



With the help of a team from Laclede Baptist Association in Lebanon, Mo., Rock of Hope Church in Wisconsin Dells, Wis., hosted more than 40 kids in their first-ever Vacation Bible School this summer. Five unchurched kids attended as a direct result of Facebook advertising and another five as a result of neighborhood service projects during the VBS week. Aaron Ramquist is pastor of Rock of Hope. Funding for the event included one of 46 grants given by the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention to churches for summer evangelism projects.

## Grants from MWBC boost church evangelism efforts

David Williams  
Editor

Rochester, Minn. – When the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention offered churches grants to help them do summer evangelism projects, 46 churches applied for and received the \$250 gifts.

The money was used for a variety of purposes from conducting Vacation Bible Schools to investing in social media advertising.

The grant funds came from two MWBC budget lines – Existing Church Evangelism and Church Planting Evangelism – both supported through MWBC’s cooperative agreement with the North American Mission Board.

Similar grants were offered twice in 2018 in the spring and fall. This was the first time the grants were offered in the summer.

Ebenezer Community Church in Brooklyn Park, Minn., reported they used the funds for their VBS which involved 43 volunteers, reached 91 students and resulted in 11 professions of faith.

Journey Church in Amery, Wis., used the money to put on a Kids Club Kickoff Party in which they fed 84 people including 37 children. The grant money was used to advertise the event and provide three \$50 school lunch vouchers as prizes.

Minnesota Kangnam Korean Baptist Church in Bloomington, Minn., turned the grant into an outdoor worship service and picnic at Lebanon Hills.

Rock of Hope Church in Wisconsin Dells, Wis., used the money to finance their first ever VBS, reaching more than 40 children, 10 of whom were unchurched.

Rolling Hills Church of

Platteville, Wis., used the money for Google ads to drive traffic to their website and increase their online presence in anticipation of the annual fall migration into their community. Before the ads, the church was not even on the first page of results when someone searched for churches in Platteville. Now they are the first church listed in the Google directory. Already two people have visited as a direct result of the ads and one has stayed.

Vietnamese Baptist Church in Sunfish Lake, Minn., put the funds to work in their annual August evangelistic outreach fellowship at an apple orchard.

See more photos on page 6.

## MWBC partners with FreeWill

Rochester, Minn. – The Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention has partnered with FreeWill to give every congregation member across the region the ability to give back to their church in two new ways.

“We hope these two tools (a will-writing tool and a Qualified Charitable Distribution tool for gifts from IRAs) will be helpful to you and your family as you plan for your future and decide how you might want to support your church,” said Leo Endel, MWBC executive director.

FreeWill’s will-writing tool is an online service that allows

anyone to write a legally valid will in under 25 minutes without cost.

“Everyone needs a will, even if you live to be 150 years old,” Endel said. “But more than 70 percent of American adults don’t have one because the process can seem complicated or scary. FreeWill solves that problem by making writing a will easy and accessible.”

M-W Baptists can access the free tools at [FreeWill.com/MWBC](http://FreeWill.com/MWBC) to write their will for free and to ensure their church stays strong for generations to come.

See **FREEWILL** page 2



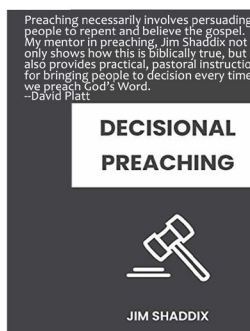
Children test their aim in the outdoor games during a Kids Club Kickoff at Journey Church in Amery, Wis. The church used their grant from the MWBC to advertise the event and purchase three \$50 school lunch vouchers given away in a drawing.

**Pastor's Wives Luncheon**  
October 25, 11:00 am  
Includes free lunch & free gift



Both events will be held at Highland Crest Baptist Church Green Bay, Wisconsin

**MWBC Pastor's Conference**  
October 25, 9:00 am  
Free lunch and a copy of Jim Shaddix's book:



Dr. Jim Shaddix  
Professor of Preaching  
Southeastern Baptist  
Theological Seminary



# Church planting, gospel anchor EC meeting

NASHVILLE (BP) ~ Church planting and Gospel unity anchored much of the dialogue during the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee's September meeting, spotlighting a new mission emphasis and encouraging civility and understanding during the upcoming U.S. election cycle.

SBC President J.D. Greear launched the "Send Every Member" challenge encouraging churches to send more missionaries and plant more churches. Both Greear and SBC EC President Ronnie Floyd encouraged Southern Baptist leaders to embrace Gospel unity. Also, see Monday evening's coverage of Floyd's inauguration service.

Four new entity presidents delivered their first reports to the EC, noting some of the challenges they face and thanking churches for supporting

their work through the Cooperative Program. Reporting were Ben Mandrell of LifeWay Christian Resources, Jamie Dew of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Adam Greenway of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Paul Chitwood of the International Mission Board.

Among other action, the EC approved a referral to modernize the nomination process for SBC committees and boards, added a day of prayer for the persecuted church to the SBC Calendar, and approved a detailed EC and SBC operating budget.

## Send Every Member

Church planting, not megachurches, remains the most effective way of multiplying the body of Christ, Greear told the EC, referencing the growth of the early church.

"We have seen the limita-

tions of the megachurch and large-audience evangelism. Even while some megachurches have grown larger and larger, the percentage of the population actively involved in church has steadily decreased," Greear said. "Now more than ever, churches are rediscovering that the most effective and most sustainable growth happens through multiplication. The future belongs to those who send."

Both the North American Mission Board and IMB have more money than planters and missionaries, Greear said. "We want to change that."

Greear commended the Go2 challenge for young adults to spend the first two years of their career working in a place where they can assist with a new church plant, NAMB's Send City emphasis and IMB's journeymen program.

## Gospel unity

Gospel unity should encourage Christ-like love and mutual respect during the upcoming U.S. election cycle, Greear and Floyd indicated in their EC addresses.

Southern Baptists must not allow politics to displace the Gospel, Greear said. While



Church planting and Gospel unity anchored much of the dialogue during the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee's September meeting, spotlighting a new mission emphasis and encouraging civility and understanding during the upcoming U.S. election cycle. Photo by Morris Abernathy

most evangelical Christians agree on the issues, he said, they sometimes disagree on the priority of each concern. The Gospel remains too great a concern, he said, to allow differing priorities to interfere with the church's mission.

It's undeniable that much is at stake in every U.S. election, Floyd said, but the unity of the Spirit is more important.

"We can disagree over various matters, but let's be careful

how we do that. Let's do it in a way that would honor Christ," he said. "Even as important as our elections are, let's remember that there is coming a day when all the kings and the kingdoms of this world will pass away, and the greatest need we have in this country is the Gospel of Jesus Christ going to everyone's life."

## Other action

The EC:

– approved a referral to modernize the nomination process for SBC committees and boards, agreeing to post appropriate information and nomination forms at SBC.net "for use by any Southern Baptist who is a member of a church in friendly cooperation with the Convention, and will continue to take steps to promote wider participation in the nomination of

See **EC** page 6

**FREEWILL**

## Do you have an up-to-date WILL?

Everyone needs a will!

Wills are the best way to take care of your family in the future  
Many people use their will to make their last tithe to their church  
**YOU CAN GET YOUR WILL FOR FREE**

**The Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention is proud to introduce two new ways to give back to your church today and for future generations.**

70.5 or older? Make a tax-free gift directly from your IRA by visiting [FreeWill.com/QCD/MWBC](http://FreeWill.com/QCD/MWBC)

No matter your age, start a legacy today to strengthen the missions and ministries you care about for future generations by creating a gift to your church in your will. It's free and takes 25 minutes or less!

