Galt			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	\$ 243.00	\$ 150.00	9:30	10:30	6:30	6:30
Lineville	\$ 174.66	\$ 58.22	9:45	10:45	6:00	6:00
M. Valley			9:30	10:30	6:00	
Mercer	\$ 200.15	\$ 25.00	9:30	10:30	6:30	6:30
Modena	\$ 124.74	\$ 150.00	10:15	9:00	6:00	6:00
Princeton	\$ 356.64	\$ 50.00	9:40	10:40	7:00	6:00
Ravanna	\$ 114.43	\$ 49.14	9:30	10:45		
Rural Dale	\$ 757.65	\$ 75.00	9:45	10:35	7:00	7:00
Salem	\$ 173.34	\$ 25.00	10:00	11:00	6:00	
Shelburne	\$ 516.58	\$ 75.00	10:00	10:55	6:00	6:30
Spickard	\$ 70.00		9:30	10:30		
Tenth St.	\$ 995.01	\$ 165.04	9:30	10:30	6:00	7:00
Trenton FB	\$1,460.21	\$ 146.02	9:30	10:40	6:00	6:00
Union	\$ 220.20	\$ 100.00	10:00	11:00	6:00	6:00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,883.33</b>	<b>\$1,240.03</b>	Join any of these churches in worship			
Chilli, FBC		\$ 45.00				
MBC		\$ 460.00				
Gilman BC		\$ 200.00				

<b>Seminary Checking</b>	\$263.21
<b>Seminary Savings</b>	\$2,292.99
<b>Benevolent Savings</b>	\$779.72
<b>NGR Savings</b>	\$435.80
<b>BSU– May– Income to Expense</b>	
Beginning Balance	\$4,661.68
Income	\$3,875.73
Total	\$8,537.41
Expenses	\$4,362.09
Ending Balance	\$4,175.33
General BSU Fund	\$1,186.88
Designated BSU Fund	\$2,988.44

May 2015 NGR Account	
Beginning Balance	\$9,850.20
Income	\$10,896.87
Total	\$20,747.07
Expenses	\$10,663.47
Ending Balance	\$10,083.60
Line Items in General Checking	
Designated Funds	\$5,779.05
General Fund	\$4,304.55
Checking Balance Total	\$10,083.60
NGR October 2014—May 2015 (Does not include designated funds)	
Income	\$87,779.42
Expenses	\$83,348.37
Difference	\$4,431.05



### NGR Church News

**Medicine Valley-** Since the beginning of Medicine Valley Community Ministry we have given 3% of our undesignated receipts to North Grand River Baptist Association and 5% to the MBC. While not a large amount of money it nevertheless has been of importance

for us to participate in both local missions and the world wide proclamation of the gospel message.

Even as a mission dependent on the help of other churches and individuals we thank God for the opportunity to be obedient to Jesus' stipulation to his followers recorded in Acts 1:8 to begin at our Jerusalem, Samaria and at the same time the rest of the world.

He also told them they would be empowered by the Holy Spirit. So, even while we endeavor monthly to fund our ongoing ministry in our area we have determined as a step of faith in God's ability to provide to do more toward funding Associational needs.

Consequently, we have voted to double the amount of our current contributions for our new calendar year (July thru June) from 3% to 6% of undesignated funds.

Still a small amount monetarily but a huge step of faith for a small handful of people.

Even though the Association closed the first quarter of this calendar year with an increase in receipts over expenses we would encourage all churches in the Association to determine what increase you might be able to assure adequate funding.

We are also pleased to contribute a small amount each month to the BSU and thank God for the good work being done with the college students.

We continue to ask God's blessings upon all who by their prayers, finances and hands-on assistance continue to support "this mission in your own backyard".

**Trenton FBC**— We will be having our VBS on July 12-16, 6:00-9:00 pm. Family night will be July 17th at 6:00 pm. We will also be having Adult VBS at the same time.

