

Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist

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Empower speakers: Seek intimacy with God

By David Williams
Editor

WISCONSIN DELLS, Wis. – Speakers at this year's Empower conference sounded a constant theme: being all that God wants us to be requires a moment by moment dependence upon God.

They applied that principle to churches, to pastors and to every believer as they drilled down on the theme of "Living from the Overflow: Serving Out of Your Intimacy With God."

A total of 130 gathered at Great Wolf Lodge in Wisconsin Dells, Wis., Mar. 12-13 for the annual event sponsored by the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention. Another 200 viewed each plenary session via simulcast on Face-



Roy Watson, left, pastor of Monumental Missionary Baptist Church in Milwaukee, presents cheeseheads in appreciation to Empower guests Johnny Hunt, senior vice president of evangelism and leadership for the North American Mission Board, and Chris Lee, NAMB's evangelism and leadership operations manager.

book.

"Attendees expressed gratitude for having an in-person

meeting while honoring the COVID-19 restrictions," said Clint Calvert, MWBC church leadership catalyst. "Church leaders enjoyed reconnecting with people they had not seen in some time due to the pandemic. One of the best features of Empower is the fellowship between churches and it was great to return to some shared time together."

Last year's Empower conference was canceled at the last minute, one of the earliest casu-

alties of the COVID-19 pandemic that changed plans for everyone all around the world for an entire year.

"You may have been surprised" by the health crisis that swept the world, said Richard Blackaby, president of Blackaby Ministries International, but "God has known since the beginning of time that 2020 was going to be a rough year."

The conference theme was taken from

State execs declare support for SBC's Vision 2025

FT. WORTH, Texas – State convention executives unanimously voted support for Vision 2025, a five-year plan that the Southern Baptist Convention executive committee will recommend to messengers at the SBC annual meeting June 9-10 in Nashville, Tenn.

The state leaders were in their annual meeting Feb. 8-11 at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary when they approved what they called "A Unified Statement on Cooperative Identity and Support for Vision 2025."

The SBC Executive Directors Fellowship

has been led this year by Leo Endel, executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

In his address to the group, Endel called attention to "things that are pulling us apart" in the SBC, giving a long

See **VISION** page 7

See **EMPOWER** page 11

National WMU introduces Missions Journey: Kids

By WMU
Communications

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Beginning this fall, children's leaders will have a new curriculum option for children's discipleship that is flexible enough to fit just about any setting.

"Focusing on missions work both here in the U.S. and throughout the world, Missions Journey: Kids will captivate your children's minds and hearts as they immerse themselves in a new culture each month and learn about the different avenues missionaries use to share the Gospel with the nations," said Robin McCall, content and marketing manager, national WMU.

Missions Journey: Kids is for any children's group in grades 1–6, including Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors, or Children in Action missions discipleship groups. With a balanced blend of missions discipleship and Bible study, it can also be used in discipleship classes, children's church, or by Christian schools who wish to add missions discipleship to their existing programming.

"Missions Journey: Kids is a bold step into the future of missions discipleship," said Zachariah Seanor, children's ministry consultant and editor, national

WMU. "We are so excited to see how God will use this material to foster a love of missions in the hearts and minds of children for generations to come."

According to McCall, Missions Journey: Kids was created directly in response to requests from churches and missions discipleship leaders throughout the Southern Baptist Convention who asked for more robust Bible study and in-depth mission studies delivered in a simplified format.

"Written with every church in mind, Missions Journey: Kids gives leaders flexibility to create missions discipleship experiences tailored to fit their needs," she said. "Leaders can easily adapt every lesson to fit their context, whether their group is large or small, or if they lead girls, boys, or a coed group."

Every weekly session will include targeted tips for teaching missions study and discipleship, Scripture memory and application, and suggestions for customizing the session. Every monthly unit will also include suggestions for missions projects and bonus activities leaders can choose to meet the unique needs of their children's group.

The Missions Jour-



ney: Kids curriculum includes three quarterly pieces:

- Missions Journey: Kids Leader offers comprehensive plans for each session, teaching tips, bonus activities, ideas for earning badges and patches, suggestions for missions projects, and tips to help leaders create engaging experiences for children. It is available in a print or digital format.

- Missions Journey: Kids Leader Kit contains colorful posters, games, and activities to enhance weekly sessions.

