

Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist

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Table of Contents

- 1 MWBC Highlights
- 1 Lottie Moon Goal
- 1 Graham Tour
- 3 Leo Endel: Perspectives
- 3 Bill Tinsley: Reflections
- 4 Leadership: Clint Calvert
- 4 Intercultural: Na Herr
- 5 Hmong Baptist celebrates
- 6 Good news from the associations
- 7 Calendar of events
- 8 Ukrainain Church prays for Ukraine
- 9 Thailand mission trip
- 10 Annual Meeting photos
- 11 Annual Meeting photos
- 12 Mission Gifts from the Churches
- 13 Mission Gifts from the Churches
- 14 Lottie Moon Offering Poster

MWBC highlights relationships, honors Endel

By David Williams
Editor

Wauwatosa, Wis. – The importance of Christian relationships and partnerships was highlighted at the Oct. 21-22 annual meeting of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

Messengers emphasized the point as they honored Leo Endel, their executive director for 20 years, presenting him a wooden plaque in the shape of the two states, the inscription thanking him “for showing us for twenty years that life is all about relationships.”

The plaque given to Endel alluded to the book he wrote in 2020 during the COVID pandemic, titled “Life Is All About Relationships.” The book is centered on the theme that the most important thing in life is one’s relationship

with God and with other people.

The meeting’s theme was “So That They May Have Life,” based on John 10:10, “I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.”

The relationships and partnerships that are the hallmark of that abundant life were an underlying theme in reports presented to the messengers. Christians working

together for the advancement of

the gospel was clearly present in every area of work, including the convention’s partnership with the Missouri Baptist Convention, the disaster relief work done by MWBC in conjunction with disaster relief workers around the nation, the church leadership catalyst’s connections with seminaries and other en-

See **HIGHLIGHTS** page 2

See pages 10-11 for more
Annual Meeting photos



Daniel Goba presents a plaque to Leo Endel in honor of his 20 years as executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention. Goba, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Bloomington, Minn., was serving as second vice president during the meeting and was elected as first vice president for the coming year. Endel is wearing an African garment which was also presented to him by Goba.

Set a church goal for Lottie Moon

Has your church set a goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering?

Dec. 4-10 is the week set aside to receive the offering, although many churches promote the offering throughout the entire month of December.

Setting a churchwide goal is a good way to encourage and challenge members to support this important offering which provides half of the financial resources for Southern Baptist international mission work.

After setting a churchwide goal, write it on posters like the one provided on page 14 of this issue of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist. Place the posters throughout the church facility.

Each Sunday report progress toward reaching the goal. Celebrate when the goal is reached and encourage those who have not yet given to increase the church’s gifts for missions even farther beyond the goal.

Franklin Graham tour touches lives in Wisconsin, Minnesota

Rochester, Minn. — Several MWBC churches supported and participated in the God Loves You Tour 22 as it made its final two stops in Waukesha, Wis., and Rochester, Minn.

The six-stop tour, featuring the preaching of Franklin Graham and the music of the Newsboys, drew more than 50,000 persons where they heard a clear presentation of the gospel. The first

four stops were in Pennsylvania, Iowa and Michigan.

The Sunday afternoon outdoor event on Oct. 2 at Soldiers Memorial Field Park

See **GRAHAM** page 7



Franklin Graham preaches good news to a crowd of thousands at Soldiers Memorial Field Park in Rochester at the last stop of his six-city God Loves You Tour 22.

HIGHLIGHTS

continued from page one

tities, the Southeast Asia mission trip, and student ministry.

In his executive director's address to the convention, Endel said the importance of relationships applies to the way all the various groups in the Southern Baptist Convention work together. We are all partners in the gospel, he said, a partnership that includes proclaiming, defending and advancing the gospel.

"Several weeks ago, I saw Southern Baptists perfectly working together like a fine watch," he said. "I had been invited to preach at the First Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Church in Minneapolis and share in their Thanksgiving/Harvest worship. It was a wonderful event, but I had no idea God was going to give us a picture of how we work together. Each part of the SBC was there and all were doing their part—together!"

The synchronous working of the parts reminded him of the detail and intricacy of his grandfather's 1936 Bulova wristwatch.

"Though there are scores of parts inside the watch, all of them are essential," he said. "Take out a single part and the watch stops working."

Endel explained how many SBC organizations had worked together to impact that one church.

"In the fall, I had asked the North American Mission Board to join the MWBC in helping resource the church as they ministered to Ukrainian refugees," he said. "The Twin Cities Metro Baptist Association was also involved." In addition, the new pastor of the church is a graduate of the Ukrainian Baptist Seminary in Ukraine, which has a partnership with the International Mission Board, which also is involved in ministering to refugees from Ukraine. [See Baptist Press story on page 8.](#)

"There are scores of

things that can pull us apart, but only one thing that can unite us, the gospel of Jesus Christ!" Endel said.

The 39th annual meeting was hosted by Northwest Baptist Church in Wauwatosa, Wis.

The attendance of 175 was much higher than in recent years, with last year's meeting registering only 126 messengers and guests. This year's attendance included 90 guests and 85 messengers from 58 of the convention's 202 churches.

Messengers adopted a 2023 budget of \$1,001,376, about three percent higher than the current budget of \$968,313. MWBC will forward to the Southern Baptist Convention 36 percent of Cooperative Program receipts, the same percentage as in the current budget.

Endel reported that Cooperative Program giving from the churches this year is running ahead of budget requirements and about 10 percent above last year's giving. Of the conven-

tion's 202 churches, 126 have contributed through the Cooperative Program this year, he said.

