

Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist

Volume 40, Number 5

September 2025

Table of Contents

- 1 SBC Annual Meeting
- 1 One Day event
- 1 Hands of Hope
- 1 Acteens
- 2 Hands of Hope
- 3 Lopp retires
- 4 Trey Turner: Perspectives
- 4 Why support the State Mission Offering?
- 5 Bill Tinsley: Reflections
- 5 Clint Calvert: Leadership
- 6 Na Herr: Intercultural
- 7 Ben Seamans: Disaster Relief
- 8 Bob Smith: Student Ministries
- 8 Good News from the Associations
- 9 Calendar of events
- 10 Mission gifts from the churches
- 11 Mission gifts from the churches
- 12 State Mission Offering

Annual meeting focuses on Advancing the Gospel

Rochester, Minn. — Advancing the Gospel is the theme of this year's annual meeting of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

The meeting will be Oct. 24-25 at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Rochester, Minn.

The annual meeting will be preceded by two events on the

morning of Oct. 24: the Minnesota-Wisconsin Woman's Missionary Union Annual Meeting and the Pastors Conference. Both meetings will begin at 9 a.m. and include lunch.

Registration for the annual meeting begins at 11 a.m. on Friday

See **ANNUAL** page 3

The 42nd Annual Meeting 2025
of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention

October 24-25,
2025



Emmanuel Baptist
Church

Rochester, MN

ADVANCING THE GOSPEL

Philippians 1:5,12

One Day event coming to St. Paul

St. Paul, Minn. — Steve Treichler, founding pastor of Hope Community Church in Minneapolis, will be speaker for One Day, a focused, high-impact gathering for church planters, pastors, and church members.

The Thursday, Oct. 23, event will be from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Cities Church, 1524 Summit Ave., St. Paul, Minn.



Steve Treichler



Ryan Johnston

“One of the things I’ve always admired about Steve is that his heart beats for people far from God,” said Jonathan Parnell, pastor of Cities Church. “He’s not just about building a church — he’s about seeing the gospel take root in hearts that don’t yet know Jesus.

And that passion is con-

See **ONE DAY** page 3

Hands of Hope impacts Eyota, Minn.

Eyota, Minn. — Volunteers from Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention churches gathered in Eyota, Minn., July 14-18, to help Hmong Baptist Church reach out to its community.

For maximum impact, Hands of Hope was scheduled at the same time as Eyota Days, a week-long community event. The host church and volunteers held a block party and, unexpectedly, the Eyota fire truck showed up, which was a huge

hit with the kids.

Volunteers were housed at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Rochester, Minn., and performed service activities in both Rochester and Eyota, including a soccer camp at Emmanuel.

Two MWBC disaster relief shower trailers were brought in for the event, both parked at Emmanuel the entire week. Afterwards they were both deployed to Milwaukee for flood relief.

See page 2 for highlights and photos.



Minnesota-Wisconsin Woman's Missionary Union and Hmong WMU collaborated to conduct an all-day Acteens event, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 16, at Southtown Baptist Church in Bloomington, Minn. Attending were 41 students, 9 chaperones, and 24 volunteers. Foua Young was main speaker; Anne Davies gave a missionary testimony; Palia Lee led a mission project to create 110 bags to be distributed in Milwaukee and St. Paul's cancer centers.

Hands of Hope 2025

Eyota, MN • July 14-19

Participation and Project Highlights

Report from Jonathan Lemaster

73 people participated in Hands of Hope from 4 churches

- Valley Baptist Church, Appleton, WI
- Emmanuel Baptist Church, Rochester, MN (Lodging church)
- Hmong Baptist Church, Eyota, MN (Host church)
- First Baptist Church of Plattsburg, Plattsburg, MO

3 Major Project Sites

- Eyota - Community projects

7 homes for the communities of Eyota, Lewiston, and Rochester had landscaping. Projects ranged from pulling weeds, cleaning the yard, mowing, cutting down trees, and chopping wood.

1 home from Dover needed help transporting an old box spring to disposal.

Block Party at Hmong Baptist Church with a good turnout from the community. Even the local fire department came out and allowed kids to get in the fire truck.

During the block party, several Hands of Hope volunteers were presenting the gospel by using gospel bracelets. 125 gospel presentations and bracelets were given during the block party.