Our Keenager ministry is very active. On June 19th they had a carry-in luncheon. Paul and Lori Babb were missionary speakers.

June 13th we hosted the Grand River Valley Choir for an outstanding concert.

July is going to be quite busy with ministries—VBS, Canada Mission trip, Wyoming Mission trip, youth at Super Sumer and Children's Camp at Grand Oaks.

Our search committee is at work, seeking God's will for a new pastor. Thank you sister churches for praying for us.

#### NGR Executive Board Meeting Monday, July 20th— 7:00 pm

#### Please submit all Department Reports by Friday, July 10th

At this point on the Agenda:

1. Proposed Budget for 2015-2016 will be presented. The budget will be voted on at the NGR Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 19th.
2. Nominating Committee presenting 175th NGR Anniversary Committee.
3. Policy & Procedure Changes— including DOM Job Description, Building & Policy Use, Block Party Trailer Use and Finance Committee with using Ministry/Purchase Orders.
4. E.J. Barnes to be Bi-Vocational Pastor at Modena Baptist Church.

The proposed budget and changes in the Policy & Procedure Manual will be ready to pick up on Friday June 26th. The agenda will be ready on Friday, July 17th.



Princeton FBC  
July 6-10

Alpha  
July 9-11

Gallatin FBC  
July 12-17

Trenton FBC  
July 12-16

Union (Coon Creek)  
July 12-17

Shelburne  
July 12-17



Be in prayer for  
Children's Camp  
July 27-31



Mission Center Closed  
Friday, July 3 in  
Observance of July 4th

### Upcoming Events

#### Missouri Baptist Children's Home

Apple Festival  
September 12— 9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
FBC at Raymore, MO

#### National Sunday School Director Seminar

Raytown FBC  
September 12, 2015  
Cost- \$39

#### Northwest WMU Retreat

Grand Oaks  
Thursday, September 17, 2015  
Cost \$15— includes lunch

#### Seminary Extension

Fall Class on Thursday evenings— October 1  
"NT 2175 Romans"

### Volunteers Needed!

Medicine Valley Community Ministry needs volunteers to help with the preparation and distribution of the Food Pantry Ministry

The food is distributed every month on the 3rd Thursday. The food boxes are put together on the Tuesday prior to the 3rd Thursday at the Newton Baptist Chapel from 9 am to noon.



July dates to help with food distribution at Medicine Valley Community Ministry  
July 14th— Prepare Boxes at Newtown Baptist Chapel— 9 am to noon

July 16th— Food Distribution



This summer has been one of the fastest paced summer's I have ever had the privilege to experience. Thursday afternoon, May 28, I returned from Hannibal LaGrange University, where I had witnessed the Covenant Ceremony of our 3 summer missionaries plus Jefferdson Jimenez who trained to serve as a Sports Crusader for the summer. I got to Trenton just in time to be a part of the Canada Team meeting and help finish the last of the trailer loading for our trip.

The next morning, Friday May 29, our team of 13 people left Trenton for WhiteDog Indian Reserve, NW Ontario, Canada, where we spent 8 days living in Mezhakiwetung Memorial School. Monday through Friday of that week, team members assisted teachers in the classroom, substitute taught for absent teachers, cooked and shared the noon meal with all the faculty/staff of the school, conducted Bible clubs after school each day to share stories of Jesus; cooked and served 6 pm supper accompanied with worship services each night, and prayer walked 2 afternoons delivering gift bags to each home on the reserve. Friday, our last day, we served 83 faculty/staff/children taco soup, and said our good-byes. Before leaving the reserve that Friday afternoon the entire team completed their Jericho prayer walk by circling the courtyard and proclaiming God's Victory for "WhiteDog's School!" What a glorious ending to an even greater week.

