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THE GREATER WABASH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

May 2025

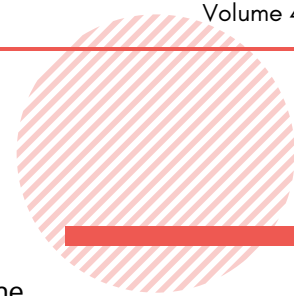
Volume 48 Issue 5

Briefs from Brent

In John 4:4 we read that Jesus “had to pass through Samaria.” Given the choice, most travelers would choose a route that avoided Samaria. The Road to Samaria was a difficult route. It was filled with crime. The people of Samaria were considered theologically and morally inferior. No good Jew would pass through Samaria unless he had business there. But Jesus had business there. It was not stated business. It was the business of relationships. It was the activity of connecting common souls to the uncommon soul of God. That was not business that could be done in a hurry. It was not something that could be done by directive or deduction. It came by asking questions and listening for answers. This requires time and patience. It requires waiting for the soul to be honest enough to come out of hiding and respond.

While traveling through Samaria Jesus, tired from traveling, sat down beside an ancient well that Jacob had dug. It was about 6:00 in the afternoon. Most people would come to the well at earlier times of the day, at times when they could socialize as well as accomplish their tasks of getting water. If you did not want to be seen, or had the character that others might not want to be seen with you, you might choose a different time. At this odd hour of the day Jesus encountered a lone Samaritan woman. Jesus had never seen this woman before but he knew something about her character. He knew she had been married 5 times and that at the present she was living with a man who was not her husband. But Jesus did not begin the conversation by acknowledging that he knew her sinfulness. Instead, he asked her for a drink of water. Jesus had nothing to draw water with or nothing to drink from. He, a Jew, was willing to drink from a Samaritan’s cup.

The human soul needs to be fixed. But the human soul does not want to be fixed, nor is it willing to consider the solution until it understands that the person communicating the solution cares and is willing to listen. The woman was amazed that Jesus, a Jew, would ask her for a drink. In that moment Jesus revealed a clue as to who he was. The water from Jacob’s well would quench a person’s thirst for the moment. But he himself had water that could satisfy the thirst of the soul for all eternity. Sensing the sincerity and the extra-ordinariness of Jesus this woman’s soul came out of hiding and she declared “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water” (John 4:15). It was at this moment that Jesus told her to go get her husband and he would tell them both about this living water. Then she had to confess that she had no husband and Jesus revealed that he knew all the details of her marital situation. This caused her to perceive that he was a prophet and that enabled Jesus to give her a brief theological lesson about who he was and who God is. With that information she went and told her friends that she had just met a man who knew everything about her and she wondered if he was the Christ. She did not understand very much about this stranger she had just met but he had listened to her. He had treated her with dignity. He had confronted her without condemning her. Her soul had come out of hiding long enough to consider his truth.



Mailing Address:
101 NE 7th Street
Fairfield IL 62837

Phone Number:
618-847-3041

Email:
greaterwabash@hotmail.com

Brent Cloyd
Associational Mission Strategist
618-599-5059

Jeanette Cloyd
Administrative Assistant

Janie Stephens
Treasurer

Kerri Mosson
Clerk

Baptisms

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

Samaria

The Samaria Missionary Baptist Church was able to once again rejoice in the grace of God through the ordinance of baptism. Pastor Nathaniel Trowbridge is pictured baptizing Ellie Legero on April 6.

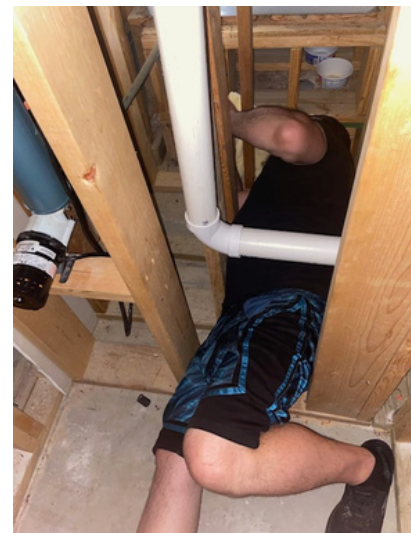


First Baptist, Mt. Carmel

Missionary churches share the gospel and when the gospel is shared some of those the gospel is shared with come to faith in Christ and demonstrate that faith through Christian baptism. On April 13 Pastor Steve Freels had the joy of baptizing Donna Wagner.

