

# Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist

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## Empower/Equip moving to Rochester, Minn.

Rochester, Minn. — Empower and Equip will feature a new venue this year as the partner events move to Rochester, Minn., meeting in the Kahler Grand Hotel and Emmanuel Baptist Church.

From 1 p.m., Friday, Mar. 10 through 12 noon on Saturday, Mar. 11, Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptists will be “equipped and inspired to share the gospel in personal conversations and community ministries,” said Clint Calvert, church leadership catalyst for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

Under the theme, “That They May Have

Life,” Empower will feature speakers, music, and breakout sessions, all at the Kahler Grand Hotel, located in downtown Rochester at 20 2nd Ave. SW.

Keynote addresses will be delivered by Mark Clifton, senior director of replanting for the North American Mission Board, and Chuck Peters, director of Lifeway Kids. Worship will be led by Gary Jennings of Final Command Ministries.

Equip, a training conference for children’s ministry leaders, will be conducted simultaneously at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 2911 18th

Ave. NW in Rochester, led by Chuck Peters and Jana MacGruder of Lifeway Kids and also Jack Lucas, leadership development director for the Illinois Baptist State Association.

MWBC has a limited number of rooms set aside at the convention hotel for \$139 a night. To register for the conference and to find a link to book a room, visit [MWBC.org/Empower](https://www.mwbc.org/Empower). To register for Equip, visit [MWBC.org/Equip](https://www.mwbc.org/Equip). For more information on Equip, contact Penny Reedy at [pennyabc123@gmail.com](mailto:pennyabc123@gmail.com).



Mark Clifton



Gary Jennings



Chuck Peters

## Retreat offers rest to pastors, wives

Green Lake, Wis. — REST is the theme of this year’s Pastors and Wives Retreat, using Jesus’ words in Matthew 11:28 as the

theme verse: “Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

The Thursday eve-

ning through Saturday morning event will be Feb. 2-4 at Green Lake (Wis.) Conference Center.

Sponsored by the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention and funded through the Cooperative Program, the retreat is free to all lead pastors of MWBC churches, plus one additional pastor from churches with multiple pastoral staff.

Registration begins at 3 p.m. Thursday and dinner is served at

5 p.m. The retreat ends with breakfast on Saturday.

Designed for fellowship, renewal and growth, the retreat features a light schedule, casual dress, and no childcare (infants less than six months and still nursing are welcome). Friday afternoon offers free time to explore the conference center grounds, go shopping, fellowship with other couples, or take a nap.

See **RETREAT** page 2

## Jerry Mugg leaves legacy of service

Appleton, Wis. — Family and friends gathered Dec. 3 at Valley Baptist Church in Appleton to celebrate the life of a giant from their church and the Minnesota-Wisconsin



Jerry Mugg

Baptist Convention.

Jerry Mugg, who served many years as chairman of the M-W Baptist Foundation, died Nov. 18, 2022, at the age of 91.

He leaves his wife Toni

of 66 years, three children, eight grandchildren, eight great grandchildren, and three more on the way.

Born Jarrell Bert Mugg in Houston, Texas, on June 28,

See **LEGACY** page 2

## BP: More Americans stay away from church as pandemic nears year three

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly every congregation in the United States shut down, at least for a while.

For some Americans, that was the push they needed to never come back to church.

A new report, which looked at in-person worship attendance patterns before the beginning of the pandemic and in 2022, found that a third of those surveyed never attend worship services. That's up from 25 percent before the start of the pandemic.

The pandemic has likely led people who already had loose ties to congregations to leave, said Dan Cox, one of the authors of the new study and a senior fellow in polling and public opinion at the American Enterprise Institute.

"These were the folks that were more on the fringes to begin with," said Cox. "They didn't need much of a push or a nudge, to just be done completely."

As part of the 2022

American Religious Benchmark Survey, researchers from the American Enterprise Institute and NORC at the University of Chicago asked 9,425 Americans about their religious identity and worship attendance. Those surveyed had answered the same questions between 2018 and early 2020.

Researchers then compared answers from between 2018 and 2020 to answers from 2022 to understand how attendance patterns changed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are looking at the attendance patterns and religious identity of the exact same people at two different time periods," said Cox.

The new study focused on attendance at in-person services versus online services. While some people – including the immunocompromised and their families – may still be attending digital services, measuring online engagement is "messier," said Cox, and very different from in-person

involvement. For example, he said, tuning in to a service for a few minutes is much different than going to a service in person.

The report also noted the decline in attendance most affected groups that had already started to show a decline before the pandemic – particularly among younger adults, who were already lagging before the pandemic and showed the steepest drop-off since.