Endel also shared that after a record state missions offering of \$97,303.50 in 2020, gifts to the offering dropped 57 percent in 2021 to \$41,842.36. "This has left us underfunded," Endel said, "especially in the area of disaster relief." In addition to disaster relief, the annual offering provides some financial support for many other areas including urban ministries, cross-cultural missions, Hands of Hope, internships, children's evangelism, Called Out Youth Camp, Woman's Missionary Union, and pastoral emergencies. He urged M-W Baptists to give generously to the state missions offering.

Messengers learned that Joshua Whetstone resigned June 1 as the NAMB/MWBC/SEND church planting field director. While Endel is working with NAMB to find his replacement, Mark Millman and

Gerardo Antivero are giving leadership to this important area.

Bob Stine, pastor of Midvale Baptist Church in Madison, Wis., was re-elected president. Daniel Goba, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Bloomington, Minn., was elected first vice president. Chris Phillips, associate pastor of children and youth at Trinity Baptist Church in Reedsburg, Wis., was elected second vice president. Phillips is also director of the MWBC Called Out Youth Conference.

Wes Shemwell, member of Midvale Baptist Church in Madison Wis., was re-elected recording secretary. Tim Amert, member of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Rochester, Minn., was elected assistant recording secretary, replacing Jim Gress who was honored at the meeting for having served ten years in that position. Gress is a member of Southtown Baptist Church in Bloomington, Minn.

No resolutions were presented by the resolutions committee.

The 2023 annual meeting will be Oct. 20-21 at Northwood Community Church in Maple Grove, Minn. Preaching the annual sermon will be Sam Choi, pastor of All Peoples Church in Minneapolis. Alternate will be Clyde Hamer, interim pastor of Layton Avenue Baptist Church in Greenfield, Wis.

The 2024 annual meeting will be at Valley Baptist Church in Appleton, Wis. Dates and preachers will be determined next year.

Back to the beginning



**YOUR GENEROSITY
TRANSFORMS LIVES.
IN 2021, 592,408 PEOPLE
HEARD THE GOSPEL
AND SAW 176,945
NEW BELIEVERS.**


**INTERNATIONAL
MISSION BOARD**

**LOTTIE
MOON**
CHRISTMAS OFFERING

What does the church need today?

What does the church need today? Last weekend I finished an audio biography on Martin Luther; yesterday I finished one on Dietrich Bonhoeffer—that's over 44 hours of driving time! Both men were great Christian leaders during turbulent and dark days. Though



Perspectives
Leo Endel

the world has changed much in 400 years, the answer to the challenge of their times was the same—the Gospel of Jesus Christ as found in the Word of God.

Luther struggled to reform the church that had lost the gospel to religion, morality, greed, power, and corruption. Bonhoeffer met the challenge of a church that had sold out to nationalism and theological liberalism. Both men found their

way back to the Bible and ultimately to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I thought it interesting that before the Reformation and in the years leading up to the second world war, there was little focus on the Bible. Of course, in the Germany of 1500, the Bible had not been translated into the language of the people. Luther would be the one to change that in 1522 when he translated the Greek New Testament into German. By the time of Bonhoeffer, German churches, as well as the mainline liberal churches he visited in the United States, were

likewise not emphasizing the reading of the Scriptures.

As overly simplified as this may sound, the gospel burst forth when the Word of God was emphasized and read by these two great men and then by people in the church.

What does the church need today? We need to intentionally read the Word of God. The gospel that saves us and transforms us is found in the reading of the Bible.

Luther, perhaps more than any other person, released the Bible to the people. He wrote of the power of the Bible, "The Bible is alive, it

speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me." "This is our greatest struggle that we must keep and hold firmly to the Word of God; for if it is taken from our hearts, we are lost."

Eric Metaxas notes that Bonhoeffer's favorite psalm was Psalm 119—all about the Word of God. He introduced the memorization and meditation of Scripture to those he mentored and trained for ministry. With the Word of God as his constant companion, he found the strength to

See **NEED** page 6

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Leo Endel
Executive Director
endel@mwbc.org
519 16th St. SE
Rochester, MN
55904

David Williams
Editor
davidwilliams@compuserve.com
P.O. Box 628
Liberty, TX 77575

The taboo word

There is a particular word in the Bible that is seldom heard in church although it is widely used in private and public conversations. We hear it almost every day.

Some use it for emphasis or exclamation such as "What the h---?" or "h--- no!" or "h--- yes!" Sometimes it appears to be a measurement, such as a "h--- of a lot." In sports it is used as a compliment: "He is a h--- of a player." The word has become so common that we all recognize it, and so taboo that we don't talk

about it.

When we come to church, the word is missing. We rarely, if ever, refer to it. We avoid it in our pulpits and Bible studies. But, when we read the New Testament,

there it is. Jesus used it and warned about it. The Apostles Paul and Peter spoke of it and John described it in Revelation.

Jesus said, "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty

before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell." (Matt 5:21-22).

In another passage, Jesus described a rich man who lived his life in luxury ignoring the plight of a poor beggar at his door named Lazarus. Jesus said, "The rich man died and was buried. In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire,'" (Luke 16:19-31).

In another place Je-

sus said, "I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!" (Luke 12:4-6).

Like most people, I would like to think that everyone goes to heaven, except when I hear stories about atrocities, like the accounts of innocent children who are brutalized, raped and murdered. Then, hell seems to make sense. I remember watching the movie "Ghost" when the murderer was dragged off by the demons into

See **TABOO** page 4



Reflections
Bill Tinsley

Pastors: consider this opportunity

The Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention is offering pastors discounted tuition for Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), a training program focused on improving a pastor's self-care and caring skills.

CPE is delivered in units consisting of several months of weekly meetings by an extended format via Zoom and 300 hours in a ministry setting. Hospitals and hospices usually require one to four units of CPE

for chaplains who work for them. CPE allows pastors to have a bivocational career more closely aligned with their ministry skills. Many hospices are currently seeking chaplains and have part-time

positions that coordinate well with the schedule of a bivocational pastor.