- MWBC - Building projects

10 building projects were completed at the MWBC building. Painting conference room, painting outside trim

and windows, repairing exterior boards under windows, upgrading all office lights to LED fixtures (they can see!), trimming trees and bushes, replacing the weed barrier and rocks, removing window film, cleaning windows, and removing old furniture (new additions to Emmanuel youth room).

- Emmanuel - Community, building, and ministry projects

2 ministry projects at Emmanuel. Help with Soccer Camp (Mon-Wed) and VBS decorations. Valley Baptist and FBC Plattsburg donated their VBS decorations to Emmanuel.

3 building projects at Emmanuel. Landscaping around the church, pulling weeds and spraying, and cleaning exhaust fans.

2 building projects at Emmanuel Hospitality House. Landscaping and pulling weeds around the home, and cleaning out the gutters.

4 homes help in Rochester. 1 home had minor repairs and fixed water line issues, 3 homes with weeding and yard cleaning.

2 projects local care facility. Painting 2 bathrooms, washed and vacuumed 10 vehicles.

Projects Summary

- 32 total projects
- 14 community projects
- 15 building projects
- 2 ministry projects
- 1 block party with
- 125 gospel presentations



Church celebrates departing pastor after 27 years

Reedsburg, Wis. — More than 250 people gathered Friday, July 18, to honor Pastor Mike Lopp and his wife Angi for 27 years of service as pastor at Trinity Baptist Church in Reedsburg, Wis.

Their official last day was July 31 as he moved to his new role as a financial advisor with Thrivent, a non-profit financial services organization based in Minnesota-Wisconsin.

Numerous members gave testimonies of how

their lives have been changed through the faithful ministry of the Lopps. Several shared their first conversation with the pastor, and how he invested in their discipleship. Others told how his preaching had impacted their spiritual walk. One member specifically shared how much impact Angi had on her life and the lives of so many people in the church.

A search committee is now seeking God's will for the next pastor of the church.



The church prays over their departing pastor and wife.



Angi and Mike Lopp say their goodbyes to Trinity Baptist Church after 27 years.

ONE DAY

continued from page one

tagious.”

Also speaking will be Ryan Johnston author of The Residency Builder and Send Network mid-west regional director.

The Send Network One Day events are designed to inspire and

equip believers to take the next step in God's mission. Through prayer, worship, learning, and collaboration, participants discover practical tools and fresh vision for multiplying disciples and churches in their community.

Back to the beginning

ANNUAL

continued from page one

and the meeting starts at 1 p.m. All are welcome to attend the Missions Celebration Dinner at 4:45 p.m. between the afternoon and evening sessions of the Annual Meeting. The Friday evening session is 6:30-8:30

p.m. The Saturday morning session begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at noon.

Convention hotel is Hampton Inn and Suites, 2870 59th St. NW, Rochester. Messengers, church members, and guests pay for their own lodging.

Back to the beginning



Two Reedsburg, Wis., churches — Trinity Baptist and Casa de Oracion — hold a joint baptism service at a community pool.



Pastor Peter Ko of Livingstone Baptist Church in Madison, Wis., partnered with churches from South Korea and Australia to lead a team of 12 in Myanmar. More than 80 percent of the Myanmar population is Buddhist with only a 5 percent Christian population. A civil war has been going on for the last four years with many Christians being persecuted. While in Myanmar, the group held a Bible conference for undergraduates in the Burmese language through translators. The mission team also provided English as a Second Language teaching for seminary students to reach more of the population. Additionally, Vacation Bible School was hosted for 65 children including 18 children who were not Christians.

MWBC priority: advancing the gospel

Advancing the Gospel is Faith in Action Through State Missions

When floodwaters ravaged Milwaukee this summer, residents saw the gospel in action. Disaster relief teams, wearing distinctive gold and blue, served up hope, bringing not only practical relief, but



Perspectives

Trey Turner

more, embodying life transformed, personal faith in action.

The State Missions Offering is an added push of saying to the watching world that advancing the gospel isn't merely about words, it is demonstrating faith to advance the gospel.

Ben Seamans never knows when or where disaster will strike, but he and his disaster response teams knew where they were

going to be when Milwaukee's flooding crisis unfolded. They were strengthened by coordinated efforts from Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, and Indiana. They were able to respond quickly because of churches that stand with them, prioritizing this mercy and hope ministry.

Behind the scenes, Seamans has devoted countless hours to maintaining aging equipment trailers—un glamorous work that ensures readiness for the next emergency call. He does this so the gold and blue caps and vests can be the sym-

bols they are across disaster zones. All of this is for the advance of the gospel.