**Provided as a FREE GIFT by the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Foundation visit the website at [FreeWill.com/mwbc](http://FreeWill.com/mwbc)**

## Disaster relief training

Coon Rapids, Minn. – Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention is offering disaster relief training Saturday, Oct. 12, at First Hmong Baptist Church in Coon Rapids, Minn.

The training is for all adults and for youth in 7th grade and up. The training is for both

new volunteers and for recertification of those previously trained. Cost is \$20 for new volunteers and \$10 for returning volunteers.

Pre-registration is required. For more information, contact Dave Wedekind at (507) 258-0373.

## FREEWILL

*continued from page 1*

"A gift in a will, called a bequest, to your church, your association, or your state convention is a way of perpetuating your support of missions and ministries that matter to you for generations to come," Endel said. "It is an excellent way to know that your legacy will be working to actively advance the gospel."

Those who prefer to speak with an attorney before finalizing their wills can use FreeWill as a planning tool for document-

ing their wishes to save time and money at the lawyer's office.

Persons 70½ or older who have a traditional IRA can give back to their church through a qualified charitable distribution (QCD).

When a person turns 70½, he or she is legally obligated to take a required minimum distribution (RMD) out of his or her IRA. The amount of the RMD varies based on age and IRA balance, but it is often a very significant sum of money, and can increase taxable income significantly.

However, all people 70½ and above are eligible to make

a QCD from their IRA, which is a tax-free gift, regardless of whether or not they itemize deductions on their tax returns. Persons are eligible to give up to \$100,000 in QCDs each year tax-free.

M-W Baptists can visit [FreeWill.com/QCD/MWBC](http://FreeWill.com/QCD/MWBC) to calculate their RMD and choose how much they would like to give to a church or program within MWBC.

"As a member of a MWBC church, we thank you for being committed to spreading the gospel, and we want to thank you by giving you these new tools for giving and planning ahead," Endel said.





# Editorial & Opinion

*"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have..."*

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

## THE MINNESOTA-WISCONSIN BAPTIST

519 16th St. SE, Rochester, MN 55904  
(USPS 012-645)

### Leo Endel

Executive Director

### David Williams

Editor

## The Minnesota-Wisconsin

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## To register a change of address:

Send the mailing label from page 1, along with your new address, to the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist at the above address.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes and form 3579 to the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist at the above address.

## I don't like this church anymore

Recently, I had the unique privilege of stepping back almost 50 years to the little church we attended outside of Fairbanks, Ala.

Good memories flooded my mind, like the Sunday my little brother wore tennis shoes to church "to outrun the devil" as he planned to make a profession of faith. I remembered making cigar box jewelry boxes in Vacation Bible School (I still have the one I made for my mom). I remember feeling grown up because I got to go out and start people's cars for them when it was 30 degrees below zero.

However, I was also reminded of some bad experiences I'd really never processed completely as an adult. Vaguely, I remember someone almost being removed from the church over a major disagreement; ultimately, the pastor resigned and moved. Church life can be tough.

It dawned on me that my

mom and dad were not people who had unrealistic expectations of church or of other believers. They understood that perfect churches do not exist. They did not run away when people behaved badly or disappointed them. Generally, what we get out of church

life is in direct proportion to our own investment in the church and the lives

of others. It takes a lot of grace to be very involved in each other's lives.

At First Baptist Anchorage, the preacher told us his story of preaching where the pastor had just left after a period of tension. A woman came up to him after the service and said, "It was so good to hear the Word of God this morning. We haven't been hearing the Word of God from that pulpit." The preacher responded, "Ma'am, it has been my experience that hearing the Word of God has more to do with the spiritual condition of the listener than anything I ever

say from the pulpit." Someone sitting close to me said aloud, "Boom."

People often tell me of their church, "I'm just not growing here anymore." That's code for "I don't like this church anymore—I'll find something I like better down the street."

In reality, it may be that God wants to do a more spiritually challenging work in their lives, but it is easier to move on and blame someone else rather than press on and grow through the dry spells or challenges. Even Paul noted that too many believers stay on the baby bottle way too long. They are unwilling to take responsibility for their own spiritual growth.

Here is what dawned on me: my mom and dad didn't take the easy way out and leave when church life got tough. We stayed active in two churches that had significant pain. We had one preacher who preached the same sermon every week from a different text—and it was always at least 50 minutes

long! The music was never great, especially by today's standards. But my dad taught me that God was speaking every time the Word was read. My parents taught me that, in the church, God did His transformational work in our lives through people that were hard to love. Therefore, we needed to learn to love the unlovely, and we needed to learn that church wasn't about us or our preferences.

They taught us that the spiritual valleys of discontentment, discomfort, and even dislike were fertile ground for the Spirit of God to mature His fruit in our lives.

We have long taught Christians to work hard on their marriages, remain faithful to each other and persevere through the tough times. I think the Bible teaches a similar commitment to the Body of Christ. In our persevering together we will grow; in severing our relationships and moving on, we may not.

Leo Endel is executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

## Perspectives

Leo Endel



## The power of an optimistic outlook

Since this column reflects on current events and life experience, I am constantly searching the news for information. It is a daunting task.

The headlines alone are depressing, let alone the blow-by-blow accounts of murder, theft, graft, rape, sexual abuse, prejudice, hatred, scams, suicide, mass shootings, political corruption and a looming recession. Sometimes the news seems like a black hole that drags every ray of light into its dark abyss.

It is difficult not to become a pessimist from this constant onslaught. But we must not give in. We must resist the darkness and cling to the light. We must not surrender to the pessimism that surrounds us.

A new study released

Aug. 26 by the Boston University School of Medicine concludes that people who are more optimistic live 11 to 15 percent longer and are 50 to 70 percent more likely to reach age 85. But how do we remain optimistic in a world filled with pessimism?

It seems to me that we do so by looking for the moments that

renew our faith in each other. Like the tender moment when Naomi Osaka embraced 15-year-old Coco Gauf after soundly defeating her in round 16 at the U.S. Open and persuading her to share the post-game interview with her.

We can remain optimistic by focusing on obscure moments like the first day of second grade reported by WIVB News in Wichita, Kansas. Eight-year-old Christian,

who is African American, saw eight-year-old Conner, who is white, standing alone crying while they waited for the school to open. Quietly, Christian reached out and took Conner's hand. Conner stopped crying and the two of them walked into their classroom together, hand-in-hand. Conner is autistic.

We are surrounded by little acts of kindness, some demonstrated on the grand stage like Osaka and Gauf, others in obscure corners like Christian and Conner. And we are sustained by a faith that overcomes darkness and despair. Love overcomes hate. Forgiveness wipes away resentment and guilt. Resurrection conquers death. Our God who is the Father of Lights is the source of all good things.

The Bible is the most realistic and most optimistic book ever written. It clearly exposes man's sin and consistently

demonstrates God's righteous redemption. It embraces the Cross with all of its pain and despair and proclaims the resurrection in all of its glory.

The Bible always offsets our struggle with discouragement and despair with the hope of faith and the unchangeable goodness of God. Three times the Scripture asks, "Why are you in despair O my soul? And why have you become disturbed in me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him for the help of His presence" (Psalm 42:5, 11; 43:5).

The Apostle Paul wrote, "We were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; indeed we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead" (2 Cor. 1:8-9).

See **POWER** page 6

## The Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist:

A quarterly Christian newsjournal with a focus on Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptists—their interests, churches, and partners.

• **Is your church making news?** Send news to David Williams, at davidwilliams@compuserve.com or P.O. Box 628, Liberty, TX 77575.

• **Does your church have something to advertise?** Advertising space at \$8 per column inch is available for meetings, product or services sponsored by MWBC churches and associations, the state convention and entities of the Southern Baptist Convention.