CPE changes the lives of the students and the people receiving care. Most people who do CPE will relate that it changes their lives considerably as they

examine issues they had not previously considered. I can testify that CPE significantly changed me and the disciplines of CPE continue to improve my life for the better. CPE teaches and reinforces a life-long skill of theological reflection which helps students manage anxiety and lead well.

MWBC is sponsoring a CPE unit in 2023 that will meet on Thursday nights via Zoom January 5 to June 1 from 7 to 9 p.m. CST. CPE tuition is normally \$1,199 per unit. The MWBC has arranged for MWBC pastors to take their first unit for \$250 tuition plus application fees

and books. The group is limited to nine pastors. A second group of pastors may start their first unit beginning in August 2023.

As a certified Clinical Pastoral Supervisor-Educator, my affiliated CPE organization has agreed to this substantial tuition discount. As an MWBC employee, the time required of me to supervise the unit will be included with my job duties.

The CPE provided is affiliated with Clinical Pastoral Education International (CPEI). CPEI is accredited by International Accreditors for Continuing Education and Training (IACET).

CPEI is currently applying for Department of Education accreditation which would qualify its board-certified chaplains to work for the Veterans Administration.

Please contact me at (507) 254-0237 or calvert@mwbc.org for more information.

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



Leadership
Clint Calvert

Teach English, share Christ

During the SEA (Southeast Asia) mission trip this summer, we were invited back to a school that we had visited. The school is located in a remote village about an hour from the city. They don't get many visitors, let alone international travelers.

It appears that we have a skill – teaching English – that they need. I believe God is opening a door for us to establish a ministry presence in the village. As we teach English, we also have opportuni-

ty to share Christ. It is important to

recognize that the International Mission Board and Hmong Baptist Thailand are already serving in this region. Our state convention

plays a key supporting

role when we come alongside and participate in their long term strategy. Through teaching English, we can help our local partners make inroads into the community.

Thailand is a Buddhist majority country where Christians make up only one percent of the population. Many missionary efforts have started in Thailand, but much still needs to be done.

Our next trip to Thailand is June 15-30, 2023. Please pray for this trip and consider going yourself. Scholarships are available for students.

For more information and to apply, go to www.mwbc.org/sea.

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



Intercultural
Na Herr



TABOO

continued from page three

hell. It was chilling.

According to what Jesus said, we all have reason to pause. Perhaps what we believe and how we behave has eternal implications that we have not fully considered.

If the afterlife consists not only of heaven, but also hell, the sacrifice Jesus made on the Cross becomes even more meaningful. We have all sinned and fallen short of God's requirements. We all need the Savior who paid the penalty for our sins and was raised from the dead to give us a new life. (Rom. 3:23; 5:8; 10:9-10; 6:4-5).

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.

Back to the beginning

Hmong Baptists celebrate being Southern Baptists

By Karen Willoughby

DENVER, Colorado (BP) – More than 150 people from the 54 Hmong Southern Baptist churches across the United States gathered Oct. 13-15 at First Hmong Baptist Church of Broomfield, a north Denver suburb, for the Hmong Baptist National Association's annual meeting.

With a theme of "Renew Refresh Restore in Christ" and Psalm 51:10-12 as its Scripture, the 31st annual meeting included passage of an \$80,000 budget, election of officers, and the preaching

of five Hmong leaders, plus three days of Southeast Asian cuisine and fellowship.

"Many people said the meeting was very good," Executive Director W. Tra Xiong told Baptist Press. "We don't have any debating. Everything was very good. No conflict or anything confusing."

New officers, each elected for a two-year term: President Chue Ger Herr, pastor for the last 21 years at First Hmong Baptist Church in Kansas City, Mo.; Vice President Chong Pao Thao, pastor for the last four years at First Hmong Baptist Church



Serving their second year of their two-year terms are these officers of the Hmong Baptist National Association at their Oct 13-15 meeting. Left to Right: Danielying Yang, pastoral director; Chris Vang, youth director; Chue Ger Herr, president; Chong Pao Thao, vice president; Chai Chang, men's director; Zer Thao Vang, women's director; Lydia Ly, treasurer.

of Denver, located in the Broomfield suburb. Treasurer Lydia Ly, children's minister at Followers of Christ Hmong Baptist Church in St. Paul, Minn.; Secretary Chue Fue Moua, founding pastor in 2021 of United Cornerstone Baptist Church in Oakdale, Minn.

That the Hmong were a minority people group shunted around mountainous regions of Southeast and East Asian countries is a part of their history. Because of that history, they like the freedom they have in Southern Baptist autonomous churches, Xiong said.

"Many people are coming to Southern Baptists because they like the way Southern Baptists function," the executive director explained. "Hmong people want to adapt to American culture, to make their own decisions. They want the Bible to teach them and train them so they can do what God told them to do. They don't want anyone forcing them."

Xiong teaches at the Hmong Study Center started three years ago that is affiliated with

Gateway Seminary in Ontario, Calif. Fourteen students have graduated, and at least half of them are pastoring churches.

Other Hmong leaders Xiong knows about are studying at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and at California Baptist University.

"In the future we want to get more leaders, train more leaders so we can start new churches," the Hmong leader for 30 years said. "When we start churches, we need pastors to lead congregations."

While today the largest concentrations in the United States of people with Hmong heritage are the Twin Cities in Minnesota and Fresno, Calif., the first Hmong Southern Baptist church to be started was in Kansas City, Kan., in 1977. In 2021, two were started: United Cornerstone Baptist Church in Oakdale, Minn., and Reborn Baptist Church in Sun Prairie, Wis.