Advancing the Gospel is Hope in Action

Identifying and developing leaders demands investment in potential. People in our churches are taking steps to raise up men and women into needed ministries. The State Missions Offering recognizes that advancing the gospel requires more than responding to immediate crises; it demands cultivating the next generation of servant leaders who will carry the mission

forward.

This is leader development and next gen investment. The State Missions Offering is an investment in the long-term vision which acknowledges that sustainable gospel advancement requires intentional mentorship, strategic planning, and patient cultivation of emerging leaders.

Advancing the Gospel Leverages Cultural Partnerships

Perhaps nowhere is the gospel's transformative power more evident than in

See **PRIORITY** page 11

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.

Trey Turner
Executive Director
turner@mwbc.org
519 16th St. SE
Rochester, MN
55904

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

Why Support the State Missions Offering?

By Trey Turner
MWBC Executive Director

Through this offering, the churches of our state partnership serve in these five critical priorities.

Disaster Response Leadership

Ben Seamans and his team work to recruit, train, and deploy coordinated disaster relief teams representing MWBC Churches in crisis witness, demonstrating Christ's love when communities need it most.

NextGen Empowerment

We equip churches with resources and training to reach, disciple, and develop the next generation of believers and leaders.

Strategic Mission Partnerships

We facilitate Acts 1:8 connections linking churches for missions impact from our region to the ends of the earth.

Leadership Development

Our statewide position enables us to host, facilitate, and connect people for leadership opportunities that strengthen pastoral and lay ministry across our region.

Missions Education

After decades of decline in nationwide mission education priority, we're strategically reinvesting in missions education. Much of this can come through WMU partnerships, reigniting passion for national and global missions in local churches.

Pastoral Emergencies

Pastors will often tell their churches that crises will happen. They also happen to the pastor's family. Providing just-in-time resources from our churches to respond has been a welcome relief.

These priorities require a coordinated response. Your state missions offering multiplies ministry impact for just the role the State Convention is poised to meet.

How can you go to heaven?

Several major news sources, including the New York Times and USA Today, reported President Trump's August 19 comments on Fox & Friends regarding his hopes of going to heaven. In the interview, speaking of his efforts for peace in Ukraine, President Trump reportedly said, "I wanna try and get to heaven if possible. I'm hearing I'm not doing well. I am really at the bottom of the totem pole. But if I can get to heaven, this will be one of the reasons."



Reflections
Bill Tinsley

want to create peace. And it is a good thing to want to go to heaven. Almost everyone shares that desire. We should pray for President Trump on both counts. But this raises

a question. How does anyone get to heaven?

Mother Teresa said, "I know that when we die and it comes time for God to judge us, He will not ask, 'How many good things have you done in your life?'" "My key to heaven is that I loved Jesus in the night."

Billy Graham said, "I am not going to heaven because I am a preach-

er. I am going to heaven entirely on the merit of the work of Christ."

The Bible is clear that none of us can achieve a level of goodness to deserve heaven. Romans 3:23 says, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Romans 6:23, "The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 5:8, "God demonstrates His own love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 10:9-10, "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved, for with the heart a person believes result-

ing in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

Paul put it like this: "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not a result of works, so that no one may boast," (Ephesians 2:8-9). It is only by God's grace through faith that any of us enter heaven, and that faith must be more than lip service or hypocrisy. James stated, "But someone may say, 'You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.'"

Peter summed it up, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who ac-

cording to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time, (1 Peter 1:3-5).

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.

The people of my Romans Chapter 16

Romans 16 is the New Testament chapter where the Apostle Paul names many of his co-workers in the gospel. Paul provides a glimpse into the community of people who made specific significant contributions to advance God's work. As I reflect on my upcoming change of status from full-time employee of the MWBC to a one-day-a-week consultant, I am reminded of the



Leadership
Clint Calvert

many people who walked alongside me in this work.

Norman Wallace was Church Health Director for the MWBC for 21 years. He recruited and coordinated a gifted group

of contract workers and volunteers. Norman set the church health department up for success with his careful stewardship and relational capital.

Mark Millman has been serving the

churches of Greater Wisconsin for more than 20 years. He generously shared the resources he was able to attract to benefit not only his association but all of the churches of the MWBC. Mark introduced the MWBC to Harrison Assessments, which has been a life giving tool for individuals and church leadership teams.