First Baptist, Grayville

When you use things they break and need to be repaired. The First Baptist Church of Grayville has seen several people come to Christ as Savior in the past 6 months. This means they have been using their baptistry and their baptistry developed a leak! That is a good problem to have. In the month of April, Grayville First Baptist Church Pastor David Smith has had the privilege of baptizing 3 people. Jeison Valero was baptized on Easter. Jon Windebarger and Victoria Higgs were baptized on April 27.



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



Christ Carries the Cross

One of the members of First Baptist Church of Carmi welded this statue of Christ carrying the cross. This artifact is on display in the sanctuary at Carmi. It stands as a testimony of the durability of the cross of Christ. The cross of Christ has the power to save the worst of sinners. On the cross Jesus provided the means of salvation that can save mankind for all eternity.

North Side Members Tour The Ark



Jim and Betty Minnick of North Side Baptist Church in Fairfield took a group of seven other people to the Ark near Cincinnati Ohio. Pastor Jim Minnick and Betty are pictured at the entrance. The fact that God notified Noah of the coming flood and instructed him how to build the Ark teaches us that our God is a preserving God.

GWBA Pastor's Wife Speaks at Priority Women's Conference



The Priority Women's Conference took place at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Decatur on April 25-26th. Alyssa Caudill, the wife of Pastor Drake Caudill of FBC Carmi was a Keynote speaker/Bible Study leader teaching from the book of Ephesians. She distributed single puzzle pieces to the attendees and encouraged them to write on the back of the puzzle piece one word to remind them of what the Lord had been teaching them during the conference and then to place the puzzle piece in their Bibles where it will remind them of God's teaching.



Alyssa also taught a breakout entitled Beautiful Submission.

Please let us know if your church is having a special event so we can share the information with the GWBA audience.

GWBA Camp and VBS

GWBA Camp

We are looking forward to our GWBA Youth Camp this summer.

Junior Camp is Saturday July 5-July thru Tuesday July 8. The theme is "More Than Conquerors" based on Romans 8:37. Camp Pastor is Trevor Pasley. The cost is \$150.00

Senior Camp begins Tuesday July 8 and goes thru Saturday July 12. The theme is "Enlisted" based on II Timothy 2:3-4. Camp Pastor is Tim Johnson. Cost is \$190.00.



GWBA CHURCH CAMP

DON'T MISS OUT!

JUNIOR CAMP
ENTERING 4TH-7TH GRADE
JULY 5-8 \$150

MORE THAN CONQUERERS ROMANS 8:37

SENIOR CAMP
ENTERING 8TH-GRADUATED SENIOR
JULY 8-12 \$190

ENLISTED 2 TIMOTHY 2:3-4

A HUGE THANK YOU....

Thanks to several generous donations from families and churches, we were able to lower the individual's cost of camp, that was going to increase. We were blessed by these wonderful donors who believe in the mission of GWBA camp!

Several documents containing camp information and registration forms can be found [HERE](#). This link will be on the GWBA facebook page and the GWBA website.

GWBA Churches Plan for VBS

Please pray for our churches as they prepare for Bible School this summer. These are the dates we know at this time (please let us know your dates if they aren't listed):

- North Side Fairfield June 1-5
- Crossville June 16-20
- Sims June 19-21)
- Albion First Missionary June 22-26
- Northside Grayville July 13-18
- Fairfield First July 21-25
- Carmi First July 28-August 1
- Wayne City dates still to be determined



4 Day
VBS
Sims Baptist Church

June 19-21, 3 days of VBS 8:30AM-11:30AM

June 22 at 10:30AM Closing Celebration! The children & teens will lead us in Worship and we will close with Recognition and a Summer Party, lunch, bouncy house & water slide.

