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THE GREATER WABASH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

March 2023

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Briefs from Brent

The Babylonian gods Bel and Nebo were represented by man made idols. If these motionless idols needed to travel, human hands had to pick them up and provide a means of transportation. Isaiah gives the humiliating scene of these lifeless gods being strapped onto the saddles of various pack animals (Isaiah 46:1-2). The journey these gods were going on was not the joyous annual New year's procession of the gods parading in victory through the streets. Nor was it the removal of these idols from minor cities into the great walled city of Babylon so they would be protected during times of a major war. Isaiah speaks of these gods bowing and stooping as they are loaded unceremoniously onto the backs of common beasts. It is a picture of defeat as they are carried away as a prize of war by a conquering army. These gods had no power to move on their own. They had to be carried. These gods possessed no ability to help their war torn constituents. They were mere stoic configurations lacking emotion, void of concern, and without solution. They could not bear anyone's burden but they were a burden to the weary beasts who bore them.

Having given that gloomy picture Isaiah lifts his voice and begs the people of God to listen to him. "Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all the remnant of the house of Israel, who have been borne by me from before your birth, carried from the womb; even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save" (Isaiah 46:3-4 ESV). He reminds the people that their God is not a lifeless piece of hewn wood, carved rock, or shaped metal that can be captured and carried away. He is not some powerless thing that must bow down in humility and be transported in shame to a museum of war trophies. No, their God does not have to be carried but He can carry them!

What a glorious encouraging word this is! Our God is a powerful God. Our God has carried us from the time we were conceived in our mother's womb. Our God has carried us from the womb and He has carried us throughout our life. Our God makes us a bold promise that He will carry us to the end. He will carry us into our old age. When our hairs are gray, when our arms are limp, when our feet shuffle, and our bones ache, He will carry us! Our God is not a burden to us but when we ourselves become a burden he will put us on His shoulders and carry us. Our God can be depended upon. He has made us and He will not leave us or forsake us. Our God is strong. He will bear us; He will carry us and He will save us.



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GWBA Information & Celebration

2023 GWBA Missions Rally

We are looking forward to our GWBA Missions Rally on Monday March 13. We will begin with a meal at 5:30; then we will have opportunity to view many booths and dialogue with people about various missions opportunities. At 7:00 we will convene for worship. Jacob Goble, Pastor of the Rooted Community Church in Lebanon, IL will be our guest speaker.

GWBA Camp



We hope you are getting excited about GWBA youth camp. The dates for Junior camp are July 8 thru July 11. The dates for senior camp are July 11 thru July 15. The camp registration forms will be available soon. You can access them from the GWBA Camp face book page and there will also be a link on our association website greaterwabash.org. A paper packet will be sent to each church.

Women's Retreat

Ellis Mound Baptist Church is hosting a Women's Retreat on April 1st from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Kingdom Seed Ministries in Mt. Vernon (118 S. 9th Street). The theme is Creating a WITH-God Vision. The cost is \$25, which includes lunch. Please register by March 5. For more information, contact Sheila Smith at 618-531-3288.

Praise Report

Liberty Baptist Church in Burnt Prairie recently celebrated the baptism of two believers on two separate Sundays. Pictured being baptized are Cole Youngblood and Brockton Washburn. Tim Collins is the pastor.



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

Rejoice with the Trowbridge Family

Nathaniel and Brianna Trowbridge recently added two sons to their family. On January 30, 2023 the proud parents of Xandar and Braytan through the legally binding process of adoption. These boys have been in their home as foster children for some time. Adoption is an arduous and lengthy process. Many of us have prayed with the Trowbridge family as they have labored through the technicalities and delays of formally receiving Xandar and Braytan into their family. We now rejoice with them as they now fully claim them as their own children.



GWBA - March Birthdays and Anniversaries



- 1 **Dennis Seidel** (celebrating 14 years at Northside, Grayville)
- 2 **Doug Haile**
- 6 **Kenzie Seidel**
- 8 **Bill & Theresa McKiddy**
- 13 **Derek Ready**
- 13 **Betty Minnick**
- 16 **Derek Ready** (celebrating 15 years at Jasper)
- 19 **David Woodruff**
- 29 **Doug Haile** (celebrating 8 years at Ten Post Oak)

Did You Know?

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

greaterwabash.org

Among other things, there is a 2023 GWBA Calendar on the website.

We're also on Facebook.

Revive Conference



A great opportunity is at our fingertips on March 17 and 18. Those are the dates for the Revive23 Leadership Summit at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church north of Mt. Vernon.