Pastor Roy Hopgood Jr. has trained thousands of ministry leaders in Milwaukee and guided churches of the Lakeland Baptist Association with a steady hand and wise, always in time influence. Pas-

tor Roy championed Contextualized Leadership Development and opened his church and network to train pastors and church leaders.

Charles Dunning has an enduring legacy as a lifelong MW Baptist. He has consulted dozens of church facility projects across the two states. His advocacy for Builders for Christ has saved MWBC churches millions of dollars in construction costs by utilizing volunteer construction teams. His advice has prevented many churches from making costly mistakes arising from a lack of planning or failure to

consider all the variables in a church facility decision.

Clyde Hamer is the hardest working man I have ever met. His blood, sweat, and tears are in church construction and remodeling projects across the two states. Clyde is also a fantastic interim pastor, being called on time and time again to guide churches between pastors.

Penny Reedy faithfully prepared and led Vacation Bible School teams and leaders across the MWBC and the United States. She

Mission trip makes an impact

Ten individuals from five churches participated in the SEA Mission Trip to Thailand.

The English teaching ministry continues to make a huge

impact. Last year, the team registered 44 students for English camp. This year, over 90 students showed up—almost double last year's number!

We were a little worried at first, because we had a small team compared to previous years. However, our local partners really came through. Our host pastor and his wife provided much-needed logistical support and led several large group activities, which gave our team a break. The deacons picked up young campers in the villages who did not have a ride. Four translators stayed with us the entire time. Not only did they help us communicate, they also led small groups and morning devotions. At the conclusion of camp, one camper gave her life to Christ and was baptized in the river.

Unfortunately, due to heavy rainfall, we could not go into the schools at our second ministry location. We contemplated canceling all remaining activities

and returning to the city, but it was also on flood alert. One of the leaders of the local church came and met us at the hotel. He reassured us that we were not in danger, and that the heaviest rain had passed.

We made a spontaneous decision to run English camp at the church on the days that schools were closed. More than 60 kids ranging in age from five to fifteen attended camp. Due to the high number of little kids, we had to modify many of our activities. Two of our younger team members led VBS dances, which became a huge hit with everyone!

After the second camp, the team had a much-needed rest day on Saturday. We visited a popular mountain attraction and relaxed at a beautiful café next to the Mekong River. That evening, we had dinner at one of the church leader's house. Once again, we were amazed by the humility and generosity of our hosts. A woman in the church shared how our teams have impacted her since the first year we came. She told us that when she first became a believer, she was very lonely and sad. Becoming a believer often meant leaving family and friends behind. However, her sorrow

turned to joy when she realized that as a follower of Christ, she had many brothers and sisters in Christ all over the world.

Thank you for your prayers and support. The SEA mission trip is making an impact and changing lives.

The results may not always be visible, but the gospel is being shared and spiritual growth is happening. One of our student team members indicated that she wants missions to be a greater part of her life now and in the future. Praise God for a new generation of believers who will commit to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth!

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

Intercultural Na Herr



Pictured here are members of the 2025 Thailand mission team. Back row, left to right: Sulida Sayaovong, Khaiyu Vang, Katelyn Taplin, Na Herr, Chris Heng, Coraline Heng, Zong Heng. Front row, left to right: Salathit Sayaovong, Naomi Herr, Zephany Heng.



Zong Heng teaches a group of students at the village school. She is assisted by her daughter Coraline and a mission pastor from Texas who was doing a site visit.



Katelyn Taplin shows a group of children at church how to play with the wooden blocks.



Coraline and Zephany Heng demonstrate how to do the hand motions during a VBS song.



Salathit Sayaovong and his brother, Sulida, team taught this group of children during English camp at the church. Naomi Herr assisted by vocalizing the words on the board.

Disaster relief is SBC cooperation in action

I continue to be amazed how the family of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief affects people both home and abroad.

I'm currently sitting in the incident command at Northwest Baptist Church in Wauwatosa, Wis., and have already had yet another amazing day. It is my first time "hosting" an event and I am humbled and blessed at the same time with

the way our Southern Baptist partners across state lines have come to our aid.

On August 10, Milwaukee County experienced upwards of 12 inches of rain in a

short amount of time, resulting in flash floods throughout the region. Brown Deer Baptist Church with Pastor Larry Griffith and Northwest Baptist Church with Pastor Paul Springer quickly

responded to the need to house individuals coming to assist with the recovery efforts.