- Missions Journey: Kids Adventure is a

colorful magazine that will bring missions learning to life for children.

As both a curriculum writer and missions leader, Claudean Boatman said although the new curriculum takes longer to create with so many activities, working on it was more fun and targeted.

"This curriculum puts less stress on the leaders to prepare while at the same time empowering them more to adapt and choose what's best for their groups," she observed. "It's a great balance. Being a part of the inaugu-

ral issue of Missions Journey: Kids was fun, challenging, and made me remember why I enjoy writing and teaching missions curriculum."

While the Missions Journey: Kids curriculum replaces the current curriculum for Girls in Action (GA), Royal Ambassadors (RA), and Children in Action (CA), resources for these missions groups will continue.

"Missions Journey: Kids is a one-stop shop for every missions group," McCall explained. "Each month, leaders will

See **ADVENTURE** page 6

Do you have a COVID exit plan?

George Patton is credited with the saying, “A good plan today is better than a perfect plan tomorrow.”

First, I have never seen a perfect plan, but many times the pursuit of a perfect plan, or the lack of pursuit for any plan, results in missed opportunities!

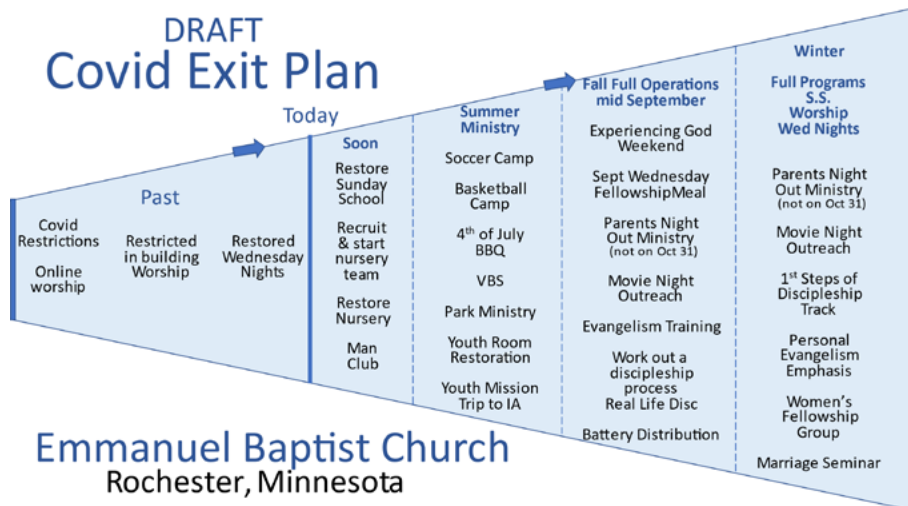
I wish I had a mega-

phone (note the shape of the diagram) to shout out to all our churches:

please put together a COVID Exit Plan to reengage ministry this fall. This fall allows us to hit a reset button of new ideas and to

engage our communities that are longing for human relationships.

Recently, Emmanuel’s elders have prayed through and worked through a process where we have asked ourselves what the Bible tells us the early church did (this pro-



Perspectives

Leo Endel

The Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist:

- The state paper and official publication of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

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

- A digital only publication, the PDF emailed free to all who subscribe and posted on MWBC's website and Facebook page.

- Formatted for letter size paper for those who want to print a copy.

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A prescription for living a useful life

When I was growing up, my father would occasionally put his hand on my shoulder, grin at me with his deep dimpled smile and say, “You’re as handy as a pocket on a shirt.”

My father never went to college. He spent his career with Southwestern Bell who sent him to tech school where he learned electronics and tracked the latest technology of his day, from vacuum tubes to transistors. He died of cancer

of the bone marrow when he was 53, just as fiber optics and the microchip were being developed and years before the internet and cell phones. He was a blue-collar worker who grew up in the 1930s

and married my mother in 1941.

In his world, few things were as useful as a “pocket on a shirt.” He carried his pens in his shirt pocket and a pack of Camel cigarettes, which was common for his generation. When he told me

that I was handy as a “pocket on a shirt,” he was giving me a high compliment for being useful.

Over the years I have learned the value of that compliment. Few things are as important in life as being useful. We all want to know that our lives matter, that we count.