"We plan by 2023 to 2025 to start three new churches in the U.S.," Xiong continued. "In Portland, Ore., Sac-

ramento, Calif., and Wausau, Wis."

In addition to the 54 churches in the United States that worship in a Hmong context, 70 in Vietnam, eight in Thailand, six in Laos and one in France also affiliate with Southern Baptists.

This is because Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteer mission teams have for years ministered and built relationships among Hmong people, said Xiong, who trains Hmong leaders overseas every year.

"You can see this [growth of the Hmong fellowship] is the result of the Cooperative Program," Xiong continued. "We are working together and the Great Commission is being fulfilled around the world."

Xiong was one of five men to preach during the Hmong annual meeting. The others: Peter Yanes, executive director of Asian American Relations and Mobilization at the SBC Executive Committee; Michael Proud Jr., executive director

Good news from the associations

NORTHWOODS

Northland Missions blessed a retired pastor and his wife with a gift of \$1,500 to buy new tires and meet other expenses. His wife is battling cancer and they drive back and forth to Grand Forks, N.D., for appointments.

On Aug. 28, Calvary Pines Baptist Church in Cohasset, Minn., recognized their retiring pastor, Dwight Streblov, and installed their new pastor, David Taplin.

As Cornerstone Baptist Church in Thief River Falls, Minn., works toward becoming an autonomous Southern Baptist Church, the congregation has approved their doctrinal statement and is developing bylaws. This fall the church hosted an evangelism workshop for NBA during which groups went out into the

community to pray or share the gospel door to door.

SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

At their fall meeting on Sept. 8 at Bethel Baptist Church in Janesville, the SWBA learned they are experiencing record giving from the churches. Julio Varela from Rio Grande Bible Institute in Edinburg, Texas, shared from Philippians 1 on partnership in the gospel. Several graduates of the institute are serving in the association.

Redemption Church in Monroe had their first official Sunday morning service Oct. 23. Pastor Blake Canterbury said, "God moved in a powerful way and I am so thankful for His faithfulness to help get us to this point." The congregation meets at the Monroe Middle School.



TCMBA held its 2022 annual meeting Oct. 3 at Ebenezer Community Church in Brooklyn Park, Minn., with 53 in attendance. An Italian dinner was served and each pastor/church planter was given three minutes to share what God had done in their ministry during the past year.



Pastor Dan Thuong Bui (left), pastor of Vietnamese Baptist Church in Sunfish Lake, Minn., answers questions during a Saturday ordination council on Oct. 29 at Bethel Baptist Church in Sunfish Lake, Minn., as sponsoring church Pastor Don Delich looks on. Bui was ordained the next morning during a joint service at Bethel.



John Tramm, center, is congratulated after his Oct. 30 installation as pastor of Radiant Life Church, Marshall, Minn., by Leo Endel, left, executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention, and Michael Indorf, pastor of Hope Baptist Church in Mankato, Minn., and communication coordinator for the Southern Minnesota Baptist Association.

NEED

continued from page three

fight for the Confessing Church against the evil of the Nazi regime—even when he found himself alone and in prison. One of his famous quotes is this: "When you read the Bible, you must think that, here and now, God is speaking with me." He believed it, and he lived it.

Lifeway Research in "Nine Tangible Benefits of Bible Reading for Your Church," reported on a study by Arnold Cole and Pamela Caudill Ovwigho noting the transforming power of the Word of God. They noted negligible change in a person's life until a person reads their Bible at least four days per week. Then the transformation is stunning.

1. Feeling lonely drops 30%
2. Anger issues drop 32%
3. Bitterness in relationships drops 40%
4. Alcoholism drops 57%
5. Sex outside of marriage drops 68%
6. Feeling spiritually stagnant drops 60%
7. Viewing pornography drops 61%
8. Sharing one's faith jumps 200%
9. Discipling others jumps 230%

What does the church need today? To read the Word and be transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

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

Back to the beginning



They aren't just sharing cheese and apples; they are strengthening and developing partnerships at the Missouri Baptist Convention's Oct. 24-25 annual meeting in St. Charles, Mo. Left to right are Omar Segovia, Missouri Baptist Convention language catalyst; Bob Burton, midwest regional equipper for the North American Mission Board; Mark Millman, church planter strategist/director of missions for Southern Wisconsin Baptist Association; and Bob Smith, collegiate ministries catalyst for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

GRAHAM

continued from page one

drew 8,100 people and organizers said 110 local churches were involved. The evening before, 8,700 had gathered at the Waukesha County Expo Center with a similar number of churches involved.

“In addition to the main event, our churches and their members benefitted from the preparation which included witness training and a community-wide night of worship and prayer at the Mayo Civic Center,” said Leo Endel, executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

During his message in Rochester, Graham referenced the city’s famous medical center, saying, “You can go to the Mayo Clinic every day for the rest of your life, but one of these days, you’re still going to die. But you have a soul, and that soul is going to last for eternity.”

Endel, who also pastors Emmanuel Baptist Church in Rochester, said that church received a follow up list of 12 people who were among the hundreds who made decisions during the event.

“Two are now attending weekly services,” he said. “One additional decision came from one of our little boys whose family has been working with him extensively. He will be baptized Nov. 6.”

Back to the beginning

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.

NOVEMBER

5 SWBA Annual Meeting, Cornerstone Church, Waterloo, Wis.

13-15 Baptist General Convention of Texas Annual Meeting, Waco, Texas

24-25 Thanksgiving Holiday – **MWBC Office Closed**

29-Dec. 8 Pastors’ Holy Land Tour

DECEMBER

4-10 Week of Prayer and Mission Study for International Missions/Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

26-30 Christmas/New Year’s Holiday – **MWBC Office Closed**

JANUARY

1-7 January Bible Study

FEBRUARY

2-4 Pastors and Wives Retreat, Green Lake, Wis.