Coming to our aid were Indiana Baptists with assessors and chaplains to begin the process of taking jobs. Following Indiana were crews from Ohio, Michigan and Kansas/Nebraska. Both directors from Indiana and Ohio showed me how to initialize an incident command and equipped me with the tools necessary to do the job. Others filled in needs for cooking, shower and laundry

See RELIEF page 9



Disaster Relief
Ben Seamans



Fox News in Milwaukee ran a story about Brown Deer Baptist Church's involvement in disaster relief. The video report featured Pastor Larry Griffith telling about \$50,000 damage suffered by the church and showing how the church had risen above its own needs to become a hub for volunteers from throughout the nation who came to help people in the community. Also featured in the news report was Ben Seamans, Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention disaster relief co-director.



Resonate Church Janesville members cleaning out.



Coon Rapids Hmong cleaning Brown Deer.



Disaster relief volunteers gather for a quick meal, reports, and testimonies.



Disaster relief trailers from Minnesota-Wisconsin and other states are being put to good use in Wisconsin.

Churches working 'for good and for God'

As a “part-time semi-retired” contract staff person for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention, one of my privileges is to show up periodically to churches throughout the two

states. I would like to share a few of my most recent opportunities.

I recently made a trip to Cambridge, Minn., to learn more about the explosive growth experienced at Cross

Pointe Church. Randy Westerberg, senior pastor, shared the plans to break ground on a new education wing in early fall in anticipation of being in the new facility next spring.

The addition of this space will greatly expand their ability to minister to the ever-growing numbers of children that are being reached in the mid-week gathering. BLAST Kids (Building Lives

Around Sound Truth) focuses on study of the Word, Scripture memory and take-home sheets that encourage involvement of the whole family.

The church's growth reaches beyond the city limits of Cambridge. Along with the ministries within the congregation the church also provides biblical counseling services. For individuals or congregations curious about how they can get involved in the starting a biblical counseling ministry, the church offers training toward certification. For more information concerning this or other

community-based ministries the website is www.cp-church.org.

I took a short drive to Sartell, Minn., where I hit a different kind of trifecta (three desirable things occurring together): I had a meaningful time of worship led by Pastor Scott Peterson, followed by an informative quarterly business meeting, then the quintessential “Baptist Potluck.”

Peterson is leading the congregation to take up a monumental challenge to impact their community with an “Open House,” to which 3,000 post card

invitations have been mailed out inviting the community to enjoy a day of fun-filled activities including bounce house and barbeque. The pastor's challenge to the congregation brought a smile to my face: “Invite all your unsaved/unchurched friends to the Open House. Continue to invite your Christian friends to join us in worship on Sundays.” Join me in praying for this event that it will lead to meaningful conversations sharing the gospel.

These are just a couple of examples of how MWBC congregations are impacting their spheres of influence “for good and for God.”

On a personal note, October 25, 2025 will mark my 75th birthday. As I enter my “4th quarter”, it my desire to continue to strengthen and encourage next generation leaders before the clock runs out.

If there are ways that I can serve you personally or congregationally, feel free to email me at BSmithMWBC@msn.com or call or text me at (612) 940-3701.

Bob Smith is student ministries catalyst for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.



Student Ministries

Bob Smith

GOOD NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATIONS

NORTHWOODS

Preparation and seed planting is paying off for Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in International Falls. A remodel of the church building started several years ago. Workers from Missouri, Minnesota and Texas helped with this project and made a major impact on the facility. Last year a team from Flint Baptist Church shared the Gospel in the community and planted many seeds.

In July the church launched a service to revive the struggling work, and 50-60 people attended, requiring that more chairs be brought in.

The Lord continues to bless and the church is now averaging 40 in worship.

In July a mission team from Kentucky came up and shared the gospel in Thief River Falls, Minn. They worked hard, going door-to-door handing out literature and talking with people about the gospel. In addition, the church hosted a tent revival for three nights. In partnership with Evangelism Unlimited they distributed 514 Gospel bags, prayed for 49 people and saw three decisions for Christ.

Northwoods Baptist Association hosted their annual youth camp at Camp Jim, Aug. 3-8, with about 240 kids, youth and helpers. This is the largest ministry the association does together.



Pastor Chad Chandler from the church plant Cornerstone Church of the Northwoods baptized their first two people.



THE STATE MISSIONS OFFERING SUPPORTS MWBC DISASTER RELIEF

Donations are urgently needed to support those responding to the crisis as well as the individuals affected.

help, hope and healing.
mwbc.org/dr

STATE MISSIONS OFFERING 2025
WWW.MWBC.ORG

MWBC
Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BLBA: Bay Lakes Baptist Association
 GWBA: Greater 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.