• **Has your church updated its subscription list?** The Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist is provided free of charge to all resident member families of churches related to the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

Churches are responsible for updating their portion of our mailing list, maintained at the state convention office.

Others may subscribe for \$5.50 per year by sending payment to Subscriptions, Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist, 519 16th St. SE, Rochester, MN 55904.



## Reflections

Bill Tinsley

# Reaching the lost, village by village

In the Chiang Rai\* province of Thailand, many ethnic groups live close together, such as the Hmong and the Mien.



## Missions

Na Herr

the Mien people speak a different language from the Hmong, Hmong believers were able to communicate the gospel. Because of their

close proximity, the Mien and the Hmong have learned each other's languages.

Through the conversion of this Mien family, the gospel can spread to other Mien families whom the Hmong may not be able to reach.

Thank you for giving to the

State Missions Offering. A portion of your gifts supports SEA Harvest, a ministry to reach the people of Southeast Asia. In our state convention, we have 22 churches that were started by immigrants and refugees from Southeast Asia.

For more information about SEA Harvest, go to [www.mwbc.org/sea-harvest](http://www.mwbc.org/sea-harvest).

\* Location changed to protect the identity of believers who live in persecuted areas.

Na Herr is intercultural catalyst/team facilitator for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

In one particular village, over a hundred Hmong families converted to Christianity through a radio ministry.

Hmong believers shared the gospel with Mien families who live in the village, resulting in one Mien family coming to Christ. Even though

## Insights from the psalms

Recently I have begun to read the Psalms for my daily devotions. So far, I have gotten to Psalm 20 and here are some of the highlights that have spoken to my heart:

### Psalm 1:1-2

*Blessed is the person who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.*

### My insight:

Be aware of who or what is influencing me. What I read, watch or listen to can and does make a difference. So many things are competing for my time and attention that I must choose wisely. And spending time meditating on God's word is always profitable.

### Psalm 4:1

*Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear*

my prayer.

### My insight:

## Evangelism

Steve Melvin

God hears and answers prayers when I am struggling through life.

In my retirement, family, part-time work, church activities, volunteer opportunities and expectations sometimes combine to cause distress, and God is good to hear my prayers in those trying times.

### Psalm 8:1, 3-4

*O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?*

### My insight:

What an awesome creation we can see in the world around us, and God still wants to have a relationship with me individually.

### Psalm 15:1-2

*O Lord, who shall sojourn in*

*your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill? He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart;*

### My insight:

It is my responsibility to cultivate my relationship with God and to live a holy life. Maintaining spiritual disciplines are an important part of my daily schedule.

### Psalm 18:1-2

*I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*

### My insight:

Life is fragile and complicated. I can always count on God to come through whatever I face in life. God is the stable foundation that I need.

### Psalm 20:7

*Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.*

### My insight:

The things that I tend to trust in this world are temporary. Only in the things of

## Helping the people of the Bahamas

As I am writing this, teams of disaster relief leaders from Baptist Global Response (BGR) and Southern Baptist Disaster Relief are being sent to the Bahamas to assess the extent of the damages from Hurricane Dorian which ravaged that island nation on Sept. 1.

These teams are tasked to determine the best practices for relief and to develop sustainable solutions to respond to this disaster.

According to BGR, "It has become apparent that the Abaco Islands have been the most affected, with a limited amount of aid reaching the devastated communities. The death toll currently stands at 43, with people still missing. It is expected that materials for roofing, debris removal, and a number of different relief supplies will be required in the weeks to come, but for immediate provisions, BGR is supplying food, blankets, and hygiene kits to families in need."



## Disaster Relief

Dave Wedekind

BGR and Send Relief teams are being intentional about implementing

sustainable ways to help Bahamians and their churches to recover. Our goal is to meet the greatest needs as practically and efficiently as possible. This is going to be a long response and you can be involved in these ways:

1. Pray for God's protection over the survivors as people become desperate for basic needs

2. Pray for those who have lost loved ones

3. Pray for the pastors and churches to be strong as they minister and meet needs of survivors

4. Pray for God to provide much needed guidance to Disaster Relief leaders as they make plans and decisions on helping survivors

5. Give. Go to <https://gobgr.org> and click on the "Give Now" button, call 1 (833) 736-3467, or give to MWBC a gift designated to Hurricane Dorian-Bahamas.

6. Are you ready to Go? Be prepared when asked to go by getting trained and certified so that you can go and help with other MWBC disaster relief volunteers. Our next training is October 12 at First Hmong Baptist Church in Coon Rapids, Minn. Register by emailing Dave Wedekind at [dwedekind@mwbc.org](mailto:dwedekind@mwbc.org).

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us" (Eph. 3:20, NIV).

Dave Wedekind is co-director of disaster relief for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

God can I count on for eternity.

Spending more time in God's word, the Bible, and in prayer are drawing more and more of my attention lately. I

encourage you to also spend more time in God's word and in prayer.

Steve Melvin is partnership and prayer catalyst for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

## Children's ministry is evangelism and discipleship

Raise your hand if you were saved, discipled, or influenced in your Christian walk through children's ministry as a child.



## Guest Column

Penny Reedy

before their 18th birthday. Another part of the survey

states, "People who become Christians before their teen years are more

likely than those who are converted when older to remain 'absolutely committed' to Christianity."

When we talk about children's ministry, we are not talking about child care but about evangelism and discipleship. Using a solid gospel

teaching curriculum as well as a discipleship plan are important parts of a ministry that reaches kids and their families. We should incorporate training to equip parents to be the spiritual leaders in the home.

We are seeing kids leaving the church after high school and while we may want to blame the youth ministry since they had them last, in reality, it is the spiritual growth during their pre-teen years that makes a larger dif-

ference.

What are we doing to lead children to Christ and disciple them to have a lifetime faith? I know children's ministry is hard. It is hard to find committed workers and sometimes hard to find children to be in our ministry. I can tell you, though, it is worth it.

The Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention has a team of dedicated, trained and experienced children's ministry trainers who are in

place to help your church have a thriving ministry to children and their families.

Look for opportunities to attend training with your church family. Join our special KidMin Facebook group just for MWBC for encouragement and community. Mark your calendar for May 30, 2020 for a Children's Ministry Conference in Eau Claire, Wis.

Penny Reedy is children's ministry specialist for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

A recent Barna study shows that two out of three born again Christians made their commitment to Christ



# Sustainability in church planting

When we said our vision for the next five years would be to plant 60 healthy churches across Minnesota and Wisconsin, we wanted to dive even deeper into what health should and could look like.



## Staff Column

Joshua Whetstone

It went something like this, "Once you've hired them, you're stuck with them." Now, that may sound shrewd and I suppose it is, but it was no

less true. You can determine the trajectory of your business or organization simply by

investing in the right people. The same holds true in church planting, and that's why we work with the North American Mission Board to help us "know" who we are investing in together. We've been entrusted by NAMB, the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention and all of the Southern Baptist Convention to make sure we are investing well, and we believe the best investment is in the church plants with a higher potential of sustainability.

Sustainability takes on a few different forms, so it's not so easy to nail down exactly what it should be. It's going to look different in the out-state of Minnesota than in the Twin Cities. It's going to look different in Milwaukee than Madison and northern and southern Wisconsin.

As varied as it all may be, I believe there are marks of sustainability across the board. I explain those with three simple circles.

The top and most critical circle to determining sustainability is the number of adults the planter has that are committed to the plant. One marker of commitment is financial, so in one sense

you could say it is the number of people who are going to give of themselves and their finances to support the new plant.

I mentioned two pieces, "people" and "commitment." You could have 30 people with low commitments or 15 people with high commitments and fall in the same quadrant of sustainability. We've found the sweet spot to be roughly 30 to 50 people with an above average commitment to give of themselves and their finances.