Liberal Americans (46 percent), those who have never married (44 percent) and those under 30 (43 percent) are most

likely to skip worship service altogether and saw the largest declines in attendance rates. By contrast, conservatives (20 percent), those over 65 (23 percent) or those who are married (28 percent) are less likely to say they never attend services and saw less drop-off.

One in 4 Americans (24 percent) said in 2022 that they attend

regularly – which includes those who attend nearly every week or more often. Another 8 percent attend at least once a month — for a total of 32 percent who attend regularly or occasionally. That was down slightly from a total of 36 percent in 2020.

In 2022, just over a third (36 percent) said

See **PANDEMIC** page 11

## LEGACY

*continued from page one*

1931, he was known throughout MWBC as Jerry. He met Toni when she interviewed for a choir director position at what would become their home church, First Baptist of Appleton. Life took them away for awhile, to Maryland and Washington, but a job change brought them back to Appleton in 1986. Since then they have actively served their church, community, and the Kingdom.

"Jerry was one of the capable men behind the establishment of the M-W Baptist Foundation and was passionately committed to the Lord's work at his home church, Valley Baptist Church in Appleton, the state convention and the International Mission Board," said Leo Endel, MWBC executive director. "This gracious and gifted servant will be missed."

In his local church he served as a deacon, Sunday school director, church training director, treasurer,

financial secretary, and Bible study leader at various times for youth, single adults, men and married couples. He also participated as a choir member, team builder, member of the pastoral search committee and director of Northwest Baptist Foundation.

He served his community as a scoutmaster and Boy Scout troop committee chairman, as well as volunteering at Appleton Medical Center and Freedom Center Food Pantry. He taught English as a Second Language for ten years with Fox Valley Literacy.

He held B.S., M.S. and PhD degrees in chemical engineering, and used that background while serving in the U.S. Army, leaving with a rank of captain. He then spent his career in that field, retiring from Georgia Pacific. During his career he participated in four process patents and was a published author and frequent speaker, recognized as an authority in paper recycling.

**Back to the beginning**

## RETREAT

*continued from page one*

Information and registration can be found at [www.mwbc.org](http://www.mwbc.org). You will need to contact Julie Sundeen for a password or for more information: [jsundeen@mwbc.org](mailto:jsundeen@mwbc.org) or (507) 208-3571. Registration deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 18.

**Back to the beginning**

**Pastor & Wives Retreat**

*"Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*  
Matthew 11:28

**REST**

**February 2-4, 2023**  
Thursday Night thru Saturday Morning

Green Lake Conference Center  
Green Lake, Wisconsin



# Life given, not taken: Remembering Kathy Gariety

A small group of us met the evening of Friday, Dec. 30, at Layton Avenue Baptist Church in Milwaukee to remember the life and ministry of Kathy Gariety. Along with two other International Mission Board (IMB) medical workers – William Koehn and Dr. Martha Myers – Kathy was



**Perspectives**  
**Leo Endel**

killed on that date 20 years ago when a Yemeni man slipped into the Baptist Hospital in Jibla, Yemen. He said he killed them “because they were preaching Christianity in a Muslim country” and “to get closer to God.”

I’ll never forget the morning the story hit the U.S. news. Our family had joined friends to see the sights in Washington D.C. and my friend and I were down eating the

free hotel breakfast and drinking coffee, waiting on our wives and our girls. Casually I picked up the newspaper and was stunned by an article on the front page. A cold shiver ran down my back when I first saw Yemen, then Jibla, and finally the Baptist hospital. Quickly I scanned down the page and saw in disbelief: “Kathy Gariety.”

Kathy had been a beloved member and leader of the youth ministry at Layton Avenue Baptist Church when God called her to missions

in her early 50s. As members gathered to remember her on the anniversary of her death, one of them, Jenni Schwager, gave testimony to Kathy’s ministry and influence on her life as her youth leader. “I was scared to death for her to go off in a far-off country.”

“I think of her often” said Schwager.

“I pass this photo in my hallway every day. She’s looking at a camel with a great big smile on her face. She was

a wonderful mentor to me, and I don’t think



**Jenni Schwager**



**Kathy Gariety**

I even got to say that to her when she was alive.”

Kathy didn’t choose an easy way. She heard God’s call, but she didn’t know where God wanted her to go. The IMB presented her with a list of about

See **REMEMBER** page 5

## 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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## Moving on

We have moved a number of times in our life. When we first married, we easily stuffed all our possessions into the back seat of a 1960 Chevy Impala.