Even King David worried about becoming useless in his old age. After all of his accomplishments, he turned his eyes to heaven and made this plea: “But don’t turn me out to pasture when I’m old or put me on the shelf when I can’t pull my weight” (Psalm 71:9, The Message).

(2) What adjustments need to be made in our church to more effectively fulfill these five functions?

The diagram summarizes where we have recently been (left

See EXIT page 5



Reflections

Bill Tinsley

One of Paul’s greatest desires was to live life in such a way that he was considered useful to others. To this end, he compared himself to an athlete who endures the rigors necessary for victory. “Therefore I run in such a way as not to run aimlessly; I box in such a way, as to avoid hitting air; but I strictly discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified,” (1 Corinthians 9:26-27).

Peter gave us the prescription for living

See USEFUL page 6

IMB church connection strategy

The International Mission Board has a new strategy to connect all missionaries on the field with local churches.

This process involves 3600+ missionaries and 47,000+ Southern Baptist churches.

Every missionary on the field will have a portfolio of about 20 churches. As of Apr. 5, 2021, 50 percent of field personnel have been assigned to churches. The goal is to reach 100 percent in the next 12 months.

What does this mean for your church?

You can expect a

missionary to reach out to your church via email, phone call, letter, or maybe even a visit in the next couple of months.

Terry Sharp, convention and network relations

leader at the IMB, says, "Our desire is to reconnect to our churches, pray with our pastors, find ways to serve them in the Great Commission, and share what God is doing among the nations."

Research from the Barna Group suggests that churchgoers tend to pray more for missions, give more to missions, and actually

go on missions if they know a missionary personally.

My prayer is that this new church connection strategy will inspire the next generation of missionaries to serve on the international mission field. The IMB wants to raise up 500 new missionaries by 2025. I am praying that our state convention will be able to contribute at least 10 missionaries to that number. Though we are not a large convention, we can still make a great impact through our collective effort with others in the Southern Baptist Convention.

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



Intercultural
Na Herr

God in any language

In a dictionary, "God" is defined as the supreme being; the creator and preserver of the world; an object of worship.

For Christ-followers God is known as the Heavenly Father, the giver of life, merciful one, and grace giver. He is the omniscient one, omnipresent, omnipotent, and omnibenevolent.



Partnership and Prayer
Steve Melvin

The Westminster Shorter Catechism's definition of God is an enumeration of his attributes: "God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth."

In monotheism, belief is in the existence of one God, or in the oneness of God. In polytheism, there are many gods. In pantheism, God is the universe itself.

Other religions have names for their god, such as Allah (Muslim), Brahman (Hinduism), Baha (Baha'i), Waheguru (Sikhism), and Ahura Mazda (Zoroastrianism).

In English we say "God," in Spanish "Dios," in German "Gott," in Chinese "Tian-zhu." Hmong say "Vajtswv," Norwegians and Swedes say "Gud," and Sudanese say "Apedmak."

"God," in any language, no matter what name by which He is known, is alive and well in our world today. In the midst of the chaos of our day, God is actively at work. When things around us look the bleakest, God is there. In the joys and in the sorrows, God is close by. When we call to him, he is readily available.

Philip Yancy has written, "It occurred to me one day that though I often worry about whether or not I sense the presence of God, I give little thought to whether God senses the presence of me."

In these eventful days, spend some time in God's presence often.

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

Leading with courage and compassion

Are you leading how God expects?

Leaders not only have an intuition and awareness of a variety of issues among those they lead, but they also have the courage and compassion to address them.

This leadership combo-quality runs on a spectrum from proactive to reactive. The leader must have a tried

and trusted intuition that creates an awareness of potential issues that they can courageously lean into in such a way that deals with many of the issues around them proactively, so that they are not constantly reacting to festering issues.

Leading proactively takes a level of courage and compassion that differs from reactive leadership because most the lead-

er's preemptive actions are based on intuition, possibilities, patterns, and experience.

A good and growing leader will progressively lead more proactively.

When a leader isn't leading proactively, there are generally a few reasons: they can't recognize potential issues but would address them if they did; they do recognize potential issues but haven't developed the trust and experience in their own abilities; or they do recognize potential issues but do not address them



Church Planting
Joshua Whetstine

Plan now to get 'EQUIP'ped this fall

Adults preparing for ministry can earn graduate or undergraduate credit while studying in their church through participation with The EQUIP Network.