Why is this first sphere so important? Because the healthier it is, the less you need spheres two and three, and that's great because eventually you will no longer have spheres two and three. Sphere two would be those who are supporting the church externally, like the sending church and the variety of supporting churches. Sphere three would be the larger networks the church is connected with. Each of these three spheres generally invest in the plant.

We are looking for potential planters and plants that are on the high side of the first sphere. They become autonomous more quickly, they plant other churches more quickly, and they are generally more dialed into our second pillar, "Indigeneity" because they are actually being birthed out of local churches in the area.

It's much easier to send families 15 to 30 minutes

See **SUSTAIN** page 6

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MWBC events are in bold print.

BLBA: Bay Lakes Baptist Association

SWBA: Southern Wisconsin Baptist Association

LBA: Lakeland Baptist Association

NBA: Northwoods Baptist Association

SMBA: Southern Minnesota Baptist Association

TCMBA: Twin Cities Metro Baptist Association

To have your events included, email them to davidwilliams@compuserve.com.

### OCTOBER

11-13 **Called Out Youth Conference**

12 **Disaster Relief Training, Coon Rapids, Minn.**

25-26 **MWBC Annual Meeting, Highland Crest, Green Bay, Wis.**

### NOVEMBER

28-29 Thanksgiving Holiday – **MWBC Office Closed**

### DECEMBER

1-8 Week of Prayer and Mission Study for International Missions/Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

24-Jan. 1 Christmas/New Year's Holiday – **MWBC Office Closed**

## Good news from the associations

### SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

**Johnson Onwuka**, member of Cornerstone Church in Waterloo, is planting a new church on the south side of Madison to reach fellow Nigerians and people of other cultures. Shalom Christian Assembly is meeting on Friday evenings at the Urban League Center.

An Aug. 21 fire that destroyed the home of church planters **Wilkie and Leigh Richmond** is giving the couple many opportunities to share the gospel. They are reaching Native Americans through Bible studies they lead in the Red Cliff and Bad River Reservations in northernmost Wisconsin.

SWBA has a new copier contract that allows them to make unlimited black and white or color copies for churches in the association.

### NORTHWOODS

**Lonnie Lee**, pastor of Hill City Baptist Church, has baptized 11 youth through a Monday evening Bible study he leads for troubled teens.

**Grace Connection** in Wadena has purchased seven acres of land for their first-unit building.

**Calvary Pines** in Grand Rapids has raised enough money for their new carpet.

**Cornerstone Baptist Church** in Thief River Falls is putting a new roof on their building with the help of volunteers.

**Matthew Johnson** and his family have moved to Duluth where they are seeking to knock on 10,000 doors before winter in their effort to plant a new church.

### TWIN CITIES

**Ebenezer Community Church** in Brooklyn Park, Minn., celebrated their 19th anniversary Sept. 4-6 along with a groundbreaking for their second phase which will more than double the size of their facility from 14,000 to 34,000 square feet and include educational space and a 1,000-seat sanctuary.

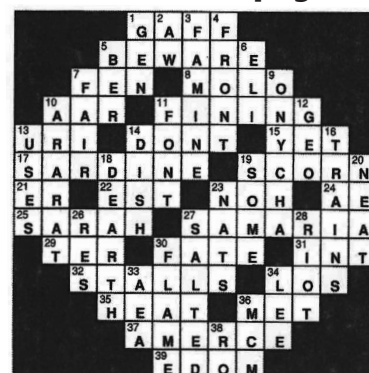
## October is Pastor Appreciation Month

...worthy of double honor

1 Timothy 5:17

Take up a special love offering  
Do something special for his family  
Plan/pay for a weekend getaway  
Take his family out to eat  
Schedule to take a meal over to his family  
Send a note of appreciation  
Hold an appreciation banquet  
Give a gift certificate to a local restaurant  
Provide babysitting for a night out  
Consider giving your pastor a sabbatical  
Commit a time of special prayer for your pastor(s)

### See crossword, page 11





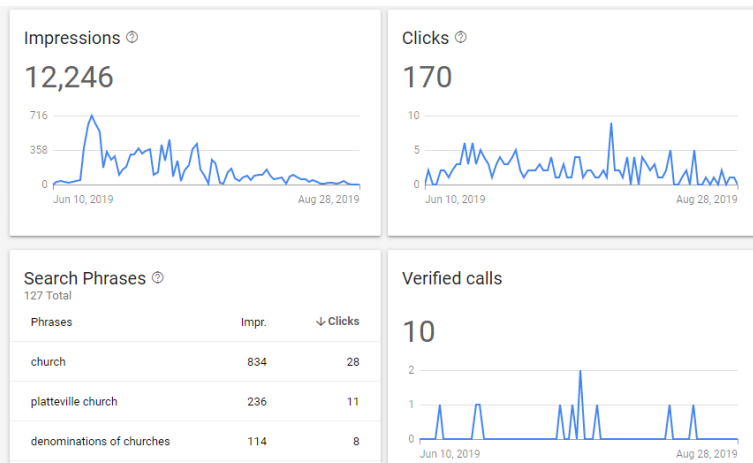
# MWBC Summer Evangelism Grants



Ebenezer Community Church in Brooklyn Park, Minn., takes a group photo of their June 17-21 Vacation Bible School, partially funded by a summer evangelism grant from the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention. Eleven children were saved that week.



Members of Vietnamese Bethel Church in Sunfish Lake, Minn., pose for a group picture in their sanctuary. The church used their grant from the MWBC to help fund their annual evangelistic outreach fellowship at an apple orchard.



Rolling Hills Church in Platteville, Wis., used their grant from the MWBC to boost their internet presence with Google Ads (above). They had more than 12,000 impressions and 170 people go to their website as a result. Members and guests of Minnesota Kangnam Korean Baptist Church (left) enjoy an outdoor worship service and picnic at Lebanon Hills. Their grant from the MWBC helped pay expenses of the event.

## EC

*continued from page 2*

committee persons and trustees among Southern Baptists;"

- approved a referral to recommend that messengers add "A Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church" to the SBC Calendar of Activities on a date provided by IMB;

- approved a Dishonesty, Fraud and Whistleblower Protection Policy. The EC designated as its chief compliance officer William "Bill" Townes, vice president for convention finance. Townes will investigate any reports and advise the EC president and/or chair of the EC audit workgroup as necessary;

- declined a referral to study the biblical position of a woman serving as SBC president, affirming that SBC messengers "are capable of expressing their collective opinion on the topic ... through the nominating and voting process for SBC officers at each SBC annual meeting;"

- declined a referral to study the feasibility of distance voting and remote participation in SBC annual meetings;

- declined to establish a plan to help churches conduct or procure their own investigations of reported sexual abuse, leaving such investigations to appropriate law enforcement officers. Additionally, the EC recommended churches use resources already provided through SBC.net, state conventions, local associations, individual insurance providers, GuideStone Financial Resources at GuideStonePropertyCasualty.org, and the recently resourced Caring Well Initiative at caringwell.com.

- approved a detailed 2019-20 EC and SBC operating budget of \$7.866 million, an increase over the current budget of \$7.575 million.

### Resolutions of appreciation

Resolutions of appreciation were approved for three Baptist leaders who are retiring: D. August "Augie" Boto, the EC's executive vice president and general counsel, on Sept. 30; Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, on Oct. 31; and Garvon Golden, executive director-treasurer of the Dakota Baptist Convention, on Dec. 31.

Boto has served 21 years with the EC - in his current role since 2007 and as vice president for convention policy from 1998-2007. He served as the EC's only interim president in its 100-year history from April 2018 to May 2019. Prior to joining the EC staff, he had been an EC member from Texas for three years.