But, after raising three children, and making multiple moves in Texas, to Minnesota, back to Texas and eventually to Colorado, our minimal belongings grew. We had accumulated a significant stash of stuff.

We had unopened boxes that followed us to and fro about the earth, still sealed after

several decades. We threw away dozens of trash cans full of junk.

We gave truck loads to Good Will and Habitat. We hauled boxes to our kids for a garage sale. Still, we had stuff.

Some things attach themselves and will not let go. We still have boxes labeled “keepsakes and junk” that hold tangible memories: the roller skates I had when I was a kid (the four-wheel kind with a skate key to clamp them to the soles of my shoes); a baseball I wrapped with electric

tape when I couldn’t afford a new ball; my daughter’s hand-scribbled cards signed with x’s and o’s; the shoeshine kit my son made for me; my wife’s wedding dress in a box that has remained sealed for more than 50 years. Multiply these a hundred-fold and you get the idea. What do you do? You rent a storage room, I guess.

Memories are good. They give us identity, and I feel pleasure when I handle these tokens of by-gone days. The reminders of my childhood and youth make me thankful. They give me courage and hope for more to come.

It is important to “move on.” We must always be ready to

read the next chapter yet to be written. When I was 18, I sold family Bibles in Alabama and bought one for myself. That huge Bible became a depository for keepsakes from our children and grandchildren. It overflowed into a “family Bible box.” As we do every year, I pulled out family Bible tokens and shared them with our grandchildren this Christmas. Our youngest granddaughter read the Luke 2 story of Jesus’ birth. I added their names by the verses they read, the same place where I wrote their parent’s names when they learned to read. We have one more grand-

See **MOVING** page 7



**Reflections**  
**Bill Tinsley**

# Empower and Equip to meet in Rochester, Minn.

Empower will be held at The Kahler Grand Hotel in Rochester, Minn., Mar. 10-11, 2023.

The conference will start at 1 p.m. Friday and conclude at 12 noon Saturday.

The theme for Empower 2023 is "that they may have life." Attendees will be equipped and inspired to share the gospel in personal conversations and community ministries.

This year's featured speakers include Mark Clifton from the North American Mission Board and Chuck Peters, Director of Lifeway Kids. Worship will be led by Gary Jennings of Final Command Ministries.

Mark Clifton is NAMB's senior director of replanting. He has served as a pastor, church planter, church revitalizer, mission strategist, coach, and mentor. He has planted and replanted numerous churches. Mark has also served as a national and regional leader for church planting and

missions. His experience includes serving as the lead mission strategist for the Kansas/Nebraska Southern Baptist Convention. Mark has led church planting efforts in North Metro Atlanta,

eastern Canada, and west of the Mississippi. Mark has been planting, replanting, and providing strategic mission leadership since 1978. Mark and his wife Jill live in Basehor, Kan., and have two sons, two daughters-in-law and three grandsons.

Chuck Peters is director of Lifeway Kids. Before his role at Lifeway, Chuck had a prolific career in television and video production. He is a three-time Emmy Award winning producer, director, writer and on-screen talent. A graduate of Columbia Bible College, Chuck and his wife Cris have served in Student and Children's Ministry for many years.

Gary Jennings is a longtime friend of the MWBC having served

as a ministry partner in Lifeway Church Partnerships and as Lakeland Baptist Association's associational missions strategist. Gary will lead worship in the plenary sessions and share information about CityLife, a ministry he leads that serves residents and employees of 18 apartments.

This year's Empower will feature ministry to students and children

and multiple breakout conferences.

A limited number of hotel rooms have been secured at The Kahler Grand Hotel Suites for \$139 a night. For more information visit [mwbc.org/Empower](http://mwbc.org/Empower).

Equip, a training conference for children's ministry leaders, will be offered at Emmanuel Baptist Church at 2911 18th Ave NW, Rochester, Minn., on the same dates and

times as Empower.

Equip will be led by Chuck Peters and Jana MacGruder of Lifeway Kids and Jack Lucas, of the Illinois Baptist State Association. For more information visit [mwbc.org/Equip](http://mwbc.org/Equip) or contact Penny Reedy at [pennyabc123@gmail.com](mailto:pennyabc123@gmail.com).

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



**Leadership**  
**Clint Calvert**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:  
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[herr@mwbc.org](mailto:herr@mwbc.org)

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**Minnesota-Wisconsin**  
**Baptist**



# The mission moves forward

Thanks to you, the previous year's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was the largest ever received: \$203.7 million!

God is working and the lost are being saved.

