

Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist

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M-W Baptists begin year of transition



The executive director search committee is introduced at the conclusion of the annual meeting. Left to right are: Roy Watson, pastor, Monumental Baptist Church, Milwaukee; Vice Chairman Hoyt Lovelace, pastor of missions, Resonate Church, Janesville, Wis.; Les Stevens, pastor, Chester Woods Community Church, Rochester, Minn.; Chairman Steve Melvin, retired MWBC church starting catalyst, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Rochester, Minn.; Joe Young, pastor, First Hmong Baptist Church, Coon Rapids, Minn.; Paul Fries, retired pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, Reedsburg, Wis.; Daniel Goba, (nonvoting), pastor, Ebenezer Community Church, Bloomington, Minn.; Penny Reedy, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, International Falls, Minn. Not pictured are Bob Ray, pastor, East Madison Baptist Church, Madison, Wis.; and Sarah Mickow, member, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Rochester, Minn.

By David Williams
Editor

Appleton, Wis. — Gathering for their 41st annual meeting, Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptists readied themselves for a year of transition as they began their long goodbye to retiring executive director Leo Endel.

Under the theme, “We Will Tell the Next Generation,” Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention’s annual meeting was held Oct. 25-26 at Valley Baptist Church in Appleton, Wis. A total of 173 attended, including 75 guests and 98 messengers from 48 of the convention’s 195 churches.

Many on the program took the opportunity to praise and thank their third and longest-serving executive director who the previous month had announced he will retire effective June 30, 2025 after completing 23 years.

When it was his turn to speak, Endel reminded the messengers that, despite all the farewells, he still had nearly nine months left on the job.

He reflected on how he came to be MWBC’s

Winningham leaves legacy of service, journalism

Knoxville, Tenn. — Louise Winningham, founding editor of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist, died Oct. 6 after a 50 year battle with multiple sclerosis. She was 91.

She is survived by her husband, Otha Win-

ningham, who served as executive director of the M-W Southern Baptist Fellowship and continued in that role when it became a two-state convention. The couple served in their respective roles for 17 years, from 1976 until their retirement in 1993.

Before that she had served as a news journalist for the Southern Baptist Convention’s Home Mission Board in Atlanta and was also active in Woman’s Missionary Union work wherever her husband’s

ministry career took them. She was the first WMU executive director

for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana. Later she became Pennsylvania-South Jersey Baptist Convention’s first WMU president and then their

first executive director. For several years she was a regular writer of curriculum materials for WMU’s Royal Service magazine.

She was also the author of a children’s book, “New Friends



Louise Winningham

Resolution honors Leo Endel

Appleton, Wis. — Retiring Executive Director Leo Endel was honored with a resolution approved by messengers to the 41st annual meeting of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

Expressing gratitude to Endel for “his years of exemplary service, his unwavering dedi-

cation to the Gospel, and his lasting impact on the Convention and its people,” the resolution focused on Endel’s leadership and vision, mentorship and people skills, integrity and faithfulness, and his communication and scholarship.

Read the full resolution on [page 8](#).

See **LEGACY** page 10

See **MEETING** page 4

MWBC ANNUAL MEETING

Oct. 25-26, 2024

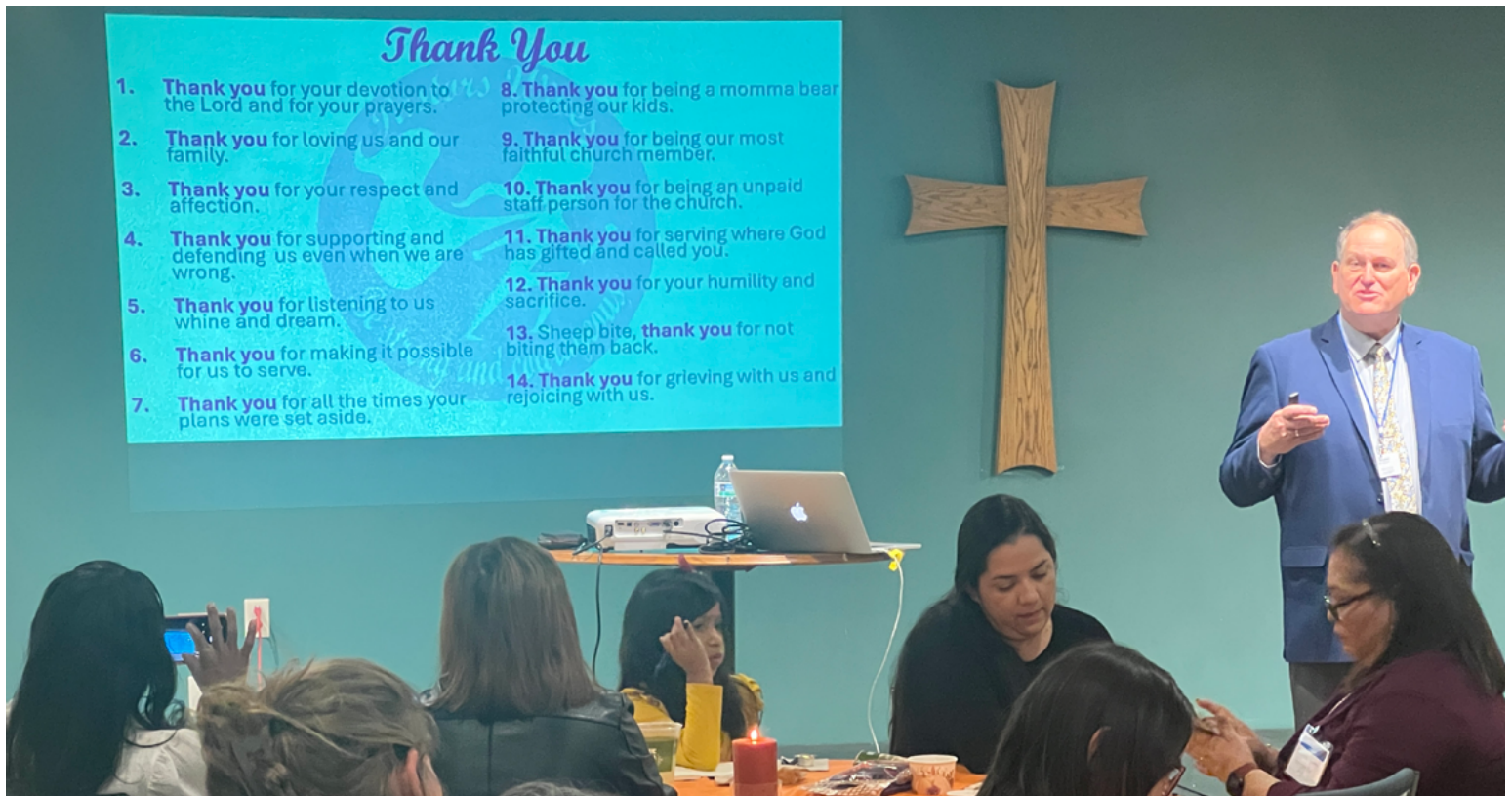
Valley Baptist Church, Appleton, Wis.