Saturday morning, June 6, the two groups parted in Duluth, MN, with 7 returning home, and Gracie, April, Maggie, Alyssa, Christina, and myself traveling to Columbus, OH to participate in NAMB/SBC 11-day mission thrust of "For Columbus CrossOver". Our team of ladies spent Monday through Thursday ministering at the inner city mission "Stowe Mission" where they ate noon meals with street people, painted the outside of the building, and revamped the mission's worship stage. Every day the ladies poured their love into people by sharing Jesus salvation story with at least 3 people each day. They participated in intensive leadership training at the beginning of the day, and personal evaluations and team building events in the evenings. Friday the girls joined 100 other college students dividing into teams of 9-10 and the traveling throughout the city to meet and experience international cultures from multiple countries. One of our group ate at a Nepalese restaurant. It is the only one of its culture serving about 18,000 Nepalese natives living in Columbus. Another of our team was invited to experience the ceremonies of a Muslim Mosque. Others of our team experienced a noon meal from Lebanon. At each location throughout the day the students were exhorted to share their faith and pray for the people they encountered from other cultures.

The results of #Crossover15 totals were: Volunteers: 3385; Gospel conversations: 4948; Professions of faith: 345. Our students met students from Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, N. Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Virginia. Even though our team of ladies was one of the smallest groups of over 500 college students and we were the ONLY team of students representing Missouri, God still caused us to be noticed. You can see our BSU in action at Stowe Missions on the video that SBC released this past Thursday. The first scene of the video shows our gray Kirksville, MO van leaving Genoa BC parking lot to drive to inner city Columbus to serve at Stowe Mission. Later in the video Christina and Gracie are shown painting the outside walls of Stowe, and then a few scenes later Alyssa Schultz is seen teaching the inner city children a Bible story at the mission. The video can be viewed at: <https://t.co/N65yDOXhTP>.

Pray for our students as they continue to share their lives with people this summer for the purpose of sharing Jesus' story of salvation. Pray for Jefferdson doing Sports Crusaders; Makayla Moon teaching ESL classes in Lenox, IA; April, Maggie, and Gracie as they serve in summer missions, and Alyssa Schultz as she travels back to Canada to serve in another mission endeavor.

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



### North Grand River WMU

The monthly meeting opened with prayer requests for our association and further abroad. Along with our regular member we had 3 special guests from the Princeton WMU and Carolyn Houts, Regional WMU Director. Shelly Sims requested prayer for her trip to Haiti June 18-July 2, Bev Martin's son Eric who is going to Dominican Republic this month, Evelyn Trickel's family Richard and Sharon Brummitt, who are on their way to Hungary for 5 weeks. Also mentioned were the flood victims and the police in our nation.

We were quite privileged to have Paul and Lori Babb, full time missionaries with the IMB, visit and give our program on their mission work in the Ukraine. Lori encouraged us to be Divine Detectives and "see what God has done" using Psalms 66-1-6.

They live in Kiev Ukraine on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor of an apartment building. Paul is the logistic coordinator for all the missionaries in the surrounding area and Lori is a teacher in a local Christian School and is taking on a new job of teacher consultant to fellow missionaries. The Ukraine has been at war with Russia the past year and that is changing the ministry. They asked that we keep the Ukraine in our prayers.

**Our next luncheon meeting will be September 8 at the Mission Center at 10:30 am.** This is a change of dates to the second Tuesday.

September 17 will be the annual associational meeting at Grand Oaks, save that date on your calendar! More information will be coming.

September 12 is the Worldcraft Fair at Trenton FBC.

Psalms 66:5: *"Come and see what God has done, how awesome his works in man's behalf."*

Your Sister in Christ  
*Shelly Sims*



### National Sunday School Director Seminar

September 12, 2015 (Saturday)  
Raytown - Kansas City Area, MO: First Baptist Church

HIGHLY ENERGETIC, INTENSELY FOCUSED, QUICK-MOVING AND TOTALLY DEVOTED TO SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERS!

Sunday School Directors, Pastors and Ministers of Education,  
Department Directors, Age Division Coordinators

**ALL  
FOR  
\$39**