Your support has al-



**Intercultural**

*Na Herr*

lowed the International Mission Board to send 3,526 missionaries all

over the world reaching and discipling people from every nation, tribe, language, and cul-

ture. However, there

is still much work to do. Over 59% of the world's population (4.6 billion people) are still lost.

I am excited to announce that 11 individuals from our churches have signed up to go on the SEA Mission Trip to Thailand this year. Southeast Asia is a challenging region to reach due to its distance, physically and culturally, from

us. My prayer is that this short-term trip will lead to long-term commitments from team members. I want to see people from our state convention answer the call to serve as career missionaries with the IMB.

Please pray for our SEA mission team as we make preparations for the trip, which is June 15-30. Sign up for the prayer newslet-

ter by going to: [www.mwbc.org/sea](http://www.mwbc.org/sea).

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

**MWBC**



Members of Vietnamese Baptist Church in Sunfish Lake, Minn., celebrate the Oct. 30 ordination of their pastor, Thuong Bui.

## REMEMBER

*continued from page three*

a hundred possible places she could pray about. Any of those sites would have been easier and more glamorous, but Kathy didn't choose a glamorous or easy place. She could have chosen Paris or a tropical paradise, but instead she chose a place so difficult that it eventually cost her her life. To paraphrase Jerry Rankin, then the president of the IMB, "her life was given, not taken."

In the months after Kathy's death, we learned that she did not give her life in vain. The murderer was at

least partially correct. As Tertullian has said, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." There was a movement of God in that very dark place and people came to know Jesus in part because of Kathy's life and death.

A year or so after Kathy was murdered the words of a song were given by an IMB worker to a musician in one of our Minnesota-Wisconsin churches. The words came from a woman who had been imprisoned for her faith, in the darkness and solitude of an underground cell. She said that God had given her a song to encourage her. The

musician wrote a tune to words he did not understand, and the song was taken back to the woman. When the music was played for her, she was stunned with emotion. "That's the song. That's the song that I heard."

God does indeed work in mysterious ways. A Scripture comes just when we need it. A song encourages us. A testimony reminds us of the power of God. God calls a middle-aged woman who gives herself to a seemingly insignificant place and then God does a most significant work through her—the light shines in the darkness. Sacrifice and

significance . . . who can understand the real cost and the real victory but God?

Fewer people recognize Kathy's name anymore, and that saddens me, but I doubt that would matter much to her. She moved to Yemen and gave her life not so that she would be remembered, but instead, so that Jesus would be made known.

On my four-hour drive home from Milwaukee, I contemplated Kathy's life and mine. I ultimately contemplated the lives and ministries of scores of our leaders throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin. We too have been

called to what seem insignificant roles and places. Only a few will remember our names, fewer still will know what we sacrificed or what God did through us. None of us will correctly understand the impact or significance of our lives, but none of that matters. People will still know Jesus, because we gave our lives not so that we might be remembered, but instead, so that Jesus might be made known.

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

**Back to the beginning**

## Kids Camp set for July

Osceola, Wis. – Twin Cities Metro Baptist Association is looking for campers, chaperones and staff for their July 10-14 Kids Summer Camp in Osceola, Wis.

The Monday through Friday camp is for children entering 3rd through 5th grade next school year.

“This is a Christ-centered camp where we proclaim Jesus and reflect His love by providing a Christian camp experience through daily Bible learning, worship, and fun outdoor and indoor activities,” said Chris and Zong Heng, pastor and children’s ministry director of Twin Cities Hmong Baptist Church in Roseville, Minn. “Our goal is

that campers come to know and grow in Christ.”

They said the camp needs teen and adult volunteers. Applications are due by Mar. 1 for those interested in volunteering as camp counselors, assistant counselors, teachers, lifeguards and worship leaders. Those accepted as volunteer staff will have their camp fee paid. In addition, each church sending campers must provide at least one adult chaperone, camp fee paid by the chaperone or church.

To learn more about volunteering or to register as a camper, go to [www.tcmba.online/summer-camp](http://www.tcmba.online/summer-camp). Campers who register by June 2 save \$20 off the \$280 fee.



FOR ALL TCMBA CHURCHES & FRIENDS

# TCMBA KIDS SUMMER CAMP

Osceola, Wisconsin  
for all kids grades 2 - 5

**MON, JULY 10 - FRI, JULY 14**



Air-conditioned Cabins | Fun Games | Bible Lessons  
Swimming | Waterslide | Music & Worship |  
Gaga Ball | Human Foosball | Obstacle Course  
And a Lot More...