MARCH

5-11 Week of Prayer and Mission Study for North American Missions/Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

10-11 Empower Conference, Kohler Grand Hotel and Emmanuel Baptist Church, Rochester, Minn.

30-31 Coaching Map Conference, Transformation Church, Sun Prairie, Wis.

APRIL

7 Good Friday – **MWBC Office Closed**

12-14 SEND Network Midwest Meeting, Columbus, Ohio

21-22 MWBC Executive Board Meeting, Rochester, Minn.

30 MWBC Lottie Moon Offering Cutoff

MAY

19 New Pastor Orientation, Rochester, Minn.

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

JUNE

11-12 WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting, New Orleans, La.

13-14 Southern Baptist Convention, New Orleans, La.

15-30 SEA mission trip (Thailand)

30 MWBC Annie Armstrong Offering Cutoff

JULY

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

8-14 Hands of Hope, Milwaukee

16-18 Baptist General Convention of Texas Annual Meeting, McAllen, Texas

AUGUST

27 Global Hunger Sunday

SEPTEMBER

1-30 Season of Prayer for State Missions

4 Labor Day – **MWBC Office Closed**

15-16 MWBC Executive Board, Rochester, Minn.

22-24 Called Out, Baraboo, Wis.

OCTOBER

19 SEND Network Planters Gathering, Northwoods Community Church, Maple Grove, Minn.

20 Pastors Conference, Northwoods Community Church, Maple Grove, Minn.

20-21 MWBC Annual Meeting, Northwoods Community Church, Maple Grove, Minn.

23-24 Missouri Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Springfield, Mo.

NOVEMBER

23-24 Thanksgiving Holiday – **MWBC Office Closed**

DECEMBER

3-9 Week of Prayer and Mission Study for International Missions/Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

25-1/1 Christmas/New Year’s Holiday – **MWBC Office Closed**

Minnesota Ukrainian church prays over injured soldier, thanks God

By Diana Chandler

MINNEAPOLIS (BP) — “Praise God, He left me my right leg,” Ukrainian soldier Stanislav exclaimed at First Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Church in Minneapolis during the church’s annual harvest celebration of thanksgiving.

Stanislav lost his left leg in battle protecting Ukraine from a Russian attack. With his right leg intact, he transitioned to volunteer status, driving Ukrainian civilians to safety and delivering supplies to those in need.

Stanislav is in Minnesota receiving a prosthetic and counseling through the Protez Foundation’s Prosthetics for Ukraine humanitarian outreach the church supports. He shared his story with Victor Soro, a First Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Church bilingual pastor.

“He was a full-time soldier until his injury, and now he works as a volunteer,” Soro told Baptist Press. “I think his exact words were, ‘Praise God, He left me my right leg,’ which is what he drives with, so he’s able to do that. And hopefully with this prosthetic, (he’ll) be able to do even better. He’ll be more physically able to help.”

Protez has provided prosthetics for 14 Ukrainians injured in the war, the foundation said on Facebook. Stanislav was one of at least three prosthesis

recipients who attended the harvest festival, including two civilian children who lost limbs and were accompanied by family members.

The war is very personal to First Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Church, a Southern Baptist congregation of about 150 members, Soro said.

“Obviously our people are Ukrainian and the war in Ukraine is really personal,” Soro said. “And just to honor those soldiers that are fighting over there when we can’t do that living over here, it means a lot to us, their sacrifice, their service in the military over there.”

Leo Endel, executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention, was among the speakers at the event, assisted by interpreter Alexander Fartushniy. First Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Church is among 200 MWBC churches.

“I have known the Ukrainian pastors for a number of years, but the war in Ukraine has given us the opportunity to partner at a deeper level as they minister to refugees and wounded soldiers here in Minnesota,” Endel told Baptist Press. “I asked the North American Mission Board to partner with the MWBC and together we helped two of these churches with funding to care for, and to share the Gospel with, those refugees who have come to Min-



Victor Soro (second from left) joins other pastors of First Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Church at its Oct. 9 harvest festival, thanking God for the simple things in life including water, God’s Word and bread.

neapolis.

“Moments like these are where we see the power of Southern Baptists working together,” Endel said. “The MWBC is a microcosm of the world. We have been enriched to join a number of these people groups as they have engaged in missions in their former homelands.”

First Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Church is supporting the Protez Foundation by housing soldiers, and providing food, transportation and other services. Additionally, the church sends financial support to Baptist churches persevering in ministry in Ukraine during the war. Many of the churches the congregation supports are the former membership churches of the Minnesota congregants.

“We’re still affiliated with a lot of the churches,” he said. “Most of our members have come from Ukraine. They’re immigrants, di-

rectly from over there. They’re getting letters or communication from churches they were members of when they were still over there, so we’re getting very good word-of-mouth of what the churches are doing, what they might need help for. And so we work with those churches mostly where our members have come from.”

All donations to the church’s Help Ukraine are sent directly to partnering churches there.

“From what we have heard the churches have gotten a reputation of where the people can find help,” Soro said. “When the government doesn’t have the resources, it’s like, ‘go to this church; they can help you.’”

While the war has scattered more than 400 Ukrainian Baptist churches, others are still serving as the war allows. Churches still active are growing in members and are more on mission than ever,

he said.

“Pastors are becoming chaplains. Things have changed in what they’re doing, but their mission is the same,” Soro said. Through churches, “refugees are finding a place to stay. They’re finding food, clothing, and all the stuff they need as they’re escaping the war.”

First Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Church is especially thankful for God’s protection and provision during the war, Soro said.

“We’re just thankful for the little things these days, the fact that we can be living and breathing, and be in this country and safe,” he said. “Those are the things we’re thankful for.”

