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THE GREATER WABASH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

July 2025

Volume 48 Issue 7

Briefs from Brent

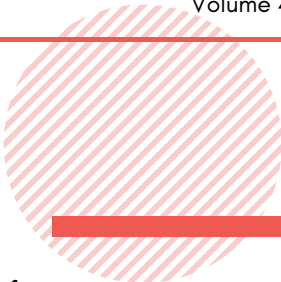
Our faith in Christ is something that occurs internally in the soul. It is a personal, private, ongoing relationship with God. But by the nature of who we are and who Christ is, our faith cannot and will not simply reside within us. The faith within us makes itself known in an external religion. Our religion is the observable qualities of the life of faith in Christ.

James spoke about this public exhibition of our faith and he declares that our tongue becomes the test case that determines if our religion is true and pure. He says "if anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart this person's religion is worthless" (James 1:26 ESV).

To bridle our tongue does not mean to stifle it. It means to control it. He uses the equestrian picture of a horse being harnessed in the mouth. A bridle is put in a horse's mouth to encourage it to go in the right direction at the right time and right pace and to stop at the right place. Our tongues are instruments of blessings when used properly. We express truth with our speech. We share words of encouragement. With our tongues we can tell people we love them and we can speak to people about the love of Christ. Our mouths can dialogue with one another about plans for good in the world and we can strategize about how to be a missionary force in the world.

If we fail to bridle our tongue it can become a destructive force. An unbridled tongue can become an instrument of sin that mangles families, disrupts communities, breeds dissension in the world, and negates the witness of the church. James is warning us to be careful with our tongues because if we allow our tongues to speak incorrectly or inappropriately, we will cause damage in the world and carnage in the church. If we do that our religion is worthless. Our misuse of the tongue communicates that the Christ we claim has no real control in our lives. The tongue is powerful and a few misplaced words can become a force for evil.

Bridling the tongue is a matter of obedience to God. James tells us to control the tongue. On our own we might be deceived about the words we should use so we should listen to the voice of God in our souls and be sensitive to the nudge of the Spirit of God in determining what we say. We need to pray to God for wisdom about our speech and develop an understanding of the word of God that will guide what we say. We do not want our religion to be judged as worthless. We want our religion to be honored as the work of a worthy God.



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Baptisms

It is wonderful to see how the Lord continues to work in our churches.

First Baptist, Grayville

On June 29 First Baptist Church in Grayville rejoiced in the baptism of Alena Martin. No one comes to Christ unless the Spirit of God calls them but the call of God's Spirit is heard in conjunction with obedient efforts of God's people to share the gospel. In January of this year Pastor David Smith began teaching his congregation how to have gospel conversations with people. The church provided various tools and encouragement to help them have these conversations. Since that time the congregation has reported over 100 gospel conversations. Since February the church has rejoiced in 10 baptisms of new believers who have come to Christ. To God be the glory great things he is doing.



If your church has baptism pictures to share,
please send them to us so we can rejoice with you.

Camp and Other GWBA News

GWBA Camp

Camp time is upon us. As of this writing we have 73 kids enrolled in Junior Camp (July 5-8) and we have 133 kids enrolled in Senior Camp (July 8-12). That is likely a record number for Senior Camp. Each of our camps will be staffed with about 60 adults or older youth workers. We are looking forward to a great time where the word of God is heard, where the gospel is preached, where the Spirit of God speaks, and where people respond to the voice of God. Pray for God's protection upon our camp. Pray for wisdom and spiritual sensitivity for all who are leading in camp. Pray that our campers will have open ears, absorbent minds, and tender hearts ready to receive from God. Pray that Christ will be honored.



First Baptist Mt. Carmel Mission Trip

Pastor Stephen Freels from First Baptist Mt. Carmel will be leading a mission team to Bosnia again this year. Six people from Mt. Carmel will be going and they will be joined by others in Bosnia. The dates of this year's trip are July 16-29. Please be in prayer for the team's efforts in sharing the gospel.



It's ACP Time

Every church clerk should have received the ACP materials by now. If you have questions, please contact Kerri Mosson our Associational Clerk or Brent Cloyd. We need to have these completed by August 15.

Vacation Bible School

It is Bible School season. Four of our churches (North Side Fairfield, Sims Missionary Baptist, Crossville Missionary Baptist, and First Missionary Baptist in Albion) have already conducted their Bible Schools. These congregations worked hard and had very successful schools. Following is the schedule for other Vacation Bible Schools that will be conducted throughout the coming months:

Northside Grayville July 13-18
Fairfield First July 21-25
Wayne City July 21-25
Carmi First July 28-August 1
Samaria September 6



Disaster Relief Callout

The GWBA Disaster Relief Team was on the ground working May 26 thru 28 in the Marion Illinois area doing chain saw and clean up work following the recent tornados in that area. We give great thanks to Harold Howell for organizing this effort and appreciate each person who went to help.





Brought to you by

Sims Baptist Church

YOUTH GYM NIGHT

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

For Ages 8 - 18 years old



FRIDAY, JULY 18

Sims Community Center

Highlights:

- ✓ Games
- ✓ Snacks
- ✓ Message
- ✓ Fellowship

Contact Us:



Call or Text:
Pastor Daniel Bradley
618-387-1359

✓ Every adult serving has been background checked

SEPT 11 | 6:00 PM

ALL CHURCH TRAINING

Wayne City Baptist Church

204 E. Meadow St.

Wayne City, IL 62895

ALL CHURCH TRAINING is a tune up for your church's core ministries. Pastors, ministry leaders, and volunteers will receive high-quality training on foundations and best practices that lead to a healthy, growing church.

BRING YOUR WHOLE TEAM!