Leo Endel, far left, MWBC executive director, recognizes officers elected at the annual meeting. Left to right are: Glen Slatts, assistant recording secretary; Tim Amert, recording secretary; Joseph Young, second vice president; Daniel Goba, president; and Chris Phillips, first vice president.



"I believe our diversity is our strength," says Na Herr, intercultural catalyst of the very diverse Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention where 40 percent of the churches are not Anglo majority. Herr said that immigrant churches in the MWBC include Hmong, Hispanic, Korean, Pan-African, Liberian, Arabic, Pan Asian, Lao, Ukrainian, Slavic, Russian, Chinese, Vietnamese, Karen, and Romanian. "While some lament the growing religious pluralism in our society, I see this as an opportunity to engage with people we would not otherwise know," he said.



Speaking at the pastors' wives lunch preceding the annual meeting, MWBC Executive Director Leo Endel tells them 14 reasons their pastor husbands are thankful for them.

MWBC ANNUAL MEETING

Oct. 25-26, 2024

Valley Baptist Church, Appleton, Wis.



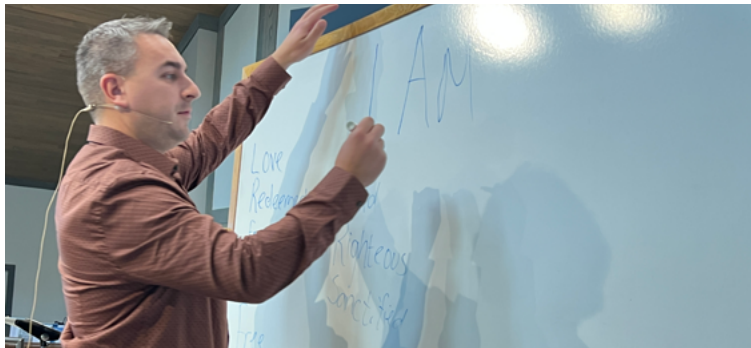
Mark Millman, church planting catalyst/director of missions for Southern Wisconsin Baptist Association, announces that 25 churches were planted in MWBC during the past year and two-thirds of them are ethnic congregations.



Leading Bible study on Nehemiah 1:4-11, Joseph Young asks, "Do we have a deep mourning for the lost, the people around us?"



Using the story of Gideon from Judges 7 as his text, Jonathan Lemaster talks about the importance of encouragement. "God provided encouragement at the right time," he said. "With the encouragement, God gives us the strength to obey."



Preaching the convention sermon, Jesse Beernink writes "I am" on a marker board and asks the congregation to call out words that describe who they are because of God. The people responded: loved, redeemed, forgiven, adopted, called, His child, righteous, sanctified, chosen, wonderfully created. When discouraged, Beernink said, we should remember, "You are these things. They are not something you should strive for, but something you are. Don't doubt in the dark what you already know in the light."



Leo Endel presents a gift to Charles Dunning, retiring as president of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Foundation. Looking on at right is Dunning's successor, Paul Springer.



"I've not heard anybody complain about the diversity of MWBC," President Daniel Goba tells messengers and guests. "Everybody is so welcoming."



Disaster relief is ministry, but it is also an opportunity for discipleship, Ben Seamans tells M-W Baptists. Men bunking together while deployed become very transparent as they talk about their lives. "The discipleship that happens is amazing," he said.

MEETING

continued from page one

executive director.

“The gospel brought us together,” he said. “The gospel made us family together.” He then personalized Philippians 1:8, saying, “For God is my witness how deeply I will miss all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.”

Daniel Goba, pastor of Ebenezer Community Church in Bloomington, Minn., used his Saturday morning president’s message to compare the change of leadership facing MWBC to the passing of Israel’s leadership to Joshua after Moses’ death.

“Leo is not dead, but he is leaving,” Goba said. “Minnesota-Wisconsin, Leo is leaving. I want you to be strong, be courageous.”

A native of Liberia, the two-term convention president said that when he came to the United States he found, “I have three strikes against me: I’m Black, I’m African, and I have an accent,” but he said he was never discriminated against in the MWBC family. “Leo was the first American who really hugged me and loved me authentically.”

He was distressed to learn of Endel’s plans to retire, but took comfort when retired MWBC staffer Steve Melvin told him that everyone had been worried when the previous executive director, Bill Tinsley, left, but then God sent Endel to lead them.

“How can I not know

that God can give us another Leo?” he asked.

Goba told Endel he is moving from active duty to reserve duty for MWBC and should “always be ready, always be willing, and sometimes be available.”

Speaking to whoever would succeed Endel, Goba said, “Mr. New Executive Director, you have a tall order,” and urged that person to be available, to be color blind, to “help with our messes,” to “see beyond our view of ourselves,” and to be a man of character.

Endel turned the attention away from himself as he recognized two other major transitions taking place:

- Charles Dunning, retiring as president of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Foundation, 25 years after becoming its first president. Paul Springer is the new president of the MWBF.

- Larry Creamer, retiring after 24 years as pastor of Valley Baptist Church, the host church. The church has already called Tim Moffett as pastor.

Jeff Iorg, guest speaker for the pastors’ conference that met during the morning before the annual meeting began at 1 p.m., fittingly used half his time to teach the pastors how to manage transition during change.

Iorg also spoke during the annual meeting about his own transition

from an anticipated retirement to his new assignment as president of the Southern Baptist Convention’s Executive Committee. “I did not take

on this responsibility for my generation or even for the next generation,” he said. “I did it for my grandchildren. That’s why I’m giving these years of my life to this task.”