**REGISTER BY JUNE 2: \$260/CAMPER**  
**AFTER JUNE 2: \$280/CAMPER**



Annie Armstrong  
Easter Offering

North American  
Mission Board

## Good news from the associations

### SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

More than 40 attended the Nov. 5 SWBA annual meeting at Cornerstone Church in Waterloo. Attendees celebrated the official launch of Redemption Church in Monroe where Blake Canterbury is pastor; heard a testimony of church revitalization from Brian Schoffstall, pastor of Transformation Church; and voted in a new church, Wattertown Community Church, which Pastor Keith Young shared he has been leading over the last four years to partner with the Southern Baptist Convention, SWBA, and the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.



Mark Millman, SWBA director of missions/church planting catalyst, is excited about the association’s new block party trailer, larger than the previous one and containing many new items, especially for older youth and adults. Also, the new trailer has carts to making loading and unloading easier. He thanks Paul Fries for his hard work in getting the trailer ready.

Thirty people were trained at a Residency Builder Event provided by the North American Mission Board Nov. 30 at Transformation Church in Sun Prairie. Participants were given a way to develop a unique and intentional plan for their churches to develop their own residency program within their respective churches.

### NORTHWOODS

NBA held its annual meeting Oct. 29 at Grace Connection near New York Mills, with 40 in attendance. The meeting featured a meal, gifts for the pastors, and a message on evangelism delivered by Thomas Johnston, senior professor of evangelism at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, who lives in Bemidji, Minn.



## MOVING

*continued from page three*

child whose name will be added next year when he starts first grade.

Memories are not just about the past. They anticipate the future. I suppose that is why we turn the page and start a new calendar, so that we can always be reminded there is a future yet to be written.

I expect this is what the Apostle Paul meant when he said, “Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal of the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 3:13-14).

*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**

## 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](mailto:davidwilliams@compuserve.com).

### 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.**

**28-29 New Pastor Orientation, Rochester, Minn.**

**30 MWBC Lottie Moon Offering Cutoff**

### MAY

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, Twin Cities, location TBA

**20 Pastors Conference, Twin Cities, location TBA**

**20-21 Twin Cities, location TBA**

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

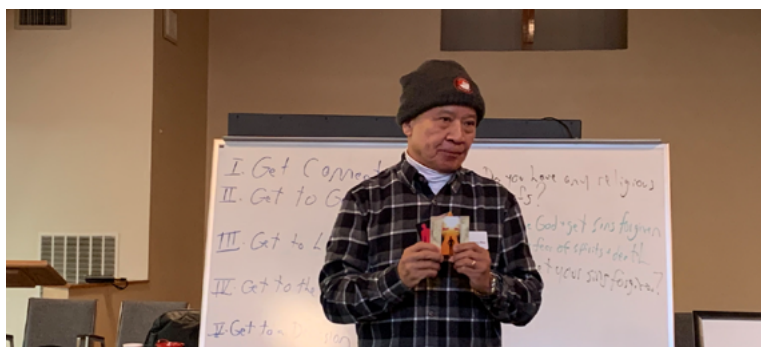
### NOVEMBER

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**



Two International Mission Board missionaries, Henry Phan (left) and Mike Shipman (right), teach on evangelism at a Nov 4-5 diaspora training event at Southtown Baptist Church in Blooming, Minn. Phan focused on Southeast Asian cultures and Shipman focused on Muslim cultures.



# **EMPOWER**

**March 10 - 11, 2023**

**Kahler Grand Hotel  
Rochester, MN**

**that they may have life**



**Mark Clifton**

**Sr. Director Replanting  
and Rural Strategy NAMB**



**Chuck Peters**

**Director of Lifeway Kids**



**Gary Jennings**

**Final Command Ministries**

**Register for this free event**

**<https://EMPOWER2023.eventbrite.com>**

**Children and Youth Program provided by MN/WI WMU**



# EQUIP

## KIDS MINISTRY CONFERENCE

**March 10 - 11, 2023**  
**Emmanuel Baptist Church**  
**Rochester, MN**



**Chuck Peters, Director of Lifeway Kids**



**Jana MacGruder**  
**Strategic Initiatives Director**  
**of Lifeway Kids**

**Register at [mwbc.org](http://mwbc.org) or contact Penny Reedy [pennyabc123@gmail.com](mailto:pennyabc123@gmail.com)**

# Mission Gifts from the Churches

## MINNESOTA WISCONSIN BAPTIST CONVENTION COOPERATIVE PROGRAM AND STATE MISSION OFFERING RECEIPTS

2022 receipts received through 12/23/22

Cooperative Program Budget 2022 Year to Date	\$671,813.00
Cooperative Program Receipts 2022 Year to Date	\$678,773.02
Over Budget 2022 Year to Date	\$6,960.02

