

## **Annual Meeting Minutes of the Emerald Coast Fellowship Sunday November 1, 2015 First Baptist Church Valparaiso**

Congregational singing was led by Jennifer Vest, minister of music at First Baptist Church Destin.

Rev. Jeremy Myers, pastor of First Baptist Church Valparaiso, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He then led the congregation in the invocation.

Dr. Byron Brown, pastor of Mary Esther First Baptist church, called the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the Emerald Coast Fellowship of Baptist Churches to order. Dr. Brown recognized the new staff members since the last annual meeting— Jennifer Vest- Minister of music First Baptist Church Destin, Rev. Joshua Manning – Minister of youth and adults First Baptist Church Fort Walton Beach, Michelle Williams secretary of Shalimar Baptist, Rev. Jeremy Myers- new pastor of First Baptist Church Valparaiso, Rev. Samuel Hays – Mister of youth and Rev. Ronnie Tabor Minister of education at Wright Baptist church.

Dr. Steven A. Davies gave a summary of what is going on with the reorganization of the State Board of Missions. They have been busy with looking for a new Director (Tommy Green). Convention staff has been reduced 47%. There has been a true regional re-organization. Lewis Miller will be the new director for this region. 51% of all Co-operative dollars will go beyond the state to the National Executive Committee for IMB and NAMB use. The I4 Quarter is a huge work in progress in reaching people. The 49% of Co-operative dollars kept here in Florida will be used for missions and church planting. The state will be granting funds for new church plants to churches entrusting them with the responsibility of stewardship and accountability. The process has become much easier to receive the funding. Dr. Davies led a prayer for God's work in our state and our churches.

Dr. Byron Brown, Moderator of the Administrative Team, brought for approval, a recommendation for the new 2016 budget. All were in favor.

Also brought to the floor by a motion was the election of new officers to the Administrative Team: Rev. Dennis Brown will become Moderator and Rev. David Duvall vice Moderator. All were in favor.

Karl Hudson, Admissions Counselor of the Baptist College of Florida, gave an update of what is happening at the College. The new Dining center was dedicated on October 31, 2015. They received full state approval for the Teacher Education program. They will be breaking ground soon on the Teacher Education facility. They continue to live by the school's motto, "Changing the world with the unchanging word." They have graduates all over the world in missions programs spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ and touching countless lives. November 20 they will be having a Fall Heritage Festival on campus.

Nancy Grisby, Florida Baptist Children's Home representative and a member of First Baptist Church Niceville, shared how the children's home ministry has changed over the years. It has been in existence for 111 years. Nancy has been a board member with the FBCH for 22 years. Last year they were able to impact the lives of 106,000 children. They started 2 new ministries besides foster care and campus ministries. Orphan's Heart is one. They are now in over 15 countries. One of them is Guatemala. Forty eight percent of Guatemalan children are malnourished. They are helping to feed over 88 children there. They are also ministering in Haiti and Uganda. The second new ministry is the rescue of children who have been sex trafficked. Florida is the third largest state to have sexual trafficking going on. The Florida Baptist Children's Home now has a house in central Florida that cares for children who have been rescued from this. They are able to get help and stay for up to one year. Nancy also reminded us of the upcoming Orphan's Sunday on November 8<sup>th</sup> and the Diaper Drive and encouraged all churches to participate. Their goal is 350,000 diapers.

Hershel Adams gave a report on Crossroads Medical and Dental clinic. In 2005 the vision for the medical clinic was born. By January of 2007 the clinic saw its first patient. In 2014 they saw 1,109 patients with the help of 31 clinical and 36 lay person volunteers. In 2014 over 2,194 hours of volunteer service was given and helped patients receive over \$1,103,162.00 in medication and \$1,372,118.00 in medical services. Hershel stated that the real miracle is not how God provided the money, it is the lives that are being changed through the care ministry that makes the difference. In 2014 seven people came to know the Lord. Hershel gave the internet address for his blog if you would like to receive more information. [Crossroadsclinic.blogspot.com](http://Crossroadsclinic.blogspot.com)

Dr. Roy L. Saint, Director of Missions, gave the Annual report of the Emerald Coast Fellowship. Dr. Saint quoted Acts 1:8 “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” He asked the question “What does that mean?”

We are going to talk about what we are going to do.

I want to challenge you and your church and the ECFBC to become an Acts 1:8 church. Expanding the kingdom is our call and purpose. There are 193,811 people in our area. Eighty percent of them do not know Jesus Christ. It is our responsibility to give those people the salvation message.

Our state has eighteen million people in it. That equals fifteen million people in Florida that have no church affiliation. Two hundred and fifty eight million people in our country and six billion people in the world. That equals one point seven billion people who have not heard of Jesus Christ. With Acts 1:8 we begin in our Jerusalem, your church area, Samaria, our fellowship of churches, Judea, our nation, and so on. There are most lost people in our world that there are saved. So, we have a responsibility in our Samaria, to work together; they are not asking for it, it is up to YOU to go to them and find them.

Shalimar Baptist Church goes on mission to Montana every year. First Baptist Church does disaster relief in areas in need. Five of our pastors went to Haiti this year. We have just been encourage to join the Florida Baptist Children’s Home in Guatemala.

I recently went on a mission trip to Hawaii on the island of Maui. The man who carried our luggage has to work five jobs to make \$30,000 a year. The average low income home with a dirt roof costs \$350,000. A loaf of bread costs \$5 and a gallon of milk \$6.00.

We were asked to work with Kahula church. It needs training in leadership, backyard bible schools, street carnivals, witnessing and apartment complex ministering. Lahana Baptist church needs help with Vacation Bible School and construction teams. There is a great need that we can be a part of.

Outside our door where you live there are drugstores and grocery stores where people do not know Jesus. Our purpose is to be missional and relational. I want to challenge you as a church and an individual to share the gospel. Dr. Saint prayed for us to become Acts 1:8 minded.

Lewis Miller, the new regional director of this area for the Florida Baptist Convention, brought a message entitled “Developing a Culture of Peace in your congregation”. He asked the question, “What is the purpose of a Christian life?” The answer, living to bring glory to God. What happens to your joy and peace over time? Our desires change and we lose focus. (James 4:1)

1. Embrace the model of peace making (Phil 4:9) put our faith into practice daily.

The Four G’s of peacemaking are

- a] glorify God (1cor. 10:31) “How can I please and honor the Lord in this situation?”
- b] Get the log out of your own eye. (Matt. 7:3-5) “How can I show Jesus’ work in me by taking responsibility for this situation?”
  - 1. Confession and forgiveness to God and each other (1John 1:8-9)
  - 2. Repentance (Acts 3:19-20 / Col 3:12-14)
  - 3. Refocus (Ps 51:10-13)
- c] Gently restore (Galatians 6:1 / Matt 18:15-17)
- d] Go and be reconciled (Matt 5:24) “How can I demonstrate the forgiveness of God and encourage biblical reconciliation”

2. Encourage mutual Accountability (Col 3:15-16)

3. Engage in teaching biblical peacemaking (Matt 5:9)

Conflict is an opportunity not an accident (Romans 12:18) to effect change in your congregation focus on Jesus Christ. May the world KNOW that you are Jesus’ disciples because you not only TELL the good news about Jesus but because we LIVE it.

Jennifer Vest led in congregational singing.

Rev. Dennis Brown gave the benediction.

Respectfully submitted

Amy DuVall