His message centered on how “Southern Baptists, despite our shortcomings, are still a force for good,” and was an adaptation of his address to the Executive Committee when he was installed as president Sept. 16. Click [here](#) to read that entire message.

Messengers approved a 2025 budget of \$978,525 which is a 3 percent increase from the 2024 budget of \$950,025. The percentage of Cooperative Program giving forwarded

to national causes remains at 20 percent.

Messengers re-elected to a second term President Daniel Goba, pastor, Ebenezer Community Church, Bloomington, Minn.; First Vice President Chris Phillips, associate pastor of children and youth, Trinity Baptist Church, Reedsburg, Wis.; Second Vice President Joseph Young, pastor, First Hmong Baptist Church, Coon Rapids, Minn.; and Recording Secretary Tim Amert, member, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Rochester, Minn. Elected as assistant recording secretary was Glen Slatts, member, Trinity Baptist Church, Reedsburg, Wis.

Messengers approved the three resolutions reported out of the resolutions committee by Trey Turner, pastor of the Church at Wazeecha in Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.: (1) thanking the host church and pastor; (2) affirming the Cooperative Program upon its centennial anniversary; and (3) honoring Leo Endel upon his

retirement.

The meeting closed at noon with the introduction of the executive director search team that had been elected at the executive board’s Sept. 13-14 meeting. The search team held their first meeting that afternoon. They have been charged with the goal of presenting their recommendation for Endel’s successor at the April meeting of the executive board so that, if approved, there can be a month overlap of the outgoing and incoming executive director.

The 2025 annual meeting will be Oct. 24-25 at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Rochester, Minn. The annual sermon will be delivered by Chris Reinertson, pastor of Southtown Baptist Church, Bloomington, Minn. The following year’s annual meeting will be at Trinity Baptist Church in Reedsburg, Wis.

Back to the beginning

Click here for
videos of the
Pastors Conference
and all sessions
of the Annual Meeting



Step by step

My wife Sarah and I are undying fans of the late Rich Mullins.

The song in the box was one of the very first contemporary songs I introduced to our church in Sioux City, Iowa. On

trips, Sarah and I still listen to those old songs and remember, but this song has always resonated for us the reality



Perspectives

Leo Endel

that life is lived step by step following Jesus.

As you know by now, my life and ministry are in transition, and, as a result, so are the missions and ministries of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist

Convention.

As I enter into the unfamiliar experiences of being a semi-retired grandfather, there are things I now face that I've never faced before, but there is also the recognition that I'm on familiar ground. I now realize that life has always been a series of unending transitions that come to us step by step.

I thought I was going

to be a fighter pilot. Then I thought I was going to be a business executive. Then God broke into my world and called me into the ministry. I was overwhelmed with this call and knew I wasn't good enough to be a pastor. Yet, step by step, God moved me like a bishop on a chess board, positioning me for His next move.

As I shared at this year's annual meeting, I never aspired to serve as an executive director. When I look back on how God brought me to Minnesota-Wisconsin I clearly see that God had been preparing me for this role for decades despite my complete unawareness of His guiding hand. Step by step.

Today I see the path God painted for me

in reverse. I see in the times of my indecision that God had already determined a plan for me. I see in the painful experiences, the victories and the struggles how He shaped me for the next steps. I

see God teaching me what was necessary for the next assignment and then using me to accomplish His purposes. Lessons learned and new assignments given, step by step.

As I sort through documents, certificates, diplomas, and possessions, I am reminded of

those life experiences that have shaped me.

Memories flood across my mind and occasionally through my eyes. I am reminded of people and churches and experiences that suddenly become as vivid

as if they had happened yesterday. God was constantly and consistently at work, step by step.

We grow up and leave home for college or work. We marry or establish our lives as single men or women.

See **STEP** page 10

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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Flying in formation

I was outside on our deck at sunrise in Colorado. An hour before, a meteorite had streaked across the sky among the brilliant stars before they faded and disappeared. The morning star was

still visible. The eastern rim was streaked with crimson and gold against a faint, robin egg blue sky.

I heard geese in the distance and watched

as a long line winged their way against the dawn. Then more.

Hundreds of Canada geese continued in small and large groupings, one squadron emerging behind another in V formations,

sculling the air with their wings, honking their encouragement to those who led them south and west. I suppose they were headed to feed in the foothills.



Reflections

Bill Tinsley

Migrating geese is one of the things I love most, another aspect of nature's beauty and mystery.

Who taught them to fly in formation? Scientists who study this phenomenon say the V formation reduces drag and adds lift for each goose. By flying together in this way, they increase their range by 71 percent. And, since the lead birds must put forth the greatest effort, they rotate the lead position. They do this voluntarily. No one commands them. No one trains or in-

structs them. It is their God-given nature.

Watching the geese at sunrise reminded me of the unique global challenges we all face including global warming, poverty, famine and the aftermath, whatever it is, of this week's election. To survive and thrive, we need to fly in formation. During Covid, that meant wearing a mask, washing our hands, remaining six feet apart. We did a pretty good job. It always means adopting

See **FLYING** page 15

CPE opens doors for MWBC pastors

As a CPE Supervisor-Educator, I provide clinical pastoral education (CPE) for MWBC pastors. CPE is a structured adult learning experience that includes a ministry setting, weekly peer group meetings, bi-weekly meetings with a supervisor, and assignments that integrate reading and reflection into ministry practice.

Employers often expect CPE when hiring chaplains for hospitals, hospices, prisons, or corporate settings. Pastors looking for opportunities to support bi-vocational ministry will find ways to serve

their communities with their gifts and calling. Ministry in community settings gives pastors a fresh perspective on challenges facing people in their ministry context.

The educational requirement to participate in CPE is a high school diploma. The student also needs a place to meet people's spiritual needs for 20 hours a week. CPE is delivered in units of 400 hours over 16 weeks. The 400 hours include 300 hours in a clinical setting and 100 hours in peer group meetings, reading, writing, and online study.

Each unit has ten ob-

jectives that expose the students to various experiences and build on learning from previous units. Students set their own learning goals at the beginning of each unit, which allows them to customize their learning experience. CPE is not therapy, yet many CPE students describe the experience as therapeutic and life changing.