SEPTEMBER

1-30 Season of Prayer for State Missions

1 Labor Day – **MWBC Office Closed**

12-13 MWBC Executive Board, Rochester, Minn.

19-21 Called Out Youth Conference, Baraboo, Wis.

OCTOBER

23 Send Network One Day, Cities Church, St. Paul, 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**

RELIEF

continued from page seven

and chaplaincy around the area.

Then came Missouri Baptists and Tennessee Baptists with financial assistance to offset the costs of ministering to these needs. Their support will greatly cover the cost of IT, equipment needs and so much more.

Units used in the response were two shower/laundry trailers from Minnesota and Wisconsin, as well as two recovery trailers. These were prepped by Jeff Shelton and Skip Krueger then delivered and set up at both churches.

First boots on the

ground awards go to Pastors Clyde Hamer and Joseph Young assisting in cleaning Brown Deer Baptist's basement so crews could be housed on site.

I can honestly say I could not have done this without our SBDR family, our hosting churches and the support and prayers of everyone. It is beautiful to see how all of these pieces come together in times of need.

Please continue keeping us in your prayers as this project will go on for a few more weeks. Pray that as we serve bringing help, hope and healing to people, that we can also minister and share

the gospel to everyone who will listen. Pray also that we'll have enough people to do the many jobs still remaining to do.

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

Back to the beginning

ROMANS

continued from page five

is frequently utilized by LifeWay to train Next Generation Ministry leaders on a national level. She and her husband Larry, best represent what it means to be a couple on mission. The Reedys serve God and love people in countless acts of service and leadership.

Tia Underbakke has been the organizing force behind EMPOWER for a number of years. She, along with other Women's Missionary Union leaders, saw that I needed help and patiently waited as I learned that anything I released to them, they could handle and improve.

Jack Bell, a lifelong Navigator and leader in Church Discipleship Ministries, personally discipled me in 2014 and partnered with many MWBC pastors and churches to strengthen them personally and as church leaders.

Chris Allen represents Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Chris made the introductions necessary for Southeastern to provide Doctor of Ministry training to MWBC pastors at a

tuition discount. Professors Charles Harvey and Tate Cockrell honored this commitment by sending SEBTS professors to teach MWBC pastors on our field.

Dallas Speight's vision for clinical pastoral education led him to train Colorado Baptist pastors to improve their self-awareness and caring skills. Years later, Dallas's influence in founding Clinical Pastoral Education International made CPE training available to 15 MWBC pastors, 8 of whom completed all four units of CPE.

I don't want this "Romans 16" to be the last chapter of my ministry with the MWBC. It feels good to honor the people who have made our cooperative work as MW Baptists fruitful and real. These are people I am grateful for, that I commend to you, and want you to support.

Clint Calvert recently retired his full-time position as church leadership catalyst for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention. He continues to serve as a one-day a week consultant to MWBC.

Back to the beginning



State Missions Offering 2025

Mission Gifts from the Churches

MINNESOTA WISCONSIN BAPTIST CONVENTION COOPERATIVE PROGRAM/OFFERING RECEIPTS

January - August 2025

Cooperative Program Budget 2025 Year to Date	\$427,350.00
Cooperative Program Receipts 2025 Year to Date	\$410,887.46
Under Budget Year to Date	\$16,462.54

NAME CP YTD

BAY LAKES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Amherst, Amherst Bible	\$875.00
Appleton, Living Water	\$725.13
Appleton, Valley	\$48,839.89
Clintonville, First Baptist	\$2,239.13
Green Bay, Graceway Fellowship	\$5,718.80
Green Bay, Highland Crest Baptist	\$33,129.57
Sheboygan, Mapledale Baptist	\$2,898.71
Tilleda, Bethany Baptist	\$1,758.20
Waupaca, Fellowship Baptist	\$1,501.92
BLBA TOTAL	\$97,686.35

LAKELAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Bassett, Westosha Community	\$3,091.00
Brookfield, Redemption	\$7,950.00
Brown Deer, Brown Deer Baptist	\$1,000.00
Franklin, Emmaus Fellowship	\$1,200.00
Kenosha, Fellowship Baptist	\$5,517.81
Kenosha, Redeemer Parkside	\$4,500.00
Milwaukee, Grace Point Community	\$719.74
Milwaukee, Hmong First Baptist	\$600.00
Milwaukee, Iglesia Su Presencia	\$474.36
Milwaukee, Jericho Church Without Walls	\$500.00
Milwaukee, Korean Baptist	\$900.00
Milwaukee, Layton Avenue Baptist	\$8,636.19
Milwaukee, Mercy Memorial	\$1,050.00
Milwaukee, Milwaukee Arabic	\$60.00
Milwaukee, Monumental Baptist	\$1,030.00
Milwaukee, Mt Horeb Baptist	\$300.00
Milwaukee, Mt Pilgrim Miss.	\$1,200.00
Milwaukee, Northwest Baptist	\$8,750.00
Milwaukee, UFlourish	\$600.00
Mount Pleasant, I.C.A.R.E. Ministries	\$956.73
Mount Pleasant, Immanuel	\$5,121.47
Pewaukee, Crossroads	\$2,904.40
Pleasant Prairie, Pleasant Prairie Baptist	\$3,007.65
Racine, Hope Community	\$2,053.12
LBA TOTAL	\$62,122.47

NORTHWOODS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Bemidji, Ridgewood Baptist	\$1,076.00
Cambridge, Cross Pointe	\$4,400.00
Ely, Berean Baptist	\$1,200.00
Grand Rapids, Calvary Pines Baptist	\$1,800.00
Hill City, Hill City Baptist	\$800.00
New York Mills, Grace Connection	\$532.00
Rice Lake, Hope Baptist	\$3,136.00
Roseau, Immanuel Baptist	\$2,690.70
Thief River Falls, Cornerstone	\$1,201.78
Warroad, Westside Baptist	\$2,246.85
NWBA TOTAL	\$19,083.33

NAME

CP YTD

TWIN CITIES METRO BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Amery, Journey	\$5,000.00
Bloomington, Hope of Nations Fellowship	\$686.82
Bloomington, MN Kangnam Korean Baptist	\$800.00
Bloomington, Southtown Baptist	\$5,102.00
Brooklyn Park, Ebenezer Community	\$1,800.00
Brooklyn Park, North Center Baptist	\$3,314.17
Burnsville, Berean Baptist	\$1,000.00
Coon Rapids, First Hmong Baptist	\$3,000.00
Eagan, Eurasia Baptist	\$300.00
Eagan, Good News	\$4,850.00
Lino Lakes MN, Bethel Moldovan Baptist	\$300.00
Maple Grove, Northwood	\$800.00
Maple Grove, Unlock	\$700.00
Minneapolis, All Peoples	\$4,320.00
Minneapolis, New Hope Baptist	\$500.00
Minnetonka, Redeemer Bible	\$700.00
Monticello, Grace Bible	\$1,000.00
New Hope, Westview	\$1,500.00
New Prague, Calvary	\$15,357.69
North St. Paul - Eternal Life Hmong	\$1,666.64
Our City-Our Neighborhood	\$100.00
Richfield, Richfield Bible	\$600.00
Roseville, Roseville Baptist	\$3,200.00
Roseville, Twin City Hmong	\$960.00
Sartell, Faith Journey	\$3,326.80
St. Cloud, Calvary Community	\$1,000.00
St. Louis Park, First Ukrainian	\$500.00
St. Michael, Northwest Bible	\$2,000.00
St. Paul, Cities Church	\$10,000.00
St. Paul, Followers Of Christ Hmong	\$8,686.00
St. Paul, Iglesia Hispana Betel	\$1,350.00
Sunfish Lake, Bethel Baptist	\$4,800.00
Sunfish Lake, Vietnamese Baptist	\$480.00
White Bear Lake, Emmaus	\$1,750.00
White Bear Lake, Faith Fellowship	\$2,880.00
TCMBA TOTAL	\$94,330.12



Pastor Brian Schoffstall of Transformation Church leads a session during the Aug. 28 Residency Builder event at City on a Hill Church in Fitchburg, Wis., where Dave Jacobson is pastor. Schoffstall is a Residency Builder at Transformation Church. The training is designed to raise up leaders from within the church. More than 25 attended the one day event led by Schoffstall, Chris Phillips, and Joseph Young. Attendees came from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Indiana, and North Carolina.