Richard Blackaby and Mark Clifton will be featured speakers. You can view the schedule of the conference and view the details of the breakout conferences at IBSA.org. Early registration is encouraged. Click [HERE](#) for details.

Send Relief - Serve Tour

There is a huge different world not far from us. Our North American Mission Board is offering us an opportunity to speak into that world through a Send Relief Serve Tour August 4-5, 2023. Volunteers will minister in Chicago's hurting communities by serving local churches, bi-vocational pastors, low-income schools and other organizations in need of assistance. I am hoping we can send a group from our association. Please go [HERE](#) for more details.

VBS Training

Spin the spinner, beat the clock, skip ahead, level up, and play to win! You'll need to bring your A-game for this VBS. Twists & Turns is a fantastical celebration of games of all kinds. From classic tabletop games to video games and more, kids will play their way through VBS while learning that Jesus guides them through all the twists and turns of their lives. They'll find that even when they mess up it's never "game over."

IBSA is offering VBS training to help prepare leaders for the Twists & Turns. Click [HERE](#) for details.



Pleasant Hill Baptist Church; Mt. Vernon
March 11, 2023

The clinic kicks off at 8:00 with check-in and the event starts at 8:30.

In addition to offering LifeWay specific training breakouts, there will also be VBS training breakouts that will be helpful to all churches doing VBS regardless of theme!

Women... Save the Date

April 28-29; Springfield IL

priority

More information can be found [HERE](#).



Treasurer's Report			
January 2023			
	Amount		
General Fund Income		AMS Health Life Retirement	\$ 1,807.59
Arrington Prairie Baptist Church	\$25.00	AMS Salary	\$ 2,985.85
Crossville Missionary Baptist Church	\$0.00	Meeting Expense	\$ -
Ellis Mound Missionary Baptist Church	\$673.40	Office Expense	\$ 539.05
Elm River Baptist Church	\$0.00	Office Supplies	\$ -
First Baptist Church, Albion	\$670.81	Telephone	\$ 115.57
First Baptist Church, Carmi	\$0.00	Utilities	\$ 286.63
First Baptist Church, Fairfield	\$100.00	Administrative Assistant Salary	\$ 450.00
First Baptist Church, Grayville	\$100.00	AMS Hospitality	\$ 47.31
First Baptist Church, Mt. Carmel	\$250.00	Christmas Bonus	\$ -
Jasper Baptist Church	\$0.00	Convention Expense	\$ 35.00
Keenes Missionary Baptist Church	\$288.00	Payroll Taxes	\$ 49.73
Liberty Missionary Baptist Church	\$158.00	Staff Mileage	\$ 329.46
Mill Shoals Missionary Baptist Church	\$174.00	Treasurer Salary	\$ 200.00
Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church	\$0.00	Improvements Repair New Equipment	\$ -
North Side Baptist Church, Fairfield	\$293.89	Benevolence	\$ -
Northside Missionary Baptist Church, Grayville	\$250.00	Leadership Development	\$ -
Olive Branch Missionary Baptist	\$263.13	Mission Development	\$ -
Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist	\$325.00	Senior Adults	\$ -
Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church	\$150.00	Student Ministry/Camp	\$ -
Samaria Missionary Baptist Church	\$970.00	WMU	\$ -
Sims Missionary Baptist Church	\$307.95	Postage	\$ -
Stewart Street Baptist Church	\$157.40	Associational Clerk Salary	\$ -
Ten Post Oak Missionary Baptist Church	\$0.00	Insurance	\$ 361.58
Wayne City Baptist Church	\$305.69	Total General Fund Expenses	\$7,207.77
Miscellaneous	\$1,210.00		
Total Income - General Fund	\$6,672.27	Special Gifts Expense	
		Baptist Hour	\$210.00
Special Gifts Income		Camp	\$0.00
Baptist Hour	\$100.00	Disaster Relief	\$0.00
Camp	\$0.00	Mission Fund	\$0.00
Disaster Relief	\$100.00	New Equipment	\$0.00
Mission Fund	\$0.00	Miscellaneous	\$1,000.00
New Equipment	\$0.00	Total Special Gifts Expense	\$1,210.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00		
Total	\$200.00	Total Expense	\$8,417.77
Total Income	\$6,872.27	Associational Missions	
		General Fund Balance - Checking	\$969.31
		Special Gifts - Designated Savings	\$49,552.33
		Total	\$50,521.64

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.