Since January 2023, 13 MWBC pastors have participated in CPE. Three pastors have completed all four units: Victor Ordonez, Issa Safadi, and Meskerem Trango Thomas. Several other MWBC pastors are on track to complete four units by April 2025. MWBC pastors have received tuition discounts totaling \$32,266 since January 2023. Taking

CPE comes with no guarantee of employment as a chaplain. Yet, some of the MWBC pastors have secured employment or promotions as chaplains in hospitals, public safety, hospice, and corporate chaplaincy.

CPE for MWBC pastors is offered in affiliation with Clinical Pastoral Education International (CPEI). CPEI's mission is to provide quality, inclusive, and life-transforming clinical pastoral education internationally through online and hybrid modalities to develop competent pastoral clinicians and supervisory educators. CPEI is accredited by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC), which is recognized by the U.S.

Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

The MWBC is sponsoring a CPE group in 2025 that will meet 5:30-8:30 p.m. (CST), Thursdays via Zoom beginning the week of Jan. 6, 2025 and ending Apr. 27, 2025. Tuition is normally \$1,274 per unit. The MWBC has arranged for MWBC pastors to take their first unit for \$325. The group is limited to nine pastors. Applications are due Dec. 9 and can take up to two weeks to complete. Contact Clint at calvert@mwbc.org for more information.

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



Leadership
Clint Calvert

Christmas for North Carolina

Hurricane Helene brought unprecedented destruction to the East Coast.

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief has responded to these events from the onset and still continue

to serve, even after the media attention has ceased. Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention had teams serve in Augusta, Ga., utilizing

our chain saw units to remove large trees from houses and yards. Our presence there

lasted five weeks. Yet, North Carolina SBDR, with other supporting states, are still serving with food prepa-

ration, shower and laundry, debris removal, flood recovery and more – and they are very tired indeed.

Presently, winter

has set in across the mountains of North Carolina and countless families are still without heat, electricity and access to supplies. They are huddled under tarps and blankets and whatever else they can find. In response, there is an active private network established for air drops across the state, coordinating with churches, to bring food and supplies to a number of remote mountain communities.

I am asking our churches to collect three primary products to send to North Caro-

lina before Thanksgiving. We are asking for 1,000 indoor safe Buddy Heaters and adaptors (F273699) and 500 propane cook stoves. This is a huge undertaking, yet it is possible with the Lord's blessing and all of us pulling together. When shopping for Christmas gifts, consider that approximately \$100 will bring heat to a family in North Carolina.

We have secured a local trucking company (Reedsburg, Wis.) who will collect the items and will ship them to Asheville, N.C., free

of charge. I will be posting primary pick-up locations across our convention on our Facebook page and our websites. If each church can collect these items and deliver them to our pick-up locations, this

See **CHRISTMAS** page 12



Scan here to donate.

Disaster Relief
Ben Seamans



GOOD NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATIONS

BAY LAKES

BLBA elected new officers at their Oct. 19 annual meeting at Clintonville Baptist Church: Melvin Zimmerman (Highland Crest Baptist Church), moderator; Maxo Maceno (Church of Living Water), vice moderator; Nick Sattler (Valley Baptist Church), re-elected treasurer; Pat Huber (Amherst Bible Church), re-elected secretary. Guy Fredrick (Maple Dale Baptist Church) is BLBA's associational mission strategist.

Valley Baptist Church in Appleton was going through a pastoral transition as they hosted the MWBC annual meeting in October. As Larry Creamer moves into retirement, Tim Moffett has already accepted the call to serve as the church's new pastor. Creamer will continue serving the church in their biblical counseling and mission work.



Tim Moffett

LAKELAND

LBC's Fall Meeting will be 8:30-11:30 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 9, at Uflouish Church in Milwaukee.

Sept. 15 was a big Sunday for LBA as a new church was planted (Pillar Church in West Allis, Greg Alles, pastor), another was replanted Westosha Community Church in Kenosha County, Grayson Gilbert, pastor), and a third moved into a new facility (New Horizon Missionary Baptist Church in Milwaukee, Freeman Townsend, pastor).

SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

A total of 55 attended the SWBA annual meeting Oct. 5 at Red Village Church. Aaron Jozwiak is pastor. Messengers approved a new constitution and bylaws for the association. Click [here](#) to read them.



Pictured here with his wife, Eunmi Kang Park, is Cho Park the new pastor of the Korean Baptist Church in Milwaukee. He is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and was previously pastor of the Korean Church of Queens, N.Y.



Pictured with LBA Director of Missions Keith Cogburn (left) is Greg Alles, pastor of the new Pillar Church in Milwaukee. The sending church for this new congregation is the Redemption Church (Brookfield) where Danny D'Aquisto serves as pastor.



Mark Croston, Lifeway Christian Resources' national director of Black church ministries, leads a session at LBA's annual training conference held Sept. 21 at Layton Avenue Baptist Church in Greenfield. His class on reaching multiple generations is scheduled to be taught again at Empower in March.



Members and guests gather for a group photo as Emmanuel Church in Madison celebrated National Hispanic American Heritage Month during their Sunday, Oct. 13, worship service. Pastor is Jose Marco.

Resolution Honoring Leo Endel

Standout Background

- **Leadership and Vision:** Dr. Endel's financial expertise and strategic thinking were evident in his successful navigation of financial challenges, his pioneering role as a new-work area representative in the SBC, and his commitment to unifying different perspectives within the convention. His dissertation on missions funding reflects his strategic thinking and commitment to the growth of the church.
- **Mentorship and People Skills:** Endel regularly cultivates lasting relationships, observes potential and then develops that—bringing out the best in each person. He shepherds and mentors them with gentleness and a smile.
- **Integrity and Faithfulness:** Endel is recognized for his integrity, serving as an example to others and demonstrating a deep commitment to his faith. He exemplifies personal growth to better serve God and the church.
- **Communication and Scholarship:** Endel is a dynamic communicator and skilled writer who authored two books. In addition, his research on the Cooperative Program earned him recognition as 2012 Researcher of the Year by Baptist Press.