In his work with the Executive Committee, Boto was involved in the creation and content of the SBC.net web pages and in the framing of scores of SBC policy documents, including amendments to the convention's constitution and bylaws, SBC entity ministry assignments; motions by messengers referred from the annual meeting; and each year's SBC Annual.

Boto was elected as a deacon under the ministry of the late W.A. Criswell at First Baptist Church in Dallas and served as a Sunday School teacher in the young married division. As a lawyer, he was elected as county attorney in Gainesville, Texas, serving for six years, and was administrative counsel for the Texas District and County Attorneys Association for three years, helping start the Texas Fellowship of Christian Prosecutors.

He and his wife Cindy have been married 40 years and have three adult children.

Futral has led Mississippi Baptists since 1998; by 2001, the state's churches had deployed 10,000 mission volunteers to 26 countries and 47 states. The convention raised its budgeted Cooperative Program giving to SBC missions and ministries from 34 percent to a goal of 37.9 percent in the current fiscal year.

After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which included more

than 250 of the convention's churches that were destroyed or damaged, Futral led Adopt-a-Church, Church Rebuild and Community Rebuild initiatives that hosted more than 100,000 workers and distributed nearly \$20 million to church and home rebuild efforts.

Another key initiative: Futral led Mississippi Baptists in gathering 50 million pennies as a memorial to the 50 million children whose lives had been

See **EC** page 7

## SUSTAIN POWER

*continued from page 5*

down the road than it is to send them three or four states away. Not impossible, just much more rhythmic and easier.

In our next article we'll cover the benefits and connectedness of both Indigeneity and engagement in church planting here in the Northland.

Joshua Whetstine is church planting field director for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist

*continued from page 3*

Jesus said, "I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Bill Tinsley is a former executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention. Appearing in various local newspapers around the country, his column "reflects" on current events and life experiences from a faith perspective.





These (above) are some of the 21 volunteers trained in disaster relief on Sept. 21 at Red Village Church in Madison, Wis. Congregation of One in Christ Church in Hudson, Wis., (below) gather on Sept. 15 to constitute as a church. Vameng Pha is pastor.



Members of Viola (Minn.) Bible Church lay hands on their pastor Jim Benson, seated with his wife Janet, ordaining him to the gospel ministry on Sept. 15. He has been the church's pastor since Jan. 1, having served throughout 2018 as their interim. Leo Endel, executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention, brought the charge to Benson to serve as the shepherd of the flock. Dave Wedekind, a member of the congregation and MWBC's disaster relief catalyst, charged the congregation to assist, support, and pray for their pastor.

## EC

*continued from page 6*

ended by abortion as of 2007 since its legalization in 1973. The pennies subsequently were cashed in to provide support for pregnancy care centers across the state.

Before becoming the convention's executive director, Futral had been pastor of Broadmoor

Baptist Church in Jackson since 1985 and had served as the convention's president from 1987-1989. In nearly 35 years of pastoral ministry, he led seven churches in Mississippi and two in Texas.

Futral and his wife Shirley have three adult children and eight grandchildren.

Golden has led Dakota Baptists since 2012 after serving in an interim role in 2011-2012

and as the two-state convention's first evangelism director since 2005, with added associate executive director duties from 2008-2011. He also served as director of missions for the Black Hills Area Baptist Association in Rapid City, S.D., from 2000-2005; senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Williston, N.D., 1992-2000; and pastor of three other churches in North Dakota, Montana and Texas, 1980-1992.

Golden led Dakota Baptists to increase their Cooperative Program giving from 16.6 percent in 2011 to 38.7 percent in 2018, from a commitment that "we are going to give more and keep less." The number of churches in the convention grew by more than 15 percent, from 72 to 83.

He also was a key leader in the annual evangelistic outreach at South Dakota's Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, in which volunteers used three-minute testimonies in a motorcycle giveaway, resulting in 60,000-plus Gospel presentations over 13 years.

Golden and wife Cindy have four adult children and 10 grandchildren.



Convention Hotel - Option  
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for more information: [mwbc.org](http://mwbc.org)

## YOU'RE INVITED



Minnesota-Wisconsin  
Baptist Convention

## MWBC

# Annual Meeting October 25-26

Highland Crest Baptist Church  
Green Bay, Wisconsin

### Friday Morning

Pastor's Conference 9-11:30  
Pastor's Wives Luncheon, 11-1  
Pastor's Pizza Lunch, Noon to 1  
Convention Session 1, 1:15-4:45

### Friday Evening

Missions Banquet, 5:15-6:30  
Convention Session 2, 6:45-8:30

### Saturday Morning

Convention Session 3, 8:30-Noon



# Minn. filmmakers: 'We can't promote every message'

ST. LOUIS – A federal appeals court has delivered a victory to Minnesota filmmakers who refuse to create videos of same-sex weddings because they believe marriage is limited to a man and a woman.

A panel of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis ruled in a 2-1 opinion a federal court wrongly dismissed Carl and



Angel and Carl Larsen.  
Photo from ADF

Angel Larsen's free-speech and free-exercise-of-religion claims. It also ordered the judge to reconsider the Larsens' request for a preliminary injunction blocking enforcement of the Minnesota Human Rights Act (MHRA) while their court case continues.

The opinion is the latest in the ongoing, legal showdown between religious liberty and sexual liberty. State laws and court rulings have brought intense pressure on Christians and other people of faith who believe marriage is only between a man and a woman. This has been especial-

ly true in the wedding business, where florists, cake designers, photographers, videographers and others have been penalized for declining to use their talents for same-sex weddings.

Southern Baptist religious freedom advocate Russell Moore said the decision "is a win for all Americans, not just for those of us who agree with the Larsens on marriage."

"At stake in these debates is the question of whether the state can force a person to violate his or her conscience," said Moore, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, in written comments for Baptist Press. "We need to live in the kind of country where we can be free to seek to persuade one another, not bully each other into silence."

"The judiciary's responsibility is to protect Americans from governments and agencies that would make such a demand," he

said. "I'm glad to see in this case that it has. My hope is that this case, like Masterpiece Cakeshop before it, is a sign that the courts will continue to uphold conscience freedom and personal soul liberty."

In a 2018 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the Colorado Civil Rights Commission violated the religious free exercise clause of the First Amendment and demonstrated in its action "religious hostility" toward Masterpiece Cakeshop owner Jack Phillips, a Christian who had declined to design and decorate a cake in celebration of the wedding of two men.

Jeremy Tedesco, senior counsel for Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), commended the Eighth Circuit's affirmation "that the Larsens' films are fully protected speech and that the state lacks a compelling interest to force them to express messages through their films that violate their deeply held convictions."

"The government shouldn't threaten filmmakers with fines and jail time to force them to create films that violate their beliefs," said Tedesco, who argued before the appeals court on be-

half of the Larsens in October 2018, in a written statement.

The Larsens say their company – St. Cloud-based Telescope Media Group – exists to glorify God, and they are excited at the possibility of portraying in their video productions the glory of God in marriage.

"Angel and I serve everyone," Carl Larsen said in an ADF news release after the opinion. "We just can't produce films promoting every message."

Under the MHRA, which prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation, the state says the Larsens "must depict same- and opposite-sex weddings in an equally 'positive' light," Eighth Circuit judge David Stras wrote in the majority opinion.

"Minnesota's interpretation of the MHRA interferes with the Larsens' speech in two overlapping ways," Stras wrote. "First, it compels the Larsens to speak favorably about same-sex marriage if they

choose to speak favorably about opposite-sex marriage. Second, it operates as a content-based regulation of their speech."

"The Larsens' videos are a form of speech that is entitled to First Amendment protection."