Leadership
Clint Calvert

The EQUIP Network is part of the distance learning office of the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

According to SEBTS, "The EQUIP Network weds the seminary experience with real life ministry opportunities to provide students with the most integrative ministry training available. Students can fulfill their remaining degree requirements at SEBTS through integrative online, hybrid and/or campus-based classes."

EQUIP courses enable ministry leaders to provide theological training to credit seeking students as well as non-credit seeking staff, deacons, small group leaders, and lay

people. Ministry leaders have the opportunity to add theological and practical depth to their discipleship ministries in order to multiply robust disciples of Jesus who seek to maximize their role in the Great Commission.

EQUIP courses are offered every spring, summer, and fall semester. EQUIP courses can be applied to degree programs at SEBTS. The Master of Arts in Christian Ministry [Mentored] (49 hours) can be earned with 24 credit hours taken in EQUIP courses and 25 credit hours taken in online courses with SEBTS.

This fall, two EQUIP courses are being offered in the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention. The first course is a Mentored Internship in Pastoral Ministry which includes experience in ministry internship

through the participant's local church or ministry organization with an approved mentor.

The second course is Bible Exposition I: Hermeneutics and Preparation Practicum. This course is a basic introduction to Bible exposition in a practicum setting for vocational ministers with an emphasis on the teaching and preaching of Scripture based on the intended meaning

of biblical texts. The course includes an introduction to hermeneutical principles necessary for arriving at the Holy Spirit's intended meaning of a given passage and then developing that meaning into engaging sermons and Bible lessons.

The courses meet via Zoom this Fall on Saturday mornings from 10 am to noon. Students who desire graduate credit need to apply to become a student at

SEBTS. Students may also take the courses without credit for lifelong learning and ministry skill development. The deadline for course registration is July 22, 2021. Please contact Clint Calvert at calvert@mwbc.org or (507) 254-0237 for more information.

Clint Calvert is church leadership catalyst for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

LEADING

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with courage and compassion, so these issues end up becoming issues they must react to only because they are forced to. The later example is one of the most untrustworthy forms of leadership, marked by laziness and fear.

Joshua 7 gives a working example into addressing issues with courage and compassion. The Israelites go into a battle with Ai that should have been no problem. They end up losing 35 righteous

men. They are discouraged and confused, and so is Joshua, until God reveals the issue. Joshua must address the issue with courage and compassion. While the story of Achan is often cataloged as tragic, it could have been much worse. Joshua could have ignored the issue and lost more men.

Joshua could have addressed the issue while offering no repentance to Achan. Achan commits what the Israelites would have understood to be a religious war sin, which would have been met with, as we

see, severe punishment, but not before the guilty party had the opportunity to openly confess and repent, which Achan does. This was no doubt a painful and complex issue which began with Joshua stepping forward in leadership compassionately and courageously.

Are you leading like God expects?

Joshua Whetstone is church planting field director for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

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EXIT

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of the solid vertical arrow) and gives us a preliminary plan for our next nine to ten months. It is not a perfect plan, and it is likely we won't get it all done, but the prayers and the process are pulling us forward

into more effective ministry.

At Emmanuel, as we exit this COVID-19 era, we believe we need to address these things:

- We believe people are hungry for fellowship opportunities, so we have planned opportunities to bring the church and the community together.

The Gospel is most often shared through relationships.

- We believe our congregation needs help to express the gospel to a post-Christian generation, so we are planning contextualized evangelism training.

- We believe we need a stronger, more intentional process of discipleship that extends

into leadership development, so we are exploring tools to help us.

- We believe Jesus wants to build His church in and through us.

- We believe Emmanuel's best days still lie ahead of us.

I am praying that your church will pray through and plan how you will approach this

fall's return to ministry. I believe you will have a brief window of opportunity to connect with your community; I pray you and your church will be ready.

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

Back to the beginning

Good news from the associations

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

Grace City Church launched Apr. 4 in Rochester, meeting in the home of one of the co-pastors, Patrick and Tabitha Porras and Joe and Martha Zayas. They are looking for a meeting space as soon as possible because the house is not large enough for many more than the core group.

NORTHWOODS

Eagles Nest Church in Breezy Point is experiencing rapid growth and a new addition is being talked about. Zach and Becky Broom provide leadership for the church.

The Church on Wise Road in Brainerd has been praying two years for one more child and the Lord has answered that prayer with a little girl now attending.