State Mission Offering 2021 Goal	\$75,000.00
State Mission Offering 2021 Receipts	\$34,630.92
Under State Mission Offering 2021 Goal	\$40,369.08

NAME	CP YTD	SMO 2022
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### BAY LAKES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Amherst, Amherst Bible Church	\$500.00	\$0.00
Appleton, Fox Valley Hmong	\$360.00	\$0.00
Appleton, Hmong Baptist Mission	\$1,727.95	\$0.00
Appleton, Valley	\$61,103.44	\$4,437.16
Clintonville, First Baptist Church	\$1,912.50	\$380.00
Green Bay, Bethel	\$651.54	\$0.00
Green Bay, Graceway Fellowship	\$6,514.23	\$810.00
Green Bay, Highland Crest	\$81,463.52	\$0.00
Manitowoc, New Beginnings	\$508.30	\$0.00
Neenah, Living Vine Church	\$550.00	\$0.00
Sheboygan, Mapledale Baptist	\$3,509.26	\$260.00
Stevens Point, Tapestry	\$600.00	\$0.00
Tilleda, Bethany Baptist Church	\$2,225.51	\$1,000.00
Waupaca, Fellowship Baptist	\$2,297.16	\$0.00
<b>BLBA TOTAL</b>	<b>\$163,923.41</b>	<b>\$6,887.16</b>

### LAKELAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Bassett, Westosha Baptist Church	\$1,960.00	\$125.00
Brown Deer, Brown Deer Baptist	\$1,500.00	\$825.00
Franklin, Emmaus Fellowship	\$600.00	\$0.00
Hartland, Disciples Church	\$900.00	\$0.00
Kenosha, Amistad Cristiana	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
Kenosha, Fellowship Baptist	\$13,609.24	\$431.00
Kenosha, Missio Dei Fellowship	\$4,096.00	\$0.00
Kenosha, Parkside Baptist Church	\$6,474.93	\$0.00
Mequon, Westlake Church	\$300.00	\$0.00
Milwaukee, Ephesians Baptist	\$3,600.00	\$0.00
Milwaukee, Family of Christ	\$100.00	\$0.00
Milwaukee, Grace Point Community	\$336.11	\$0.00
Milwaukee, Hmong First Baptist	\$0.00	\$485.00
Milwaukee, Korean Baptist Church	\$900.00	\$0.00
Milwaukee, Layton Avenue Baptist	\$15,713.98	\$2,254.00
Milwaukee, Mercy Memorial	\$1,650.00	\$142.00
Milwaukee, Milwaukee Arabic	\$1,041.32	\$0.00
Milwaukee, Monumental Baptist	\$1,635.00	\$0.00
Milwaukee, Mt Horeb Baptist	\$700.00	\$100.00
Milwaukee, Mt Pilgrim Miss.	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Milwaukee, UFlourish Church	\$3,745.54	\$0.00
Mount Pleasant, I.C.A.R.E. Ministry	\$1,482.19	\$0.00
Mount Pleasant, Immanuel	\$12,344.09	\$1,145.00
Pewaukee, Crossroads Church	\$3,820.71	\$0.00
Pleasant Prairie, Pleasant Prairie	\$4,230.00	\$0.00
Racine, Hope Community Church	\$2,555.56	\$0.00
South Milwaukee, The Vine	\$2,290.98	\$0.00
Wauwatosa, Redemption Church	\$3,750.00	\$0.00
<b>LBA TOTAL</b>	<b>\$93,535.65</b>	<b>\$5,507.00</b>