Soro is thankful for the support of fellow believers and encourages Southern Baptists to continue praying for Ukraine, as conditions have not improved

Thailand mission trip fruit of Hmong and MWBC partnership

By Diana Chandler

ROCHESTER, Minn. (BP) — Tra Xiong, executive director of the Hmong Baptist National Association (HBNA), sees a blessing and a challenge in spreading the Gospel in Thailand.

Fresh on the heels of an HBNA mission trip to Thailand in partnership with the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention (MWBC), Xiong describes the southeast Asian constitutional monarchy as freely open to evangelism.

“Thailand is very free like the U.S., so it’s very feasible for us to do ministry,” Xiong said. But conversely, he believes the freedom the Thai people enjoy has made them more resistant to the Gospel. “In Thailand, it’s kind of tough for us to do ministry because they are free will. They choose whatever they want to do. And we don’t have many leaders to lead the church.”

Xiong, leading the HBNA to catalyze pastors to plant churches and evangelize in Thailand, sees great value in the HBNA’s partnership with the MWBC. He was among a group of 10 pastors, leaders and congregants who traveled to Thailand’s Nan Province July 26-Aug. 9 for missions and ministry. In cooperation with the eight churches the HBNA has planted in



Na Herr (wearing the red shirt in the front right) was able to work with Hmong pastors while on a mission trip to Thailand.

Thailand since 1999, the group trained men in biblical leadership, trained women in women’s ministry, and conducted English language camps for students in a public school that allowed the group to share the Gospel and evangelize.

“If the church will grow,” we need to get some people to help there,” Xiong said. “They don’t have any persecution there. So it’s a very good station for us to be there, so we can do ministry through Laos, Vietnam, China,” and other countries that are closed to the Gospel.

In addition to 54 churches in 16 states, the HBNA has planted churches abroad that have multiplied to encompass 50 churches in France, Thailand and Vietnam.

Xiong has led about 10 HBNA mission trips to Thailand in the

past 20 years, but the 2022 trip was the first for Na Herr, MWBC intercultural catalyst and team facilitator.

While the HBNA and the MWBC have enjoyed a longstanding friendship, Herr said the 2022 trip was part of MWBC Executive Director Leo Endel’s vision for evangelizing southeast Asia in partnership with HBNA.

“We’re a relatively small state convention,” Herr said of the convention of 200 churches, including 54 Hmong congregations. “A lot of our churches are small churches. They lack the resources and capacity to do their own trip, and so part of it is just giving an opportunity to our churches in our convention to be able to go on a mission trip overseas.

“And then leveraging our partnership with the Hmong as-

sociation and their work that they’re already doing in Southeast Asia,” Herr said. “They have all the connections and all the relationships already in southeast Asia so we’re coming alongside of them, and we’re trying to pull a lot of our smaller churches whether they’re Hmong or not. We want all of our churches to be involved.”

The 2022 trip was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic and follows years of targeted collaboration between the HBNA and the state convention.

Five congregations participated in the trip, namely Eternal Life Hmong Baptist Church of North St. Paul; Hmong First Baptist Church of Milwaukee, Wis.; Twin Cities Hmong Baptist Church in Roseville, Minn.; Hmong Bap-

tist Church Rochester in Eyota, Minn.; and Rock of Hope Church in Wisconsin Dells, Wis. Four U.S. students were among the group.

While no professions of faith were recorded, ministers and educators in Nan Province asked the HBNA and MWBC to return. Herr is helping the HBNA plan a 2023 trip.

Peter Yanes, executive director of Asian American relations and mobilization for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, commended the work.

“I’m grateful for their existing relationship that extended to do missions together in Thailand, where Hmong indigenous people are the second largest minority group,” Yanes told Baptist Press. “This is what missional cooperation is all about.”

Annual Meeting Photos



More than 80 church planters, potential planters, and their wives gathered for the Church Planter Forum on Thursday before the annual meeting. Special guest speaker was Ramon Osorio, director of ethnic church planting for the North American Mission Board. This group of attendees have just finished their lunch provided by NAMB Planter Care.



Ben Seamans, MWBC disaster relief director, reports on the past year's activities including responses to floods and a hurricane, training events, and repair of a shower unit.



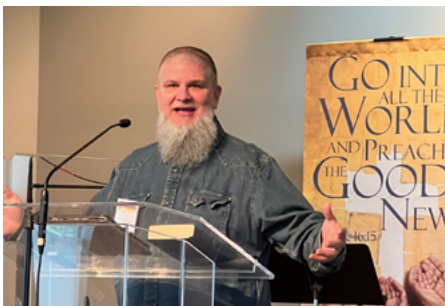
Phillip and Jummai Nache speak about God's faithfulness as Jummai faced COVID, resulting in the amputation of her legs, one hand, and several other fingers. Nache is pastor of Hope of Nations Gospel Church in Shakopee, Minn.



Bob Stine, pastor of Midvale Baptist Church in Madison, Wis., was re-elected to serve a second term as president.



Clint Calvert teaches on "Managing Leadership Anxiety" at the pastors' conference that preceded the annual meeting



Tim Tallent, pastor of Hartsville Baptist Church in Hartsville, Ind., led Bible study during each session of the annual meeting.



Santee Hedger speaks to pastors' wives at their luncheon just before the annual meeting. She is an author and the wife of Rick Hedger who serves as partnership director for the Missouri Baptist Convention.

Partners in the Gospel at MWBC Annual Meeting



Peter Yanes



Jonathan Parnell



Rick Curtis



Rick Hedger

Annual Meeting Photos



This group of happy diners make their way through the international buffet provided by Minnesota-Wisconsin Woman's Missionary Union for a suggested donation of \$20 for missions.