Previous Supreme Court decisions demonstrate "regulating speech because it is discriminatory or offensive is not a compelling state interest, however hurtful the speech may be," Stras wrote.

"Indeed, if Minnesota were correct, there is no reason it would have to stop with the Larsens," Stras said in the opinion. "In theory, it could use the MHRA to require a Muslim tattoo artist to inscribe 'My religion is the only true religion' on the body of a Christian if he or she would do the same for a fellow Muslim, or it could demand that an atheist musician perform at an evangelical church service."



Joanna Duka (left) and Breanna Koski (center left), owners of Brush & Nib Studio, at news conference with their attorney, ADF Senior Counsel Jonathan Scruggs (center), following oral arguments at Arizona Supreme Court on Jan. 22, 2019. ADF Photo

## Phoenix artists win at state high court

PHOENIX (BP) – The Arizona Supreme Court ruled Monday (Sept. 16) the city of Phoenix's use of an anti-discrimination ordinance violates the freedom of speech and religion of two artists who refuse to create custom invitations for same-sex weddings.

The court's 4-3 decision for Joanna Duka and Breanna Koski – the owners of Brush & Nib Studio – found the city's interpretation of its law infringed Arizona's constitutional protection of free speech and a state law ensuring free exercise of religion. While Duka and Koski say they serve all customers regardless of their sexual orientation, their belief as Christians that marriage is only between a man and a woman prevents them from using their artistic abilities for same-sex ceremonies.

The decision is the latest in a series of court rulings regarding the clash between the legal status of same-sex marriage and the rights of business owners who have declined to offer their services for gay weddings.

In the court's opinion, Justice Andrew Gould said the city of Phoenix "cannot apply its

Human Relations Ordinance" to require Duka and Koski "to create custom wedding invitations celebrating same-sex wedding ceremonies in violation of their sincerely held religious beliefs."

"The rights of free speech and free exercise, so precious to this nation since its founding, are not limited to soft murmurings behind the doors of a person's home or church, or private conversations with like-minded friends and family," Gould wrote. "These guarantees protect the right of every American to express their beliefs in public. This includes the right to create and sell words, paintings, and art that express a person's sincere religious beliefs."

The state high court ruling is limited to the artists' creation of custom wedding invitations and does not provide a "blanket exemption" from the ordinance for all of their work, he said.

Duka said at a news conference after the opinion's release, "Breanna and I will gladly serve everyone, but we cannot create custom artwork celebrating certain events. And the government should not control those expres-

sive decisions."

"Breanna and I are thankful and relieved that the court has upheld not just our freedom," she said, "but the freedom of other speakers to choose what they say and what they don't say."

Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), which represented the artists in the lawsuit, commended the court's ruling.

ADF Senior Counsel Jonathan Scruggs told reporters, "Everyone should enjoy the freedom to peacefully live out their beliefs without the fear the government would force them to promote messages that violate their core convictions. Regardless of one's view on marriage, this is a win for all citizens of Arizona, because a government that can crush Joanna and Breanna can crush any one of us."

The mayor of Phoenix and some city council members criticized the decision.

"I want to be clear the city of Phoenix does not and will not tolerate hate in any form," Mayor Kate Gallego said at a news conference. "That doesn't change with today's ruling. [A] core tenet of our nation is free-

dom of religion, but freedom of religion does not mean freedom to discriminate. Personal conviction cannot be used as an excuse for outward bigotry. If you serve someone in our community, you should serve all people in our community."

In the court's opinion, Gould wrote, "Nothing in our holding today allows a business to deny access to goods or services to customers based on their sexual orientation or other protected status."

The ordinance "coerces [Duka and Koski] into abandoning their convictions, and compels them to write celebratory messages with which they disagree, such as 'come celebrate the wedding of Jim and Jim,' or 'share in the joy of the wedding of Sarah and Jane.'"

Michael Whitehead, a Southern Baptist lawyer, wrote a friend-of-the-court brief for the SBC's Ethics and Religious Liberty

Commission (ERLC) in support of the artists. He said an appeal of the decision is not expected because ADF raised issues only under the state constitution and law.

"Although this decision has legal force only in the state of Arizona, it has great persuasive value in other cases across the country," Whitehead told Baptist Press in written remarks. "The opinion is so well crafted it will pave the way for future cases in federal and state courts. The ripple effect will be national in other compelled-speech cases where government tries to treat religious conscience as though it were invidious discrimination."

In recent opinions involving gay marriage, the U.S. Supreme Court has said individuals and organizations should be able to maintain their constitutional



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Na Herr, Business Manager

Date 10/7/19

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# Hurricane Harvey: ‘Still working to rebuild’

GRAPEVINE, Texas (BP) – As U.S. and international aid agencies pour resources into the Bahama Islands and eastern United States in the wake of Hurricane Dorian, some southeast Texas homeowners still await relief from the devastation wrought by Hurricane Harvey two years ago, according to Southern Baptists of Texas Convention pastors in the region.

SBTC field ministry strategist Dennis Parrish and pastor Sonny Hathaway serve Southeast Texas communities where Harvey damaged or destroyed 738,000 homes and 25-30 SBC churches, and more than 30 pastors’ homes.

But despite recovery efforts by faith-based, private and government entities, some homeowners remain displaced or live in storm-damaged homes, the pastors said. And, according to an Aug. 23 *Houston Chronicle* report, residents await repairs despite the \$2.5 billion U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recovery funds granted to Houston and Harris County.

## Hope deferred?

“As I drive our community, I pass many homes still being rebuilt, RVs that are still temporary homes, and many mobile homes that have taken the place of lost or damaged houses,” said Hathaway, who is pastor of LaBelle Baptist Church in Beaumont. “I would say that recovery has come a long way but families and businesses in our area are still working to rebuild.”

About 80 percent of hom owners do not have flood insurance and must rely on Federal Emergency Management Administration grants to fund repairs – a resource that proves inadequate for some, Parrish said.

“The greatest hindrance has been, is, and will be governmental stagnation. The bureaucracy of any federal funding, in any program, is the hold up of distribution,” Parrish told the *TEXAN*. His field ministry area includes Harris, Montgomery, Fort Bend, Brazoria, Galveston and Liberty counties.

The government should not bear all the blame, Parrish said. After conferring with Southern Baptist associational mission strategists in



Rockport homeowner Sharon Sanders surveys destruction of her trailer.

File photo by Jane Rodgers/TEXAN

his region, Parrish said some churches remain closed or are in disrepair due to litigation over insurance settlements and other church-specific reasons.

Some homeowners, Parrish noted, may have misused funds or taken advantage of free assistance while others take their insurance companies to court over compensation disputes. Others had their property condemned because it lies within a flood plain.

The empty lots remind residents of Harvey’s trespasses and mark boundaries future storms might cross.

“The emotional toll [Harvey] took on families, marriages, and senior adults was devastating in some cases,” Hathaway said. “Many have recovered and some did not.”

But Christian faith has been a key factor in recovery he said. Families who “lost everything” and could not afford repairs relied on their faith and “the Christian family” to sustain them, said Hathaway.

“I am finding that same story repeated as I talk to other pastors in our area,” he said.

## Establishing a plan

Returning to a pre-Harvey status quo is not an option, the pastors said. SBTC churches must prepare to effectively respond before and after a natural disaster. Doing so could mitigate damage and expedite recovery efforts.

But when asked if a partnership between the government – with its billions of dollars in post-Harvey grants – and SBC disaster relief crews – with their skilled and ready volunteers – could happen in the recovery efforts, Parrish was hesitant.

“The political culture of this country and the red tape of bureaucracy will have to re-

lease the power grip on funding and provide faith-based and community-based entities the liberty to do what they have the potential to do,” said Parrish, pastor of The Church at 242, in Conroe.