NAME	CP YTD	SMO 2022
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### TWIN CITIES METRO BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Minnetonka, Slavic Baptist	\$600.00	\$0.00
Amery, Journey Church	\$10,100.00	\$500.00
Bloomington, Ebenezer	\$250.00	\$0.00
Bloomington, MN Kangnam Korean	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Bloomington, Southtown Baptist	\$18,744.06	\$2,350.00
Bloomington, True Light Chinese	\$200.00	\$0.00
Brooklyn Park, Ebenezer	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
Brooklyn Park, N Center Lao	\$600.00	\$0.00
Brooklyn Park, North Center	\$3,787.09	\$5.00
Burnsville, Berean Baptist Church	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Burnsville, Resurrection Church	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
Coon Rapids, First Hmong Baptist	\$2,500.00	\$0.00
Eagan, Eurasia Baptist Church	\$150.00	\$0.00
Fridley, Good News Hmong	\$500.00	\$0.00
Maple Grove, Northwood Community	\$1,633.36	\$0.00
Maple Grove, Unlock Church	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Minneapolis, All Peoples Church	\$6,480.00	\$0.00
Minneapolis, Gracepoint	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Minneapolis, Hope of Nations	\$1,273.04	\$0.00
Minneapolis, Shalom Community	\$304.50	\$0.00
Minnetonka, Redeemer Bible	\$1,100.00	\$0.00
Monticello, Grace Bible Church	\$2,150.00	\$0.00
New Hope, Westview Church	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
New Prague, Calvary Church	\$22,449.21	\$1,244.00
North St. Paul - Eternal Life Hmong	\$1,008.00	\$0.00
Ramsey, Bethlehem Worship	\$200.00	\$450.00
Richfield, Richfield Bible Church	\$600.00	\$0.00
Roseville, Gospel Hmong	\$803.82	\$0.00
Roseville, Roseville Baptist Church	\$5,500.00	\$0.00
Spring Lake Park, Hmong Hope	\$400.00	\$500.00
St. Louis Park, First Ukrainian	\$500.00	\$0.00
St. Michael, Northwest Bible	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
St. Paul, Cities Church	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
St. Paul, Followers Of Christ	\$9,797.43	\$536.00
St. Paul, Iglesia Hispana Betel	\$1,125.00	\$1,240.00
St. Paul, Salt City Church	\$31,932.50	\$0.00
St. Paul, Twin City Hmong	\$2,160.00	\$600.00
Sunfish Lake, Bethel Baptist	\$7,200.00	\$0.00
Sunfish Lake, Vietnamese Baptist	\$720.00	\$0.00
White Bear Lake, Emmaus Church	\$11,286.00	\$0.00
<b>TCMBA Total</b>	<b>\$170,154.01</b>	<b>\$8,425.00</b>

### SOUTHERN MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION

Austin, Austin Baptist Church	\$4,904.30	\$0.00
Mankato, Hope Baptist Church	\$2,060.40	\$0.00
Chester, Chester Woods	\$1,344.45	\$565.00
Eyota, Hmong Baptist Church	\$3,000.00	\$682.00
Marshall, Radiant Life Church	\$2,778.52	\$265.00
Red Wing, Hiawatha Valley	\$7,008.83	\$770.00
Rochester, Emmanuel Baptist	\$20,077.89	\$840.00
Rochester, Northbridge Church	\$13,047.00	\$0.00
Rochester, Redemption City	\$10,244.45	\$0.00
Rochester, Rochester Community	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Sartell, Park Fellowship	\$4,388.40	\$0.00
St. Cloud, St. Cloud International	\$400.00	\$0.00
Viola, Viola Bible Church	\$3,175.10	\$1,075.00
Willmar, Grace Baptist Church	\$25.00	\$0.00
Winona, Cornerstone Community	\$6,057.97	\$0.00
<b>SMNBA Total</b>	<b>\$79,712.31</b>	<b>\$4,197.00</b>