The Northwest Baptist praise team leads worship through music during the Friday evening session.



Na Herr, MWBC intercultural catalyst, reports on the Southeast Asia mission trip which saw more than 20 people give their lives to Christ.



Sarah Endel welcomes pastors' wives to their luncheon preceding the annual meeting.



Among officers elected were Tim Amert, assistant recording secretary; Chris Phillips, second vice president; and Daniel Goba, first vice president. Not pictured are Bob Stine, president; and Wes Shemwell, recording secretary.



Guests and officers take the stage at the annual meeting of Minnesota-Wisconsin Woman's Missionary Union. The group gathered for a morning meeting and lunch just before the MWBC annual meeting began. Left to right are: Elsa Baker, Hispanic WMU President for 2023-2027, Casa de Oracion, Jefferson, Wis.; Lily Samano, Hispanic WMU Vice President for 2023-2027, Roseville (Minn.) Baptist Church; Marla Sayaovang, Advisor for Hmong WMU, Hmong First Baptist Church, Milwaukee, Wis.; Kia Yang, Youth Consultant, Twin Cities Hmong Baptist Church, St. Paul, Minn.; Cindy Vang, Advisor - First Hmong Baptist Church, Coon Rapids, Minn.; Tia Underbakke, President 2023-2027, First Hmong Baptist Church, Coon Rapids, Minn.; Angel Vang, Vice President 2023-2027, First Hmong Baptist Church, Coon Rapids, Minn.; Elee Vang, WorldCrafts, First Hmong Baptist Church, Coon Rapids, Minn.; and Connie Shemwell, Associational Director, Midvale Baptist Church, Madison, Wis.

Mission Gifts from the Churches

MINNESOTA WISCONSIN BAPTIST CONVENTION COOPERATIVE PROGRAM RECEIPTS YTD through October 2022

Cooperative Program Budget 2022 Year to Date	\$559,844.17
Cooperative Program Receipts 2022 Year to Date	\$588,062.40
Over Budget 2022 Year to Date	\$28,218.23

NAME CP YTD

BAY LAKES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Amherst, Amherst Bible Church	\$500.00
Appleton, Fox Valley Hmong	\$360.00
Appleton, Hmong Baptist Mission	\$1,727.95
Appleton, Valley	\$49,632.67
Clintonville, First Baptist Church	\$1,565.10
Green Bay, Bethel	\$651.54
Green Bay, Graceway Fellowship	\$5,131.48
Green Bay, Highland Crest Baptist	\$71,695.16
Manitowoc, New Beginnings	\$508.30
Neenah, Living Vine Church	\$450.00
Sheboygan, Mapledale Baptist	\$2,984.51
Stevens Point, Tapestry	\$600.00
Tilleda, Bethany Baptist Church	\$1,894.41
Waupaca, Fellowship Baptist	\$1,845.72
BLBA TOTAL	\$139,546.84

TWIN CITIES METRO BAPTIST ASSN.

Amery, Journey Church	\$10,100.00
Bloomington, Ebenezer Community	\$250.00
Bloomington, MN Kangnam Korean	\$1,000.00
Bloomington, Southtown Baptist	\$14,519.06
Brooklyn Park, Ebenezer Community	\$2,400.00
Brooklyn Park, N Center Lao	\$600.00
Brooklyn Park, North Center	\$3,787.09
Burnsville, Berean Baptist Church	\$2,000.00
Burnsville, Resurrection Church	\$500.00
Coon Rapids, First Hmong Baptist	\$2,250.00
Eagan, Eurasia Baptist Church	\$100.00
Fridley, Good News Hmong	\$500.00
Maple Grove, Northwood Community	\$1,433.36
Maple Grove, Unlock Church	\$1,000.00
Minneapolis, All Peoples Church	\$5,400.00
Minneapolis, Gracepoint	\$1,000.00
Minneapolis, Hope of Nations	\$1,273.04
Minneapolis, Shalom Community	\$304.50
Minnetonka, Redeemer Bible	\$900.00
Monticello, Grace Bible Church	\$2,150.00
New Hope, Westview Church	\$2,250.00
New Prague, Calvary Church	\$18,746.14
North St. Paul - Eternal Life Hmong	\$1,008.00
Ramsey, Bethlehem Worship Center	\$200.00
Richfield, Richfield Bible Church	\$300.00
Roseville, Gospel Hmong	\$803.82
Roseville, Roseville Baptist	\$5,500.00
St. Louis Park, First Ukrainian Ev	\$500.00
St. Michael, Northwest Bible	\$2,000.00
St. Paul, Cities Church	\$7,500.00
St. Paul, Followers Of Christ Hmong	\$8,163.43
St. Paul, Iglesia Hispana Betel	\$1,000.00
St. Paul, Salt City Church	\$31,932.50
St. Paul, Twin City Hmong	\$1,800.00
Sunfish Lake, Bethel Baptist Church	\$6,000.00
Sunfish Lake, Vietnamese Baptist	\$600.00
White Bear Lake, Emmaus Church	\$11,286.00
TCMBA Total	\$151,056.94