But, in Hurricane Harvey’s receding waters, Hathaway may have discovered a potential partnership: Large corporations who poured “a lot of financial resources into our area” witnessed the effective work of faith-based aid organizations.

“There was trust that developed,” he said. “I think building relationships and partnerships with those agencies outside the church – for future work – could take place and could go a long way into getting financial assistance quicker.”

Parrish added, “The church must become a center of preparation and preparedness for our communities, with the Gospel at the center and the community as the concern.”

# PHOENIX

continued from page 8

right to practice their religious belief that marriage is limited to a man and a woman, according to the brief filed by the ERLC, which was joined by eight other organizations.

The Phoenix ordinance prohibits in “places of public accommodation” such as Brush & Nib Studio the refusal of service based on multiple categories, including “sexual orientation” and “gender identity or expression.” The law also bans owners from displaying on a website or by other means its unwillingness to provide services because of any of these classifications.



**MINNESOTA WISCONSIN BAPTIST CONVENTION COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GIVING**

January - August 2019

**CP Required YTD** \$366,666.67  
**CP Received YTD** \$483,176.33  
**OVER Budget YTD** \$116,509.66

NAME	CP	AA*
<b>BAY LAKES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION</b>		
Amherst, Amherst Bible Church	\$400.00	\$0.00
Appleton, Hmong Baptist Mission	\$774.73	\$88.00
Appleton, Valley	\$38,668.89	\$10,388.00
Black Creek, Community Bible	\$4,797.00	\$2,265.00
Clintonville, First Baptist Church	\$1,289.80	\$375.00
Green Bay, Graceway Fellowship	\$3,827.74	\$1,233.28
Green Bay, Highland Crest	\$70,125.05	\$1,552.98
Manitowoc, New Beginnings	\$691.58	\$0.00
Marinette, Cornerstone Fellowship	\$272.96	\$20.00
Neenah, Living Vine Church	\$1,159.84	\$1,260.00
Sheboygan, Mapledale Baptist	\$2,348.40	\$570.00
Stevens Point, Tapestry	\$500.00	\$0.00
Tilleda, Bethany Baptist Church	\$1,932.30	\$1,000.00
Waupaca, Fellowship Baptist	\$1,787.86	\$268.12
<b>BLBA TOTAL</b>	<b>\$128,576.15</b>	<b>\$19,020.38</b>

**SOUTHERN WI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

Boscobel, Ble River Valley	\$867.86	\$120.00
Janesville, Resonate Church	\$2,785.90	\$0.00
La Crosse, Crossway	\$0.00	\$789.00
La Crosse, New Hope	\$250.00	\$0.00
Madison, Antioch Fellowship	\$300.00	\$0.00
Madison, Campus Community	\$1,250.00	\$100.00
Madison, Casa De Oracion	\$21.48	\$0.00
Madison, Dosa Church	\$10,958.09	\$0.00
Madison, East Madison Baptist	\$4,865.00	\$890.00
Madison, Hope In Christ Assembly	\$1,771.42	\$0.00
Madison, Livingstone Baptist	\$581.82	\$116.00
Madison, Midvale Baptist Church	\$10,169.51	\$1,271.00
Madison, Red Village	\$7,500.00	\$0.00
Madison, Sovereign Joy Baptist	\$2,916.42	\$1,270.00
Platteville, Rolling Hills	\$2999.90	\$0.00
Portage, River of Life	\$1,858.80	\$0.00
Reedsburg, Trinity Baptist	\$11,500.00	\$9,945.46
Sparta, Gospel Baptist Church	\$2,968.77	\$1,096.00
Sun Prairie, Transformation Church	\$0.00	\$2,613.01
Sun Prairie, United Hmong	\$1,084.49	\$0.00
Waterloo, Centro Biblico La Roca	\$220.00	\$50.00
Whitehall, Mision Bautista Hispana	\$322.04	\$0.00
WI Dells, Rock of Hope	\$2,168.00	\$107.00
WI Rapids, Church at Wazeecha	\$3,011.70	\$790.00
WI Rapids, First Baptist Church	\$400.00	\$0.00
<b>SWBA TOTAL</b>	<b>\$70,771.20</b>	<b>\$22,121.47</b>

**LAKELAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

Bassett, Westosha Baptist Church	\$1,240.00	\$800.00
Brown Deer, Brown Deer Baptist	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Franklin, Emmaus Fellowship	\$600.00	\$230.00
Kenosha, Fellowship Baptist	\$16,738.18	\$6,997.95
Kenosha, Missio Dei Fellowship	\$5,624.00	\$10,844.00
Kenosha, Parkside Baptist Church	\$4,392.18	\$1,451.00
Milwaukee, Ephesians Baptist	\$2,519.50	\$881.00
Milwaukee, Grace Point Church	\$437.35	\$0.00
Milwaukee, Hmong First Baptist	\$300.00	\$212.00
Milwaukee, Iglesia Bautista Nuevo	\$361.00	\$0.00
Milwaukee, Korean Baptist Church	\$900.00	\$0.00
Milwaukee, Layton Avenue	\$10,369.67	\$2,020.00
Milwaukee, Mercy Memorial	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Milwaukee, Monumental Baptist	\$1,175.00	\$0.00
Milwaukee, Mt Horeb Baptist	\$750.00	\$0.00
Milwaukee, Mt Pilgrim Miss.	\$2,100.00	\$0.00
Mount Pleasant, Immanuel	\$8,358.74	\$1,805.01
Pewaukee, Crossroads Church	\$2,684.76	\$0.00
Pleasant Prairie, Pleasant Prairie	\$7,255.00	\$0.00
Racine, Hope Commnuity Church	\$4,377.04	\$0.00
Wauwatosa, Northwest Baptist	\$5,532.55	\$0.00
Wauwatosa, Redemption Church	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>LBA TOTAL</b>	<b>\$76,914.97</b>	<b>\$26,740.96</b>

**TWIN CITIES METRO BAPTIST ASSN.**

Albertville, Northwest Bible	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Amery, Journey Church	\$7,500.00	\$4,310.00
Bloomington, Kangnam Korean	\$850.00	\$0.00
Bloomington, Southtown Baptist	\$12,999.42	\$0.00
Brooklyn Park, Ebenezer Community	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
Brooklyn Park, North Center	\$6,820.24	\$260.00
Burnsville, Crystal Lake Road	\$1,509.00	\$350.00
Coon Rapids, First Hmong Baptist	\$1,750.00	\$0.00
Fridley, Good News Hmong	\$250.00	\$0.00
Maple Grove, Northwood Community	\$1,333.36	\$0.00
Maple Grove, Unlock Church	\$4,556.90	\$0.00
Minneapolis, All Peoples Church	\$2,880.00	\$0.00
Minneapolis, Gracepoint Minnea	\$800.00	\$0.00
Minneapolis, Hope of Nations Fellowship	\$281.75	\$351.00
Minneapolis, Jacob's Well	\$2,577.20	\$0.00
Minneapolis, Jubilee	\$4,000.00	\$0.00
Minneapolis, Risen Church	\$1,823.69	\$0.00
Monticello, First Baptist Church	\$897.38	\$390.00
New Prague, Calvary Church	\$17,270.67	\$0.00
Northfield, Northfield Community	\$13,580.34	\$0.00
Oakdale, Eternal Life Hmong	\$500.00	\$25.00
Roseville, Gospel Hmong	\$607.72	\$0.00
Roseville, Roseville Baptist	\$7,000.00	\$2,717.25
Shakopee, River South Bible	\$496.16	\$0.00
St. Louis Park, First Ukrainian Ev	\$0.00	\$428.00
St. Paul, Eternal Life Hmong	\$1,344.00	\$0.00
St. Paul, Followers Of Christ Hmong	\$6,896.38	\$613.00
St. Paul, Iglesia Hispana Betel	\$850.00	\$300.00
St. Paul, Twin City Hmong	\$1,575.00	\$610.00
Sunfish Lake, Bethel Baptist	\$5,400.00	\$482.00
Sunfish Lake, Vietnamese Baptist	\$420.00	\$0.00
<b>TCMBA TOTAL</b>	<b>\$137,404.93</b>	<b>\$11,197.25</b>