TWIN CITIES

God is answering prayer at Redeemer Church in Roseville in the following ways: babies being born to church families (five in five months), teaching and training new parents, sustained health through the pandemic, no significant financial issues, no lost jobs, the start of a leadership training track, a membership meeting scheduled, and a good meeting place. Dan and Natika Nichols are the church planters.

Pastor Bryan Blazosky tells that Richfield Bible Church has had a good and stable year despite the pandemic. God is doing a good work among the church families and new members are joining regularly.

The congregation continues to be financially strong. Recently a building was purchased and is being renovated with anticipated occupancy in May.

Vertical Church in St. Paul had an installation service for new members in February that included 60 people who made 12 covenant commitments as church members. More new members were added at installation services in March and April. Since occupying their new building Mar. 7, the church has averaged more than 200 in worship with visitors each week.

SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

SWBA has a new partnership with the Baptist Campus Min-

istry of Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Ind. Chad Wilkin, director of the campus ministry, was special guest at SWBA's executive team meeting in April. A student from that school will serve this summer with Immanuel Baptist Church in Racine and the partnership is expected to bring more student summer missionaries to the area in the future.

More than 70 church planters and team members from all over Wisconsin attended the SEND Network Gathering Mar. 17 at Doga Church in Madison.

LAKELAND

Matt Miller, pastor of Missio Dei Fellowship in South Milwaukee, reports that the church was able to purchase a building earlier this year and five people were baptized on Easter Sunday.

faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21).

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.

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Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist

ADVENTURE

continued from page two

find suggestions for extra activities for GA, RA, and CA, ideas for earning badges and patches, tips for working through individualized achievement plans, and more. We will also continue to create and carry special resources for GA, RA, and CA, including badges and patches, achievement plans, and identity items."

The premiere edi-

tion of Missions Journey: Kids curriculum will release in Fall 2021 (Sep/Oct/Nov) for the church year 2021-22, and fall materials will be in churches by August 2021. Subscriptions are available for order now at wmustore.com or by calling WMU Customer Relations at 800-968-7301.

For more information or to download a free sample unit, visit wmu.com/MissionsJourneyKids.

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USEFUL

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a useful life regardless of our profession or circumstances. "Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are yours

and are increasing, they do not make you useless nor unproductive in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:5-8).

A useful and productive life is not determined by our length of days on the earth, or the extent of our fame and fortune. Each of us can live a useful and fruitful life when we pursue the qualities outlined by Peter with the discipline described by the Apostle Paul. If we do this, some day we will see the smiling face of God and hear his words, "Well done, my good and

VISION

continued from page one

list including issues as diverse as “our pride and arrogance,” generational, regional, and political differences; “theological tribalism;” tensions between SBC entities and state conventions; and social media.

“In the past, Southern Baptists’ commitment to the Great Commission through the Cooperative Program held us together,” he said, but that commitment is in jeopardy because of the many things dividing Southern Baptists. “We must put away pettiness and work together for the cause of Christ or our interdependent system will decline.”

Vision 2025, proposed by Ronnie Floyd, president of the SBC executive committee, lists five strategic goals to be reached by 2025:

- 500 more “full-time, fully funded missionaries” employed by the International Mission Board, bringing the total to 4,200.
- 6,000 new SBC churches, bringing the total to 50,000.
- A new emphasis on “calling out the called” and preparing more to be “workers in the field.”
- Reverse the current decline in reaching, baptizing and discipling youth (12-17 year olds).
- Increase Cooperative Program giving to more than \$500 million a year.

After affirming the five goals of Vision 2025, the state executive directors’ statement con-

tinued:

“We further affirm our cooperative identity as Southern Baptists, rooted in: (1) A high view of Scripture; (2) Baptist belief, as summarized in The Baptist Faith & Message 2000; (3) Commitment to the Great Commission; (4) Commitment to cooperation, exemplified in Cooperative Program giving.

“Believing with our whole hearts that, as SBC Executive Committee President Ronnie Floyd has stated, ‘We need to come home to Great Commission cooperation,’ we as co-operating, servant leaders commit ourselves to a Christ-exalting

unity for the sake of the Great Commission. We pledge ourselves to promote, advance,

and pursue Vision 2025 together within the context of our churches, associations, states, and

entities, for the glory of God.”