6:00 PM | Registration / Meal

6:30 PM | Welcome Gathering

6:45 PM | Breakout Session 1

7:35 PM | Break

7:45 PM | Breakout Session 2

8:30 PM | Dismiss



Register: IBSA.org/ACT
Cost: Free for Cooperating IBSA Churches
Questions: TammyButler@IBSA.org

BREAKOUTS

Women—Helping Women Cultivate a Consistent Walk with God

Stewardship—Unleash Generosity: Ignite Giving in Your Church

Creating a Sanctuary: Making Your Church the Safest Place on Earth

Love Your City: Becoming a Church That Makes a Difference

Prayer Revolution: Cultivating a New Spiritual Awakening in Your Church

Honest Assessment: The Key to Unlocking a New Season of Renewal in Your Church

Develop a Winning Culture: Disciples Making Disciples

Becoming a Church That Prioritizes the Next Generation



FBC Carmi Mission Trip to Kenya

A group from First Baptist Church Carmi just returned from a mission trip in Kenya. The group was composed of Todd and Amy Neibel, Doug and Connie Devore, Bill and Niece Edwards, Brandon and Emily Edwards and their children Clayton and Emily. The group went on an extended tour of Kenya and spent five days working at the Fountain of Hope Center. The Fountain of Hope Center is a private enterprise who because of their commitment to Christ provides a home for needy children and youth. Fountain of Hope does not receive any government funding and relies upon either the resources of the family who started it or private donations. An organization named ACTS of Africa handled the group's arrangements for this trip. The group helped in the classrooms and played games with the kids. They were also involved in several handyman projects that were very much needed. This was a great way to do Christian service while also taking some time to tour a different part of the world. Wherever we go there are opportunities to serve in the cause of Christ.



GWBA - July Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 3 Dennis & Carissa Seidel
- 3 Titus Freels
- 7 David & Stevi Smith
- 8 Xandar Trowbridge
- 12 Scott Kiser
- 12 Matt Barner (celebrating 5 years at Keenes)
- 14 Lydia Freels
- 16 Eliana Kiser
- 21 Kim Shook
- 22 Ron Fellows
- 24 Jim Minnick (celebrating 3 years at North Side, Fairfield)
- 27 David & Anna Grace Harl
- 30 Troy Shook
- 30 Aiden Lasswell
- 31 Sheila Tomberlin
- 31 Faith Cullison

Did You Know?

Greater Wabash Baptist Association has a website. Have you checked it out?
greaterwabash.org

We're also on Facebook.

Treasurer's Report			
May 2025			
<u>General Fund Income</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>General Fund Expenses</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Crossville Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 300.00	AMS Health Life Retirement	\$ 2,007.87
Ellis Mound Missionary Baptist Church	\$ -	AMS Salary	\$ 2,885.61
Elm River Baptist Church	\$ 50.00	Meeting Expense	\$ -
First Baptist Church, Albion	\$ 1,960.14	Office Expense	\$ 193.99
First Baptist Church, Carmi	\$ 575.00	Telephone	\$ 102.78
First Baptist Church, Fairfield	\$ 100.00	Utilities	\$ 171.14
First Baptist Church, Grayville	\$ -	Administrative Assistant Salary	\$ 450.00
First Baptist Church, Mt. Carmel	\$ 250.00	AMS Hospitality	\$ -
Jasper Baptist Church	\$ -	Christmas Bonus	\$ -
Keenes Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 219.00	Convention Expense	\$ -
Liberty Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 404.00	Payroll Taxes	\$ 53.56
Mill Shoals Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 303.00	Staff Mileage	\$ 280.00
Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church	\$ -	Treasurer Salary	\$ 250.00
North Side Baptist Church, Fairfield	\$ -	Improvements Repair New Equipment	\$ -
Northside Missionary Baptist Church, Grayv	\$ 250.00	Benevolence	\$ -
Olive Branch Missionary Baptist	\$ 586.00	Leadership Development	\$ -
Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 400.00	Mission Development	\$ -
Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 150.00	Payroll Liabilities	\$ 119.62
Samaria Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 1,288.58	Student Ministry/Camp	\$ -
Sims Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 368.55	WMU	\$ -
Stewart Street Baptist Church	\$ 144.04	Postage	\$ -
Ten Post Oak Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 203.00	Associational Clerk Salary	\$ -
Wayne City Baptist Church	\$ 345.28	Insurance	\$ 391.01
Miscellaneous	\$ -	Total General Fund Expenses	\$ 6,905.58
Transfer from Savings	\$ 416.79		
Investment Income	\$ -	Associational Missions Bank Balances	
Total - General Fund	\$ 8,313.38	General Fund Balance - Checking	\$ 3,645.73
		Special Gifts - Designated Savings	\$ 48,217.45
Monthly Income & Transfers	\$ 8,313.38	Total	\$ 51,863.18
Previous Balance	\$ 2,654.72		
Expenses	\$ 7,322.37	Investments	
General Fund Balance	\$ 3,645.73	Baptist Foundation of IL	\$ 60,000.00
		BFI Cash Management	\$ 1,678.06
		Peoples National Bank	\$ 66,110.42
		Total	\$127,788.48
Special Gifts Income		Special Gifts Expense	
Camp	\$ 1,812.00	Camp	\$ 53.04
Disaster Relief	\$ -	Disaster Relief	\$ 104.04
Mission Fund	\$ -	Mission Fund	\$ 259.71
New Equipment	\$ -	New Equipment	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 1.94	Miscellaneous Transfer	\$ -
Total	\$ 1,813.94	Total Special Gifts Expense	\$ 416.79

If you have used literature, please make arrangements to bring it to the office or contact Brent at 618-599-5059.

He periodically takes a load of these used materials to Love Packages where the items will be packaged and shipped to other nations that can use them.