**NORTHWOODS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

Bemidji, Ridgewood Baptist Church	\$253.42	\$0.00
Badger, Badger Baptist Church	\$891.29	\$120.00
Brainerd, Ch on the Wise Rd	\$2,508.00	\$540.00
Cambridge, Cross Pointe Church	\$1,750.00	\$954.00
Crookston, Prairie Community	\$3,678.85	\$55.95
Ely, Berean Baptist	\$560.00	\$0.00
Grand Rapids, Calvary Pines	\$69.79	\$0.00
Pequot Lakes, Eagles Nest	\$2,692.04	\$0.00
Rice Lake, Hope Baptist Church	\$1,753.41	\$0.00
Roseau, Immanuel Baptist Church	\$2,270.46	\$385.00
Superior, Lake Point Church	\$0.00	\$0.00
Thief River Falls, Cornerstone	\$1,453.30	\$175.00
Wadena, Grace Connection	\$368.00	\$0.00
Warroad, Westside Baptist	\$70.00	\$0.00
<b>NWBA TOTAL</b>	<b>\$22,865.56</b>	<b>\$4,140.45</b>

**SOUTHERN MN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

Austin, Austin Baptist Church	\$720.00	\$0.00
Austin, Primera Iglesia Bautista	\$1,570.72	\$0.00
Chester, Chester Woods Community	\$1,718.71	\$530.00
Eyota, Hmong Baptist Church	\$1,590.25	\$445.00
Mankato, Hope Baptist Church	\$1,458.20	\$0.00
Marshall, Radiant Life Church	\$3,022.29	\$160.00
Red Wing, Hiawatha Valley Baptist	\$0.00	\$710.00
Rochester, Emmanuel Baptist	\$12,555.02	\$1,650.00
Rochester, Joyful Hope Baptist	\$200.00	\$0.00
Rochester, Redemption City	\$5,785.93	\$0.00
Sartell, Park Fellowship	\$3,295.76	\$0.00
Viola, Viola Bible Church	\$2,548.80	\$430.00
Willmar, Grace Baptist Church	\$75.00	\$0.00
Winona, Cornerstone Community	\$3,244.01	\$1,744.28
<b>SMNBA</b>	<b>\$37,784.69</b>	<b>\$5,669.28</b>

**OTHER**

Eau Claire, Jacob's Well	\$6,250.00	\$0.00
Eau Claire, One in Christ Church	\$1,108.83	\$436.00
Grantsburg, Living Hope Church	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
<b>OTHER TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,858.83</b>	<b>\$436.00</b>

**MWBC TOTAL RECEIVED** \$483,176.33 \$89,325.79

NOTE: No giving has been received from MWBC-affiliated churches not listed above.

\* 2019 Annie Armstrong Totals Reflect Receipts May 1, 2018 - April 30, 2019



# Gospel Games

*"An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules."*

2 Timothy 2:5 (CSB)

## Whose child is it?

**"THEN THE OTHER WOMAN SAID, 'NO! BUT THE LIVING ONE IS MY SON, AND THE DEAD ONE IS YOUR SON.' AND THE FIRST WOMAN SAID, 'NO! BUT THE DEAD ONE IS YOUR SON, AND THE LIVING ONE IS MY SON.' THUS THEY SPOKE BEFORE THE KING." 1 KINGS 4:22**

**King Solomon needed wisdom to determine which woman was telling the truth. Color the picture and read 2 Kings 4:16-27 to discover Solomon's solution.**

*GP/MS*



### Across

1. Hook on a pole
5. "\_\_\_ of the leaven of the Pharisees" (Mark 8:15)
7. Marsh
8. Hawaiian isle (abbr.)
10. Swiss river
11. "The \_\_\_ pot is for silver" (Proverbs 17:3)
13. Father of Bezaleel (Exodus 35:30)
14. Common contraction
15. "\_\_\_ I will bring one plague more" (Exodus 11:1)
17. "he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a \_\_\_ stone" (Revelation 4:3)
19. "they laughed them to \_\_\_ and mocked them" (2 Chronicles 30:10)
21. Judah's firstborn

(Genesis 38)

22. Superlative ending
23. Japanese drama
24. One (Scot.)
25. Mother of Isaac
27. Country between Israel and Judah
29. Not yet a state (abbr.)
30. Final outcome
31. Football theft (abbr.)
32. "And Solomon had forty thousand \_\_\_ of horses" (1 Kings 4:26)
34. \_\_\_ Alamos
35. "They should \_\_\_ the furnace" (Daniel 3:19)
36. Opera company, informally
37. "And they shall \_\_\_ him in an hundred shekels of silver" (Deuteronomy 22:19)
39. Another name for Esau (Genesis 25)

### Down

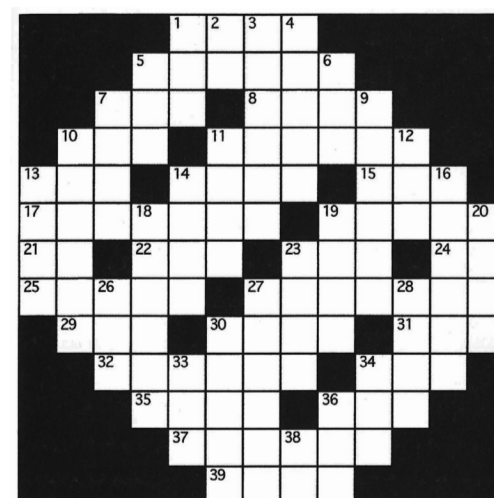
1. Bible bk. with 50 chapters
2. Word of disgust
3. "not a \_\_\_ of bread... but of hearing the words of the Lord" (Amos 8:11)
4. Where the battle rages
5. Atlantic isle (abbr.)
6. He took Samuel under his wing
7. "she was a woman of a \_\_\_ countenance" (2 Samuel 14:27)
9. A sweet spice mentioned in Exodus 30
10. Mountain in E. Turkey
11. Baptismal basin
12. Earth (comb. form)
13. "learn to maintain good works for necessary \_\_\_" (Titus 3:14)
14. "Bring a \_\_\_ to share"

(church supper request?)

16. Teachers
18. "there should be great \_\_\_ throughout all the world" (Acts 11:28)
19. A few
20. Tidy
23. Acrobats from India
26. Grad student's task
27. "For every one shall be \_\_\_ with fire" (Mark 9:49)
28. "faithful children not accused of \_\_\_ or unruly" (Titus 1:6)
30. "the angel of the Lord ascended in the \_\_\_ of the altar" (Judges 13:20)
33. Candlenut tree fiber
34. Actress Merriwether
36. 1900, to Tiberias
38. Artificial language

Crossword by  
Barbour Publishing, Inc.

## Minnesota- Wisconsin Baptist Crossword puzzle



Crossword answer, page 5



# State Missions Offering

Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention



## Leadership

Rural Church Planting

Leadership Development

Discover Develop Deploy

## Missions

Disaster Relief

Hands of Hope

SEA Harvest (SE Asia)

## Care

Ministry Families

Pastoral Emergencies

Pastors and Wives Retreat

*Give through your church or give online at [www.mwbc.org](http://www.mwbc.org).*