Resolution Recognizing Leo Endel

WHEREAS, Leo Endel has served faithfully and effectively as the Executive Director of the Minnesota Wisconsin Baptist Convention from 2002 to his anticipated retirement date in 2025; and

WHEREAS, his unique background, including his upbringing in a military family, his education in finance, and his experience as a pastor, has equipped him to lead with vision, skill, and sensitivity; and

WHEREAS, he has skillfully guided the Convention through financial trials in 2010 and 2018 through the pandemic, inspiring with his positive vision of Kingdom growth; and

WHEREAS, he has been a pioneering voice for new-work areas in the Southern Baptist Convention, demonstrating his commitment to expanding the reach of the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, he has fostered unity within the greater Southern Baptist family, seeking to bridge theological divides and bring together diverse perspectives; and

WHEREAS, his groundbreaking research on the Cooperative Program has not only strengthened the financial foundation of this Convention but also inspired greater generosity and commitment to missions; recognized by other Southern Baptist entities, and

WHEREAS, he has demonstrated unwavering integrity throughout, serving as an example of Christian leadership and inspiring others with his humility and grace; and

WHEREAS, he has consistently invested in people, cultivating lasting relationships, mentoring future leaders, and empowering individuals to reach their full potential;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Wisconsin Baptist Convention expresses its deepest gratitude to Leo Endel for his years of exemplary service, his unwavering dedication to the Gospel, and his lasting impact on the Convention and its people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend our heartfelt best wishes to Leo Endel in his retirement, praying that God will continue to bless him and use him mightily in the years to come.



NextGen Ministry Conference
Ephesians 4:12

April 4-5, 2025
Southtown Baptist Church
Bloomington, MN



SAVE THE DATE
CALLED OUT 2025
September 19-21



March 7-8
2025 Green Lake



Tim Dowdy
Vice President
of Evangelism
NAMB



John Francis, Ph.D.
Minister of Worship
Parkway Baptist Church
St. Louis, MO

EMPOWER

We will tell the next generation



Sandy Wisdom-Martin
National Executive
Director-Treasurer
WMU



Dr. Mark Croston, Sr.
National Director
Black Church Ministries
Lifeway Christian Resources

We will tell the praise worthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. Psalm 78:4

mwbc.org



LEGACY

continued from page one

for Freddy,” as well as biographies of her great, great, great grandfather, Dr. Ephraim McDowell, Danville, Ky., noted surgeon of the early 1800s, and of his daughter, Adeline (Mrs. James William) Deaderick, of Jonesborough, Tenn. She was a member of First Families of Tennessee, whose ancestors lived in Tennessee before it became a state.

“When Otha came to lead the Baptist work in our two states, Louise, with her journalistic background, immediately saw the need for a state Baptist paper like the other states had,” said David Williams, M-W Baptist editor. “She went to work to create a monthly publication that served the churches well during those years, keeping them up-to-date and encouraging them with good news of what God was doing. Our work today stands on the shoulders of what she began nearly 50 years ago. We have gone through many changes, but our purpose has always been the same purpose she had: to tell the stories of M-W Baptists.”

Born Oct. 24, 1932, in Englewood, N.J., to Justus W. and Clara Deaderick Berge, she graduated from Knoxville High School, the University of Tennessee, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. She and her husband retired to Knoxville 31 years ago where they have been members of First Baptist Church.

Back to the beginning

STEP

continued from page four

We have children and careers. We change jobs. We may even relocate seven or eight times through our working years. We buy and sell cars. Friends come and go. Our extended families

expand and contract. Somehow we manage all this change, stumbling into the future of uncertainty and then finding our feet again in the new normal, step by step.

All of this can be a bit scary and, at the same time, very exciting. A big life change

can lead to scores of little tremors of adjustment—some good and some, maybe not so good. But in the end, I claim the promises of Paul from Romans 8:28, “We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to His

purpose.” He gets us where He wants us. I have learned to trust Him, step by step.

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

Back to the beginning

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

MWBC events are in bold print.

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

NOVEMBER

10-12 Baptist General Convention of Texas Annual Meeting, Waco, Texas
28-29 Thanksgiving Holiday – **MWBC Office Closed**

DECEMBER

1-8 Week of Prayer for International Missions/Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
25-1/1 Christmas/New Year’s Holiday – **MWBC Office Closed**

JANUARY

1 New Year’s Day – **MWBC Office Closed**

FEBRUARY

6-8 Pastors and Wives Retreat, Green Lake (Wis.) Conference Center

MARCH

6-8 Empower Conference, Green Lake (Wis.) Conference Center
16-28 Liberia Mission Trip

APRIL

4-5 Equip – NextGen Ministry Conference, Sutherland Baptist Church, Bloomington, Minn.
18 Good Friday – **MWBC Office Closed**
25-26 **MWBC Executive Board Meeting, Rochester, Minn.**

MAY

16 New Pastor Orientation, Rochester, Minn.
26 Memorial Day Observed – **MWBC Office Closed**
22 Send Network Multiplication Pipeline Training, Lambeau Field, Green Bay Wis.

JUNE

6-11 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Dallas, Texas
14-21 Guyana Mission Trip
TBD Hands of Hope

JULY

4 Independence Day – **MWBC Office Closed**
14-30 SEA Mission Trip - Thailand

AUGUST

2-9 Argentina Mission Trip

SEPTEMBER

1-30 Season of Prayer for State Missions
1 Labor Day – **MWBC Office Closed**
12-13 **MWBC Executive Board, Rochester, Minn.**
TBD Called Out Youth Conference, Baraboo, Wis.

OCTOBER

23 Church Planters Gathering, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Rochester, Minn.
24 Pastors Conference, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Rochester, Minn.
24-25 **MWBC Annual Meeting, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Rochester, Minn.**
27-28 Missouri Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Branson Hilton Convention Center, Branson, Mo.

NOVEMBER

16-18 Baptist General Convention of Texas Annual Meeting, Abilene, Texas
27-28 Thanksgiving Holiday – **MWBC Office Closed**

DECEMBER

24-31 Christmas/New Year’s Holiday – **MWBC Office Closed**
27-1/5 Israel Trip

Hmong Fellowship plans for the future

By Karen Willoughby

FRESNO, Calif. (BP) – Hmong Southern Baptist churches across the nation followed the lead of the SBC. They have been preaching all year on the theme of “One Mind, One Voice” and Romans 15:5-6, the theme of the SBC annual meeting in June.

This was a deliberate initiative this year to draw the churches closer together, Hmong National Baptist Association President Chong Pao Thao said.

“I believe the unity of the HBNA is coming together,” Thao told Baptist Press after the 33rd annual meeting Oct. 4-5 of the SBC’s Hmong Association group at Christian Temple in Fresno. “We received a lot of positive feedback. Leaders and messengers liked how smoothly the meeting ran. We’re pleased to see a lot of younger pastors, leaders and messengers engaged in the association.