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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.

MAY

21 New Pastor Orientation – Rochester, Minn.

31 Memorial Day Observed – **MWBC Office Closed**

JUNE

13-16 Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, Tenn.

Hands of Hope - TBD

30 MWBC Annie Armstrong Offering Cutoff

JULY

5 Independence Day Holiday Observance – **MWBC Office Closed**

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

1-30 Season of Prayer for State Missions

6 Labor Day – **MWBC Office Closed**

17-18 MWBC Executive Board, Rochester, Minn.

OCTOBER

1-3 Called Out Youth Conference, Baraboo Wis.

21 Annual Church Planter Forum – Ebenezer Community Church, Brooklyn Park, Minn.

22 Pastors Conference – Ebenezer Community Church, Brooklyn Park, Minn.

22-23 MWBC Annual Meeting, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Brooklyn Park, Minn.

NOVEMBER

6 SWBA Annual Meeting, Trinity Baptist, Reedsburg, Wis.

25/26 Thanksgiving Holiday – **MWBC Office Closed**

28-12/4 Week of Prayer and Mission Study for International Missions/Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

DECEMBER

24-1/1 Christmas/New Year’s Holiday – **MWBC Office Closed**



Grace Baptist Church in Willmar, Minn., raised funds last year for construction of this church building in a village in Burma. Pastor Ron Snyder says a Grace Karen deacon grew up in that same village and was there in December 2019 for six weeks sharing the gospel, but COVID kept him from going back this winter for the church dedication ceremony.

Empower 2021



"You are not defined by your past," Richard Blackaby says. "As a Christian you are defined by your future, what God is going to do through you."



"Someday the sun will set on our ministry," Johnny Hunt says. "I want to do now what I'll be glad I did then."



"What is the purpose of the church?" Leo Endel asks. "Anything that doesn't include the Great Commission misses the point."



Na Herr, MWBC intercultural catalyst, leads a breakout session on *Becoming a Missionary*.

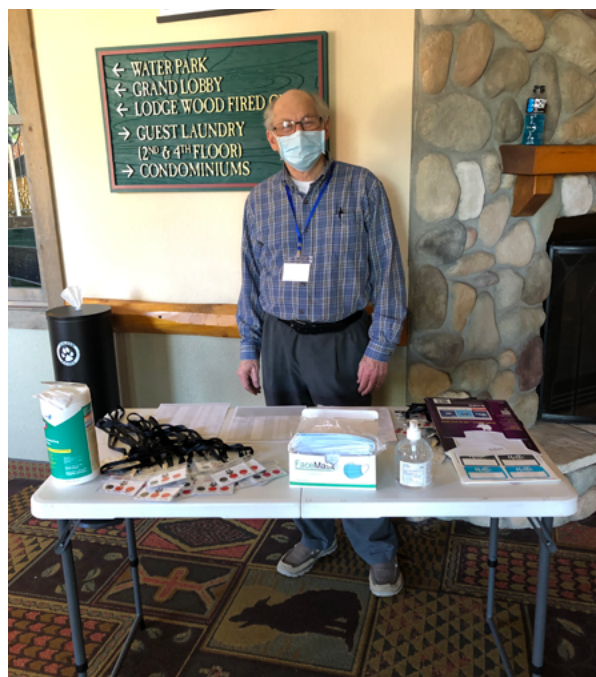


Behind the scenes technicians make sure sound and videos work right at Empower, especially challenging this year because of the live streaming of the main sessions to other rooms.

Empower 2021



During one of the break out sessions, attendees learn the motions to the theme song of this year's LifeWay Vacation Bible School, Destination Dig.



Bob Smith, MWBC student ministries catalyst, opens up Empower registration at the Great Wolf Lodge in Wisconsin Dells, Wis.



Taking time to mingle and fellowship with Baptist friends from near and far is always an important part of the Empower conference.