# Mission Gifts from the Churches

NAME	CP YTD	SMO 2022	NAME	CP YTD	SMO 2022
<b>SOUTHERN WI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION</b>			<b>NORTHWOODS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION</b>		
Boscobel, Blue River Valley	\$1,309.93	\$0.00	Bemidji, Ridgewood Baptist Church	\$1,362.00	\$0.00
Janesville, Bethel Church	\$2,228.52	\$0.00	Ely, Berean Baptist	\$1,300.00	\$0.00
Janesville, Resonate Church	\$6,634.18	\$0.00	Badger, Badger Baptist Church	\$455.00	\$0.00
La Crosse, Crossway Church	\$900.00	\$549.00	Cambridge, Cross Pointe Church	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
La Crosse, New Hope	\$600.00	\$0.00	Crookston, Prairie Community	\$6,853.17	\$69.96
Madison, Campus Community	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	Grand Rapids, Calvary Pines	\$3,789.00	\$0.00
Madison, Doxa Church	\$35,529.86	\$0.00	Hill City, Hill City Baptist Church	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Madison, East Madison Baptist	\$8,405.00	\$2,255.00	New York Mills, Grace Connection	\$350.00	\$0.00
Madison, Emmanuel Church	\$70.21	\$13.00	Rice Lake, Hope Baptist Church	\$5,775.00	\$2,139.00
Madison, Gracepoint	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	Roseau, Immanuel Baptist Church	\$2,955.48	\$0.00
Madison, Hope In Christ Assembly	\$1,671.32	\$0.00	Thief River Falls, Cornerstone	\$878.76	\$0.00
Madison, Livingstone Baptist	\$3,365.00	\$330.00	Warroad, Westside Baptist	\$4,517.05	\$300.00
Madison, Midvale Baptist Church	\$8,933.59	\$1,835.00	<b>NWBA Total</b>	<b>\$32,435.46</b>	<b>\$2,508.96</b>
Madison, Red Village	\$8,875.00	\$0.00	<b>OTHER</b>		
Platteville, Rolling Hills	\$8,792.46	\$0.00	Eau Claire, Jacob's Well	\$9,350.00	\$0.00
Reedsburg, Trinity Baptist	\$17,400.00	\$0.00	Eau Claire, One in Christ Church	\$1,657.92	\$300.00
Sparta, Gospel Baptist Church	\$4,528.58	\$1,447.80	<b>OTHER TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,007.92</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>
Sun Prairie, Christ Fellowship	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	<b>MWBC TOTAL RECEIVED</b>		
Sun Prairie, Reborn in Christ	\$1,621.88	\$0.00		<b>\$678,773.02</b>	<b>\$34,630.92</b>
Sun Prairie, Transformation	\$1,961.77	\$0.00	<b>NOTE: No giving received by MWBC-affiliated churches not listed above during stated giving periods</b>		
Sun Prairie, United Hmong	\$900.00	\$0.00			
Verona, Memorial Baptist Church	\$250.00	\$0.00			
Waterloo, Centro Biblico La Roca	\$120.00	\$30.00			
Waterloo, Cornerstone Church	\$1,100.00	\$0.00			
Waterloo, Shalom Christian	\$170.00	\$0.00			
Watertown, Watertown Community	\$600.00	\$0.00			
WI Dells, Rock of Hope	\$2,400.00	\$0.00			
WI Rapids, Church at Wazeecha	\$5,386.96	\$230.00			
WI Rapids, First Baptist Church	\$550.00	\$116.00			
<b>SWBA TOTAL</b>	<b>\$128,004.26</b>	<b>\$6,805.80</b>			

## PANDEMIC

*continued from page two*

they attend at least once a year. Another third (33 percent) said they never attend — up from 25 percent in 2020.

Cox said generational shifts and the broader polarization in society likely played a role in the attendance decline.

Younger Americans are less likely in general to identify as religious or attend services — the 2021 General Social Survey found that 41.5 percent of Americans between 18 and 29 said they never attend services, with 20.6 percent saying they attend more than once a month.

New political battlefronts also opened up during the pandemic,

with vaccines and masks becoming points of contention and markers of political identity rather than public health interventions.

Conservative churches were likely to reopen sooner than more liberal congregations — making it easier for people to attend those churches in person.

The change in attendance patterns did not affect every group equally.

More than half of Latter-day Saints (72 percent) and white evangelicals (53 percent) said they attended service regularly in 2022, about the same rate as before the pandemic. Other groups saw little drop-off in regular attenders as well, including Black

Protestants (36 percent), white Catholics (30 percent), Hispanic Catholics (23 percent), white mainliners (17 percent) and Jews (10 percent), all reporting similar regular attendance rates in 2022 as before the pandemic.

The survey did show, however, that in most faith groups, the infrequent attenders were the largest group. That includes about half of white Catholics (46 percent), Hispanic Catholics (47 percent), white mainliners (51 percent) and Jews (54 percent).

Black Protestant regular attenders (36 percent) and infrequent attenders (35 percent) were about the same size.

Cox found some

hopeful news in the report, in that people have not given up their religious identity for the most part, even if they don't attend. That gives religious leaders a chance to reconnect with larger numbers of people who still identify with religious traditions but don't participate.

"These are the people who haven't completely separated," he said, so there is still a chance to reengage with them.

The folks who rarely attend services are also most at risk of disappearing completely. If that happens, churches and denominations would be in big trouble, said Cox.

"There are millions of people in that cate-

gory," he said. "If they go, I think it's going to cripple a lot of denominations, and a lot of congregations are going to have to fold."

Cox also worried about an increase in what he called "religious polarization," between people who are active in religious congregations and those who have no involvement at all.

"We're going to quickly come to a place where a good chunk of the country is not only going to have different views about religion, and different religious experiences, they're not going to be able to relate to each other in any real way," he said.

**Back to the beginning**





# A Mission Field in Need of Hope

**371 million people**

**350 languages**  
in North America

**281 million**  
estimated without Christ

Annie Armstrong  
Easter Offering®



North American  
Mission Board