Mission Gifts from the Churches

NAME	CP YTD	NAME	CP YTD
GREATER WISCONSIN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION		SOUTHERN MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION	
Boscobel, Blue River Valley	\$745.08	Austin, Austin Baptist	\$1,838.40
Emmaus Community	\$200.00	Emmanuel en Espanol	\$133.80
Janesville, Resonate	\$8,908.59	Eyota, Hmong Baptist	\$1,500.00
Kieler, Kieler Community	\$300.00	Mankato, Great Oaks	\$1,200.00
La Crosse, Crossway	\$1,200.00	Marshall, Radiant Life	\$2,092.39
La Crosse, New Hope	\$600.00	Rochester, Chester Woods Community	\$4,707.10
Madison, Antioch Fellowship International	\$600.00	Rochester, Emmanuel Baptist	\$15,949.84
Madison, Campus Community	\$1,050.00	Rochester, Redemption City	\$10,620.29
Madison, Doxa	\$12,960.00	Rochester, Rochester Community Baptist	\$700.00
Madison, East Madison Baptist	\$6,128.00	Viola, Viola Bible	\$1,381.15
Madison, Emmanuel	\$654.00	Winona, Cornerstone Community	\$1,925.00
Madison, Hope In Christ Assembly	\$1,976.44	SMNBA Total	\$42,047.97
Madison, Livingstone Baptist	\$3,331.00		
Madison, Midvale Baptist	\$7,953.14	OTHER	
Madison, Red Village	\$8,500.00	Eau Claire, Jacob's Well	\$5,950.00
Madison, Shalom Christian Assembly	\$500.00	Eau Claire, One in Christ	\$1,233.31
Milwaukee, Pillar	\$1,200.00	OTHER TOTAL	\$7,183.31
Minocqua, Cornerstone Church of the Northwoods	\$0.00		
Platteville, Rolling Hills	\$5,000.00		
Reedsburg, Trinity Baptist	\$12,533.28		
Sparta, Gospel Baptist	\$2,092.99		
Sun Prairie, Christ Fellowship	\$800.00		
Sun Prairie, Reborn in Christ Baptist	\$1,468.08		
Sun Prairie, Transformation	\$2,478.13		
Sun Prairie, United Hmong	\$788.85		
Waterloo, Centro Biblico La Roca	\$30.00		
Waterloo, Cornerstone	\$1,100.00		
WI Dells, Rock of Hope	\$1,600.00		
WI Rapids, Church at Wazeecha	\$3,336.33		
WI Rapids, First Baptist	\$400.00		
GWBA Total	\$88,433.91	MWBC TOTAL RECEIVED	\$410,887.46

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

PRIORITY

continued from page four

cross-cultural missions. By leaning into existing ethnic relationships and exploring new partnerships, churches are finding networks for greater kingdom impact. By taking advantage of our ethnically diverse networks, we have inspiring new doors for ministry opening.

Let The Woman's Missionary Union be a multiplier. The WMU can work alongside churches to develop comprehensive mission education programs for greater impact in our churches. Their

goal extends beyond immediate outreach; they're creating sustainable frameworks that help future generations understand both the "why" and "how" of missions. This educational foundation ensures that the advancement of the gospel becomes embedded in church culture rather than remaining dependent on individual champions.

Advancing the gospel requires more than institutional commitment—it demands personal focus and intentional disruption of comfortable routines. The most profound kingdom impact often

occurs when individuals allow their normal systems to be challenged for something greater. This isn't about abandoning stability; it's about recognizing that transformative ministry happens at the intersection of prepared hearts and strategic opportunities.

Mission trip veterans universally testify to perspective-shifting experiences that extend far beyond the trip du-

ration. Whether serving flood victims in Milwaukee, presenting the gospel in Southeast Asia, Java, or Argentina, these experiences create irreversible changes in how people understand both their calling and their capacity for Kingdom impact.

Our State Missions Offering along with the Cooperative Program can help churches develop a structural

foundation for greater long-term impact. When churches and individuals prioritize giving, they are not just funding programs; they are showing faith in action that amplifies gospel advancement across entire regions.

Trey Turner is executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

Back to the beginning

Minnesota-Wisconsin
Baptist

Your partnership results in
ADVANCING THE GOSPEL

Philippians 1:5, 12

Minnesota
Wisconsin
Baptist
Convention

mwbc.org

2025
State
Missions
Offering



**THE OFFERING
BREAKDOWN**

- 25% Disaster Relief
- 25% Next Generation Initiatives
- 25% Cross-cultural Missions
- 10% Leadership Development
- 10% WMU Missions Support & Projects
- 5% Pastoral Emergencies