Mission Gifts from the Churches

MINNESOTA WISCONSIN BAPTIST CONVENTION COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GIVING

January - April 2021

CP YTD Budget	\$205,122.00
CP YTD Receipts	\$222,137.15
OVER Budget YTD	\$17,015.15

NAME CP

BAY LAKES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Appleton, Fox Valley Hmong	\$180.00
Appleton, Valley	\$15,598.25
Black Creek, Community Bible	\$2,615.00
Clintonville, First Baptist	\$642.15
Green Bay, Bethel	\$333.32
Green Bay, Graceway Fellowship	\$2,864.18
Green Bay, Highland Crest	\$23,660.42
Manitowoc, New Beginnings	\$457.40
Neenah, Living Vine	\$150.00
Sheboygan, Mapledale Baptist	\$921.56
Stevens Point, Tapestry	\$300.00
Tilleda, Bethany Baptist	\$893.70
Waupaca, Fellowship Baptist	\$948.91
BLBA TOTAL	\$49,564.89

SOUTHERN WI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Boscobel, Blue River Valley	\$218.34
Ft. Atkinson, Casa de Oracion	\$30.00
Janesville, Resonate	\$512.00
Madison, Campus Community	\$600.00
Madison, Doxa Church	\$18,927.15
Madison, East Madison Baptist	\$1,969.00
Madison, Hope In Christ	\$347.14
Madison, Livingstone Baptist	\$746.00
Madison, Midvale Baptist	\$5,822.82
Madison, Red Village	\$2,500.00
Madison, Shalom Christian	\$50.00
Madison, Sovereign Joy Baptist	\$2,294.99
Platteville, Rolling Hills	\$2,490.86
Reedsburg, Trinity Baptist	\$5,750.00
Sparta, Gospel Baptist	\$1,200.43
Sun Prairie, United Hmong	\$300.00
Waterloo, Cornerstone	\$600.00
WI Dells, Rock of Hope	\$800.00
WI Rapids, First Baptist	\$150.00
SWBA TOTAL	\$45,308.73

SOUTHERN MN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Austin, Austin Baptist Church	\$1,074.80
Austin, Primera Iglesia Bautista	\$527.90
Chester, Chester Woods Commu	\$384.00
Eyota, Hmong Baptist Church	\$532.00
Marshall, Radiant Life Church	\$919.17
Red Wing, Hiawatha Valley Bapti	\$3,445.20
Rochester, Emmanuel Baptist Ch	\$6,827.09
Rochester, Redemption City	\$6,660.23
Sartell, Park Fellowship	\$2,206.44
Viola, Viola Bible Church	\$1,138.80
Willmar, Grace Baptist Church	\$25.00
Winona, Cornerstone Community	\$1,462.20
SMNBA TOTAL	\$25,202.83

TWIN CITIES METRO BAPTIST ASSN.

Amery, Journey	\$5,000.00
Bloomington, MN Kangnam	\$500.00
Bloomington, Southtown Baptist	\$6,847.52
Bloomington, True Light Chinese	\$200.00
Brooklyn Park, Ebenezer	\$1,300.00
Brooklyn Park, North Center	\$1,135.06
Fridley, Good News Hmong	\$500.00
Maple Grove, Northwood	\$666.68
Maple Grove, Unlock Church	\$400.00
Minneapolis, All Peoples Church	\$2,160.00
Minneapolis, Gracepoint	\$300.00
Minneapolis, Hope of Nations	\$283.41
Minneapolis, New Hope Baptist	\$250.00
Minneapolis, Shalom Community	\$746.31
Monticello, Grace Bible	\$900.00
New Prague, Calvary	\$8,487.43
Oakdale, Eternal Life Hmong	\$504.00
Ramsey, Bethlehem Worship	\$100.00
Roseville, Roseville Baptist	\$5,000.00
St. Louis Park, First Ukrainian	\$250.00
St. Michael, Northwest Bible	\$4,000.00
St. Paul, Cities Church	\$5,000.00
St. Paul, Followers Of Christ	\$1,601.77
St. Paul, Iglesia Hispana Betel	\$500.00
St. Paul, Salt City	\$10,650.00
St. Paul, Twin City Hmong	\$668.00
Sunfish Lake, Bethel Baptist	\$2,400.00
Sunfish Lake, Vietnamese Baptis	\$180.00
White Bear Lake, Emmaus	\$1,300.00
TCMBA TOTAL	\$61,830.18