“This year in California the West Region

was excited about the opportunity to participate and did an outstanding job hosting the annual meeting, which included preparation of all the meals,” the Hmong Baptist president continued.

The Hmong Association, which consists of five regions – North, Northeast, Southeast, and South-Central/ West – tries to move the annual meeting to different regions to encourage more participation from local churches. HBNA consists of 56 churches across the nation.

This year, 203 people registered for the event, including 46 messengers, 25 pastors, and members from 27 churches. More than 250 attended the Pastors Appreciation lunch on Saturday sponsored by Hmong Baptist Church of Fresno and Freedom Community Church of Fresno.

The Hmong annual meeting includes worship, preaching, reports, resources, and opportunities for fellowship



More than 200 gather at Christian Temple in Fresno, Calif., for the 33rd annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention's Hmong Association.

and encouragement, said Thao, pastor of Denver First Hmong Baptist Church of Broomfield, Colo.

The worship team was led by the President’s son, Alex Thao, and the Denver First Hmong Baptist Church of Broomfield, Colo., worship team. Guest speakers included Chong Tou Her, Pastor of Freedom Community Church in Fresno; Greg Kilgore, Director of Missions for Mid-Valley Baptist Association in California; and Timothy Boonlert Lor, Pastor of Followers of Christ Hmong Baptist Church in St.

Paul, Minn.

In his welcome, the president noted the unexpected passing last fall of Executive Director Wa Tra Xiong.

“The year has been challenging for all of us, due to the loss of our beloved executive director,” Thao said. “But God is faithful and has been in the midst, as He always has and will always be.

“HBNA is all of us united in one mind and as one voice,” the President continued. “God has called each of us to hold a unique role and responsibility, but as parts of the body working together, all of us united create one mind and one voice. When we are one in Christ, God can achieve greatness through us to build and strengthen His kingdom through our Southern Baptist Hmong family – in our local churches, in our communities, across the nation, and across the globe.”

In the absence of an executive director, day-to-day leadership is shared by the core

executive team: President Pao Thao, Vice President Chia Pao Ly, and HBNA Pastoral Ministry Director Cher Cha Yang. A search committee has been formed for a new executive director, one with administrative and business skills.

Interspersed with reports from SBC entities – Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (Minwoo Jang), GuideStone Financial Resources (Hoon Im), the SBC Executive Committee (Charles Grant), the North American Mission Board (Jeremy Sin) and the International Mission Board (Ezra Bae) – were reports from the Hmong Association 13 ministry departments.

HBNA announced a ministry name change, “Youth Ministry” to “NextGen Ministry” to include children through young single adults. Chris Vang, Associate Pastor of Hmong Baptist Church in Fresno, Calif., is the director.

2025 Mission Trip Opportunities



LIBERIA
MARCH 16-28

GUYANA
JUNE 14-21

THAILAND
JULY 14-30

ARGENTINA
AUGUST 2-9

www.mwbc.org/missions



Messengers and guests enjoy a catered dinner and table decorations provided by the WMU at the TCMBA annual meeting Monday, Oct. 7, at Southtown Baptist Church in Bloomington. In addition to regular reports and business, those attending heard a two-minute update from each pastor and a challenge from TCMBA Associational Missions Strategist Chris Reinertson.



MWBC Executive Director Leo Endel holds a gift he has just received from M-W WMU leadership during their annual meeting which preceded the MWBC annual meeting. The two Hmong tapestry pillow cases were handmade for him by Shoua Vue, mother of Tia Underbakke, M-W WMU president. "She loves God and loves that Leo is a great leader and supporter of WMU," she said of her mother. Left to right are WMU officers: Connie Shemwell, Associational Director; Palia Lee, Baptist Nursing Fellowship; Julie Yang, Secretary; Cindy Vang, Advisor; Endel; Dee Thao, WorldCraft; Elee Vang, WorldCraft; Angel Vang, Vice President; and Tia Underbakke, President.

FUTURE

continued from page eleven

"God is raising up the next generation just like Moses passing on the baton to Joshua and Elijah passing the mantle to Elisha with a double measure of God's power," Vice-President Pao Ly said. "I see great things to come and a brighter future for the Hmong Baptist National Association."

A team of pastors is proofing and revising the White Hmong Bible, which is in a northern dialect. The new revision will be aligned with the Green Hmong Bible – south-

ern dialect – that is in the final proof-reading phase and will be ready to print once that phase is complete.

Grief Ministry, originally established under the Women's Ministry, has been adopted by the National Association as a national ministry.

A revision being drafted of the Association's bylaws is anticipated to be ready for a vote by members at the 2025 annual meeting. Various other administrative and financial improvement details are also in process.

Messengers approved a \$170,650 operating budget for 2025. This

is outside of member-funded events, such as the \$190,000 annual NextGen Standing Stones and Living Water camps that drew around 500 NextGen participants from around the nation this summer.

The 2024 slate of officers elected at the association's 2023 National Conference in Green Lake, Wis., serving a two-year term consist of: President Chong Pao Thao, pastor of First Hmong Baptist Church of Broomfield, Colo.; Vice President Chia Pao Ly, pastor of First Hmong Baptist Church of Morganton,



TCMBA pastors' wives launched "First Ladies Fellowship" Saturday, Oct. 19, gathering for prayer, fellowship and encouragement. Under the leadership of Jude Reinertson, wife of TCMBA Associational Missions Strategist Chris Reinertson, the group plans to meet monthly. Left to right: Deborah Nnadi, Foua Young, Jummai Nache, Jude Reinertson, Zong Heng, Phyllis Gillard and Christine Lee.

CHRISTMAS

continued from page six

will make warmth and hot food possible for many families in need.

We also have just partnered with Mr Heater to provide heaters, adaptor hoses and free shipping with every \$4,000 bundle.

If you'd prefer to give

online towards this offer, scan the QR code on [page 6](#). Thank you for your partnership in making families warm!

Ben and Kayla Seamans are co-directors of disaster relief for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

Back to the beginning

N.C., Pastoral Director Cher Cha Yang, pastor of Hmong Baptist Church in Fresno, Calif.; Secretary Pa Kou Xiong, member at Followers of Christ Hmong Baptist Church in St. Paul, Minn.; Treasurer Lydia Ly, member at the same church; Moderator Foua Vang, a member at First Hmong Baptist Church of Coon Rapids, Minn.; and Xai Lor as the part-time office manager, associate pastor at First Hmong Baptist Church of Coon Rapids, Minn.