NAME CP YTD

LAKELAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Bassett, Westosha Baptist Church	\$1,605.00
Brown Deer, Brown Deer Baptist	\$1,500.00
Franklin, Emmaus Fellowship	\$600.00
Hartland, Disciples Church	\$700.00
Kenosha, Amistad Cristiana	\$2,400.00
Kenosha, Fellowship Baptist	\$12,308.68
Kenosha, Missio Dei Fellowship	\$4,096.00
Kenosha, Parkside Baptist Church	\$6,474.93
Mequon, Westlake Church	\$300.00
Milwaukee, Ephesians Baptist	\$2,700.00
Milwaukee, Family of Christ	\$100.00
Milwaukee, Grace Point Community	\$208.41
Milwaukee, Korean Baptist Church	\$900.00
Milwaukee, Layton Avenue Baptist	\$12,586.85
Milwaukee, Mercy Memorial	\$1,350.00
Milwaukee, Milwaukee Arabic	\$757.08
Milwaukee, Monumental Baptist	\$1,635.00
Milwaukee, Mt Horeb Baptist	\$550.00
Milwaukee, Mt Pilgrim Miss.	\$900.00
Milwaukee, UFlourish Church	\$3,150.01
Mount Pleasant, I.C.A.R.E. Ministry	\$1,147.00
Mount Pleasant, Immanuel	\$11,204.96
Pewaukee, Crossroads Church	\$3,248.53
Pleasant Prairie, Pleasant Prairie	\$4,230.00
Racine, Hope Community Church	\$2,066.48
South Milwaukee, The Vine Comm.	\$2,290.98
Wauwatosa, Redemption Church	\$3,750.00
LBA TOTAL	\$82,759.91

SOUTHERN WI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Boscobel, Blue River Valley (Muscoda)	\$1,111.86
Janesville, Bethel Church	\$1,485.68
Janesville, Resonate Church	\$5,273.26
La Crosse, Crossway Church	\$300.00
La Crosse, New Hope	\$600.00
Madison, Campus Community	\$1,350.00
Madison, Doxa Church	\$35,529.86
Madison, East Madison Baptist	\$7,042.00
Madison, Emmanuel Church	\$27.21
Madison, Gracepoint	\$1,000.00
Madison, Hope In Christ Assembly	\$1,671.32
Madison, Livingstone Baptist	\$2,532.00
Madison, Midvale Baptist Church	\$6,938.97
Madison, Red Village	\$8,875.00
Platteville, Rolling Hills	\$7,336.33
Reedsburg, Trinity Baptist Church	\$14,500.00
Sparta, Gospel Baptist Church	\$3,808.48
Sun Prairie, Christ Fellowship	\$1,000.00
Sun Prairie, Reborn in Christ	\$1,072.54
Sun Prairie, Transformation	\$1,738.96
Sun Prairie, United Hmong	\$675.00
Verona, Memorial Baptist Church	\$250.00
Waterloo, Centro Biblico La Roca	\$60.00
Waterloo, Cornerstone Church	\$1,100.00
Waterloo, Shalom Christian Assembly	\$170.00
WI Dells, Rock of Hope	\$2,000.00
WI Rapids, Church at Wazeecha	\$4,656.84
WI Rapids, First Baptist Church	\$450.00
SWBA TOTAL	\$112,555.31

Mission Gifts from the Churches

NAME	CP YTD
SOUTHERN MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION	
Austin, Austin Baptist Church	\$4,023.80
Chester, Chester Woods Community	\$1,078.20
Eyota, Hmong Baptist Church	\$1,500.00
Mankato, Hope Baptist Church	\$663.80
Marshall, Radiant Life Church	\$2,333.94
Red Wing, Hiawatha Valley Baptist	\$2,757.50
Rochester, Emmanuel Baptist	\$18,279.21
Rochester, Northbridge Church	\$13,047.00
Rochester, Redemption City	\$10,244.45
Rochester, Rochester Community	\$1,000.00
Sartell, Park Fellowship	\$4,388.40
St. Cloud, St. Cloud International	\$300.00
Viola, Viola Bible Church	\$2,405.70
Willmar, Grace Baptist Church	\$25.00
Winona, Cornerstone Community	\$4,944.17
SMNBA Total	\$66,991.17

NAME	CP YTD
NORTHWOODS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION	
Badger, Badger Baptist Church	\$455.00
Bemidji, Ridgewood Baptist Church	\$1,147.00
Cambridge, Cross Pointe Church	\$2,450.00
Crookston, Prairie Community	\$4,568.57
Ely, Berean Baptist	\$1,100.00
Grand Rapids, Calvary Pines	\$3,325.00
Hill City, Hill City Baptist Church	\$1,000.00
New York Mills, Grace Connection	\$300.00
Rice Lake, Hope Baptist Church	\$4,195.00
Roseau, Immanuel Baptist Church	\$2,955.48
Thief River Falls, Cornerstone	\$878.76
Warroad, Westside Baptist	\$3,469.50
NWBA Total	\$25,844.31
OTHER	
Eau Claire, Jacob's Well	\$7,650.00
Eau Claire, One in Christ Church	\$1,657.92
OTHER TOTAL	\$9,307.92

MWBC TOTAL RECEIVED **\$588,062.40**

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



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Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist

UKRAINE

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there.

"Some of the pastors are being taken and sometimes never seen again," he said. "Don't forget. Just hearing from the direct lines of communication we have, it has not gotten much better. Even though the news says we've started to get back some territory and all of that, which is good news, but it's definitely not over and the people there need our support.

"The churches continue to be working and preaching and spreading the Gospel even in these times, which is probably more necessary than ever, giving people the true peace that they're looking for, which is Jesus Christ," Soro said. "They continue to work and they continue to need our support."

HMONG

continued from page five

of the Colorado Baptist General Convention; Pao Ly, pastor of First Hmong Baptist Church in Morganton, N.C.; and Joseph Yang, pastor of Hmong Unity Christian Church in St. Paul.

When Xiong preached Oct. 16 – the day after the Hmong annual meeting concluded – at First Hmong Baptist Church of Broomfield, Colorado – "two people accepted Christ and joined the church," Xiong said. "That also fulfills the Great Commission."

The next annual meeting of the Hmong Baptist National Convention is set for Sept. 27-30, 2023, at Green Lake (Wis.) Christian Conference Center. It will include biennial conferences for men, women and youth.

Back to the beginning

Back to the beginning

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