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LAKELAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Bassett, Westosha Baptist	\$398.00
Franklin, Emmaus Fellowship	\$600.00
Kenosha, Fellowship Baptist	\$3,406.46
Kenosha, Missio Dei Fellowship	\$3,402.00
Kenosha, Parkside Baptist	\$2,206.09
Mequon, Westlake	\$200.00
Milwaukee, Ephesians Baptist	\$1,200.00
Milwaukee, Family of Christ	\$50.00
Milwaukee, Iglesia Bautista	\$120.20
Milwaukee, Korean Baptist	\$900.00
Milwaukee, Layton Avenue	\$3,946.40
Milwaukee, Mercy Memorial	\$350.00
Milwaukee, Milwaukee Arabic	\$54.91
Milwaukee, Monumental Baptist	\$495.00
Milwaukee, Mt Horeb Baptist	\$250.00
Milwaukee, Mt Pilgrim Miss.	\$300.00
Milwaukee, UFlourish	\$882.64
Mount Pleasant, Immanuel	\$4,866.94
Pewaukee, Crossroads	\$1,621.95
Pleasant Prairie, Pleasant Prairie	\$2,557.00
Racine, Hope Community	\$598.44
LBA TOTAL	\$28,406.03

NORTHWOODS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Bemidji, Ridgewood Baptist	\$468.00
Cambridge, Cross Pointe	\$1,000.00
Crookston, Prairie Community	\$1,131.69
Ely, Berean Baptist	\$280.00
Grand Rapids, Calvary Pines	\$975.00
Hill City, Hill City Baptist	\$300.00
Pequot Lakes, Eagles Nest	\$581.94
Rice Lake, Hope Baptist	\$1,615.00
Thief River Falls, Cornerstone	\$504.76
Wadena, Grace Connection	\$250.00
Warroad, Westside Baptist	\$1,731.60
NWBA TOTAL	\$8,837.99

OTHER

Eau Claire, Jacob's Well	\$2,550.00
Eau Claire, One in Christ	\$436.50
OTHER TOTAL	\$2,986.50

MWBC TOTAL RECEIVED

\$222,137.15

NOTE: No giving received by MWBC-affiliated churches not listed above during stated giving periods

EMPOWER

continued from page one

the title of a book written by Blackaby and a copy of the book was given to each attendee.

In the book and in his messages at Empower, Blackaby used the life of the prophet Elijah as a biblical example of someone who lived in intimacy with God. Elijah is best remembered for his confrontation of 850 false prophets on Mount Carmel when God answered Elijah's prayer to prove He was real by raining down fire from heaven to consume an altar.

"There's a lot of things in ministry that are mundane," Blackaby said, such as stacking chairs, shak-

ing hands, and passing out programs. "But it takes a miracle of God for fire to fall from heaven. I want to see somewhere in my ministry something that can only be explained by God."

Elijah was just a man from a small town called Tishba. "You can't even find it on a Bible map," Blackaby said. "Sometimes the greatest men and women of God have come from small places of little significance." Elijah's greatness grew out of his intimacy with God.

"We live in an age much like Elijah's," he said. "We live in an age that desperately needs another Elijah."

The intimacy we need takes time spent with God, said Rick

Fisher, vice president of Blackaby Ministries International.

He compared the prayer life of many in ministry to a pit stop in a fast and frantic car race.

"Have you ever felt that way about your prayer life?" he asked. Taking a brief break to check in with God before getting back onto the ministry racetrack is not good enough. "We need time with God, not just a quick pit stop."

Fisher challenged churches to be houses of prayer, making an intentional commitment that prayer would be the foundation of everything the church is about.

"One thing the church does not need today is unprayed over

opinion," he said. "One of the worst things you can do is ask your people, 'What do you think?' It doesn't matter what we think we should do. What matters is what God knows we should do."

Leo Endel, MWBC executive director, leading a break-out session based on his book "Where Do We Go From Here?", challenged churches to stop what they are doing long enough to ask God what they should be doing.

"Many churches are living a seven-day cycle, doing the same thing week after week, year after year," he said. Congregations should come together, pray, and ask God to show them what specifically He wants them

to do right now. The whole process needs ongoing prayer, he said.

"Not everything has to be 'strategic,'" he said. "Sometimes it's enough just to do a couple of tactical things that make a difference."

Johnny Hunt, senior vice president of evangelism and leadership for the North American Mission Board, spoke to the group out of 2 Timothy 1:2-6 about "some things that every pastor and spiritual leader need in their lives to go the distance."

"We need those who love us," he said. "We need intercessors. We need people praying for us. We need someone to believe in us."

Back to the beginning



For further information, please contact:

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