"It was a blessing to see everyone coming together – collaborat-

ing, supporting one another, and participating as One Mind and One Voice – to make this annual meeting another successful one," the Hmong Fellowship's president said. "Praise to God for His guidance and protection for bringing everyone to the meeting this year and safely return home."

The next Hmong National Baptist Association annual meeting is set for Oct. 9-11, 2025, in Green Lake, Wis., with the theme of "Firm Foundation" based on Psalm 62:1-2.

Back to the beginning

Southern Baptists rally around Nigerian church planters after medical crisis

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (BP) — It was nighttime when Philip Nache received a call he'll never forget. The doctor was asking for his approval to place his wife on a ventilator.

"The doctor said, 'Jummai — maybe she's gone even as we're speaking with you.'" Philip recalled.

In 2021, just a few weeks before that fateful call, Nache, a Send Network church planter, and his wife Jummai were busy serving God in Minneapolis. The Nigerian couple had been reaching out to the African community in their city ever since they were forced to flee Nigeria due to persecution in 2015.

Their ministry in the States resulted in two church plants in the Minneapolis area — Hope of Nations Gospel Church and Hope of Nations Fellowship Church — where refugees and immigrants from African nations, people from Muslim backgrounds, and people from Christian backgrounds alike come to seek hope and find the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In 2019, the Naches were featured missionaries during the Week of Prayer for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Since then, their ministry has grown to include training programs for other churches on developing relationships with their Muslim neighbors.

But even though they had faced persecution

by the militant Islamist group Boko Haram while living in Nigeria, Philip and Jummai had never faced something this dire.

"The CDC said, apart from the people who died, Jummai has got the worst of this pandemic," Philip said.

As a result of complications from COVID-19, Jummai spent months in the hospital, eventually having to undergo amputation of her left arm, three fingers on her right hand, and a double leg amputation below her knees.

"God preserved my wife's life in a miraculous way in response to all the prayers of the church," Philip said on the couple's GoFundMe page, which the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention started on behalf of the Nache family to assist with ongoing medical expenses.

But the Nache family's needs went beyond medical expenses. They needed a handicap-accessible van and several renovations to their home so that Jummai could get around. The Southern Baptist family rallied around the Naches to provide them with both. Attendees to the 2023 NAMB Send Luncheon in New Orleans, witnessed the Naches receiving the van.

"The North American Mission Board and Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention have come together to provide for us a van, which has been very,

very helpful," Philip said. "Even after she was discharged, virtually every week we have to go to the hospital for checkups three times, four times, within a week. And with this van, the Lord has helped us and we're able to also engage in ministry."

Even in the midst of this trial, the Naches' ministry never stopped. As people visited Jummai in the hospital, they were stunned and encouraged by her unwavering peace and joy in Christ.

"My desire is to continue to serve the Lord even in the pain," Jummai said.

"When people came to visit in order to encourage me, they would hear my story and say I am the one that is encouraging them. So, I tell them, I can't do this on my own; it's from the comfort God has given me."

At one point, Philip told Jummai that he was ready to retire from their ministry to take care of her. However, as they prayed, Philip and Jummai heard an answer from God they weren't quite expecting.

"The Lord started to reveal to us, 'No, you are just beginning to have a new work that I'm calling you to. In fact, this situation is like an open door for you to do another ministry,'" said Philip.

Now, the Naches are moving toward starting an intercultural interaction center at



Jummai and Philip Nache

their church — a place where people from all backgrounds can come to build relationships through English classes and more. Already, they've seen how God uses Jummai's story — and the questions people ask when they notice her missing limbs — to spark conversations about God and the Gospel.

"It's amazing that even in this difficult situation, God is turning it around to help us reach out to people," Jummai said. "And we are trusting that God is going to do tremendous things through the church He

has given us."

The Naches radiate thankfulness wherever they go — gratefulness to God for preserving Jummai's life when doctors said she might not survive and gratefulness for all the people God placed around them to help them walk the journey.

"We thank the family of NAMB," said Philip. "We are privileged to be part of this family and what God is doing. We are also privileged to be part of the SBC family, from which so many people have reached out to us. Thank you."

Minnesota-Wisconsin
Baptist

Mission Gifts from the Churches

MINNESOTA WISCONSIN BAPTIST CONVENTION COOPERATIVE PROGRAM/OFFERING RECEIPTS

January - October 2024

Cooperative Program Budget 2024 Year to Date	\$567,704.17
Cooperative Program Receipts 2024 Year to Date	\$495,529.72
Under Budget Year to Date	\$72,174.45

NAME	CP YTD
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BAY LAKES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Amherst, Amherst Bible Church	\$250.00
Appleton, Church Living Water	\$343.72
Appleton, Hmong Baptist Mission	\$581.22
Appleton, Valley	\$60,064.04
Clintonville, First Baptist Church	\$2,439.48
Green Bay, Graceway Fellowship	\$5,554.07
Green Bay, Highland Crest Baptist	\$37,325.09
Sheboygan, Mapledale Baptist	\$2,703.98
Tilleda, Bethany Baptist Church	\$2,252.30
Waupaca, Fellowship Baptist	\$1,765.68
BLBA TOTAL	\$113,279.58

LAKELAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Bassett, Westosha Baptist	\$3,056.00
Brookfield, Redemption Church	\$2,450.00
Brown Deer, Brown Deer Baptist	\$1,500.00
Franklin, El Bethel Baptist	\$1,000.00
Franklin, Emmaus Fellowship	\$600.00
Kenosha, Amistad Cristiana	\$2,100.00
Kenosha, Fellowship Baptist	\$10,409.14
Kenosha, Redeemer Parkside	\$4,500.00
Milwaukee, Grace Point Community	\$444.43
Milwaukee, Iglesia Su Presencia	\$430.06
Milwaukee, Korean Baptist	\$900.00
Milwaukee, Layton Avenue Baptist	\$11,104.83
Milwaukee, Mercy Memorial	\$1,350.00
Milwaukee, Milwaukee Arabic	\$292.94
Milwaukee, Monumental Baptist	\$1,120.00
Milwaukee, Mt Horeb Baptist	\$300.00
Milwaukee, Mt Pilgrim Miss.	\$300.00
Milwaukee, Northwest Baptist	\$6,000.00
Milwaukee, UFlourish Church	\$1,400.00
Mount Pleasant, I.C.A.R.E. Ministry	\$993.28
Mount Pleasant, Immanuel	\$9,182.58
Pewaukee, Crossroads Church	\$2,475.88
Pleasant Prairie, Pleasant Prairie	\$6,914.20
Racine, Hope Community Church	\$2,728.73
LBA TOTAL	\$71,552.07

NORTHWOODS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Bemidji, Ridgewood Baptist	\$1,021.00
Cambridge, Cross Pointe Church	\$550.00
Ely, Berean Baptist	\$600.00
Grand Rapids, Calvary Pines	\$2,050.00
Hill City, Hill City Baptist Church	\$800.00
New York Mills, Grace Connection	\$4,075.70
Rice Lake, Hope Baptist Church	\$5,919.00
Roseau, Immanuel Baptist	\$4,558.19
Thief River Falls, Cornerstone	\$1,350.00
Warroad, Westside Baptist	\$3,316.02
NWBA TOTAL	\$24,239.91

NAME

CP YTD

TWIN CITIES METRO BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Amery, Journey Church	\$5,000.00
Bloomington, Hope of Nations	\$1,135.14
Bloomington, MN Kangnam Korean	\$1,000.00
Bloomington, Southtown Baptist	\$8,582.88
Brooklyn Park, Ebenezer	\$1,200.00
Brooklyn Park, North Center	\$2,585.32
Burnsville, Berean Baptist	\$2,000.00
Coon Rapids, First Hmong	\$2,000.00
Eagan, Eurasia Baptist Church	\$150.00
Eagan, Good News Church	\$4,625.00
Fridley, Good News Hmong	\$750.00
Lino Lakes MN, Bethel Moldovan	\$400.00
Maple Grove, Northwood Church	\$1,000.00
Maple Grove, Sonlight Community	\$300.00
Maple Grove, Unlock Church	\$1,000.00
Minneapolis, All Peoples Church	\$5,400.00
Minneapolis, Jubilee	\$2,000.00
Minnetonka, Redeemer Bible	\$900.00
Monticello, Grace Bible Church	\$750.00
New Hope, Westview Church	\$4,500.00
New Prague, Calvary Church	\$19,094.80
North St. Paul - Eternal Life Hmong	\$1,008.00
Richfield, Richfield Bible Church	\$600.00
Roseville, Roseville Baptist	\$6,400.00
Roseville, Twin City Hmong	\$1,140.00
Sartell, Faith Journey Church	\$4,441.16
Spring Lake Park, Hmong Hope	\$500.00
St. Louis Park, First Ukrainian Ev	\$500.00
St. Michael, Northwest Bible	\$2,000.00
St. Paul, Cities Church	\$10,000.00
St. Paul, Followers Of Christ Hmong	\$9,744.60
St. Paul, Hmong Unity Christian	\$300.00
St. Paul, Iglesia Hispana Betel	\$600.00
Sunfish Lake, Bethel Baptist	\$6,426.84
Sunfish Lake, Vietnamese	\$540.00
White Bear Lake, Emmaus	\$2,250.00
TCMBA TOTAL	\$110,823.74

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Mission Gifts from the Churches

NAME	CP YTD	NAME	CP YTD
SOUTHERN WI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION		SOUTHERN MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION	
Boscobel, Blue River Valley	\$1,014.12	Austin, Austin Baptist Church	\$4,542.36
Janesville, Resonate	\$5,794.63	Chester, Chester Woods	\$1,790.37
La Crosse, Crossway	\$1,200.00	Eyota, Hmong Baptist Church	\$3,000.00
La Crosse, New Hope	\$600.00	Marshall, Radiant Life Church	\$2,922.82
Madison, Antioch Fellowship	\$600.00	Red Wing, Hiawatha Valley	\$5,198.67
Madison, Campus Community	\$1,200.00	Rochester, Emmanuel Baptist	\$14,741.08
Madison, City on a Hill	\$10,000.00	Rochester, Redemption City	\$19,113.65
Madison, Doxa	\$16,904.05	Rochester, Rochester Community	\$1,000.00
Madison, East Madison Baptist	\$5,880.00	Viola, Viola Bible Church	\$1,950.79
Madison, Emmanuel	\$560.00	Winona, Cornerstone Community	\$3,850.00
Madison, Hope In Christ Assembly	\$1,068.56	SMNBA Total	\$58,109.74
Madison, Livingstone Baptist	\$3,678.00		
Madison, Midvale Baptist	\$6,777.75	OTHER	
Madison, Red Village	\$4,250.00	Eau Claire, Jacob's Well	\$7,650.00
Madison, Shalom Christian	\$162.00	Eau Claire, One in Christ	\$812.24
Monroe, Redemption	\$1,440.00	OTHER TOTAL	\$8,462.24
Platteville, Rolling Hills	\$6,431.60		
Reedsburg, Trinity Baptist	\$11,600.00		
Sparta, Gospel Baptist	\$3,003.33		
Sun Prairie, Christ Fellowship	\$800.00		
Sun Prairie, Reborn in Christ	\$1,335.17		
Sun Prairie, Transformation	\$2,025.56		
Sun Prairie, United Hmong	\$605.50		
Waterloo, Cornerstone	\$1,100.00		
Watertown, Watertown	\$300.00		
WI Dells, Rock of Hope	\$1,600.00		
WI Rapids, Church at Wazeecha	\$3,212.31		
WI Rapids, First Baptist	\$400.00		
SWBA Total	\$93,542.58		

MWBC TOTAL RECEIVED **\$495,529.72**

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

FLYING

continued from page five

environmentally friendly practices, providing for the poor, feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, opening doors of opportunity for the underprivileged, encouraging the young.

The Bible consistently teaches us the importance of “flying in formation.” John the Baptist, who introduced Jesus, said, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same,” (Luke 3:11).

Jesus said, “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to

drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. . . . Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” (Matt. 25:35-40).

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Do nothing out of selfishness or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests, but each of you looking to the interests of others” (Phil. 2:3-4).

Peter gave us these instructions: “Applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excel-

lence, 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).

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

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