June 19-22 | **MAGNIFIED** | 8:30AM-11:30AM

**BREAKFAST . WORSHIP . MISSIONS
LESSONS . CRAFTS . GAMES**

4 years to 18 years old
Yes, teens we have VBS for you!!

Sims Summer Party

SUNDAY

JUNE 22

SUMMER PARTY

12:00 PM - 3:00PM

FREE EVENT

**LUNCH SERVED 12 - 2PM,
WATERSLIDE,
BOUNCY CASTLE,
GAMES AND MORE!**



Shorts and T-shirts Required for the Waterslide, Please!

**BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIR
& TOWEL**

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY AT

SIMS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

310 SOUTH BOND ST.

SIMS, IL 62886

THIS IS IMMEDIATELY AFTER OUR VBS CLOSING CELEBRATION!



Illinois Baptist State Association

Ignite Evangelism Conference

There is a great evangelism training opportunity close to home on May 18-19 at Logan Street Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon. If you don't register you can still show up and attend, but if you want to be sure you have a meal when you get there you should register. It will also make IBSA happy if you do.



Are you looking for a way to equip your people to help **GROW** your church through **EVANGELISM**? The **IGNITE** Evangelism Conference will equip you to train and lead your people to reach the lost in your community with the **GOSPEL**!

The Sunday Night Worship Rally is a great time of encouragement and exhortation. The Monday morning is a time of intense training. This event is for every pastor who wants to grow his church for the glory of Christ!

REGISTER ONLINE AT
[IBSA.ORG/EVANGELISM](https://www.ibsa.org/evangelism)



IBSA | Evangelism

Sunday, May 18 | 6-7:15 pm

Ignite Conference Worship Rally
Jon Reed-Evangelist

Monday, May 19 | 8:30 am - 12 pm

8:30- Light breakfast

Sessions with: Scott Harris - IBSA Evangelism Director
Shannon Ford - IBSA Missions Director
Josh Crisp - Sr. Pastor FBC Bethalto
Jon Reed - Evangelist

Box Lunch (stay & eat or grab and go)

Monday attendees will receive a free gift!

QUESTIONS? Contact janetshelley@ibsa.org or call 217-391-3126

The Lord's Supper

On Good Friday Crossville Missionary Baptist Church had a fellowship meal and then observed the Upper Room Lord's Supper remembering how Jesus became our Passover Lamb. It is always good to use artifacts and images to help us understand the reality of Christ's suffering. Of course, the most important relic to observe is the Old Rugged Cross (the emblem of suffering and shame). But while Jesus paid for our sins on the cross, the cross did not win. Our Lord was put in the grave, but the grave was opened and the risen Christ came forth victorious. We serve a resurrected, living Christ! Hallelujah, Hallelujah, what a Savior!



GWBA - May Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 5 David Harl
- 8 Alyssa Caudill
- 9 Ron Fellows (celebrating 7 years at Crossville)
- 9 Christian & Faith Cullison
- 9 Ellie Faye Cullison
- 9 Keegan Ready
- 13 Troy Shook (celebrating 39 years at Mt.. Zion)
- 15 Matt & Kim Barner
- 19 Thomas Rhinehart
- 20 Brock Cloyd
- 21 Debbie Collins
- 24 Vanessa & Scott Kiser
- 27 Doug & Karen Haile
- 28 Liz & Matt Rhinehart

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			
March 2025			
General Fund Income	Amount	General Fund Expenses	Amount
Crossville Missionary Baptist Church	\$ -	AMS Health Life Retirement	\$ 2,007.83
Ellis Mound Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 368.90	AMS Salary	\$ 2,885.61
Elm River Baptist Church	\$ 50.00	Meeting Expense	\$ -
First Baptist Church, Albion	\$ 1,196.03	Office Expense	\$ 126.98
First Baptist Church, Carmi	\$ 575.00	Telephone	\$ 102.78
First Baptist Church, Fairfield	\$ 100.00	Utilities	\$ 291.24
First Baptist Church, Grayville	\$ 167.00	Administrative Assistant Salary	\$ 450.00
First Baptist Church, Mt. Carmel	\$ 250.00	AMS Hospitality	\$ -
Jasper Baptist Church	\$ -	Christmas Bonus	\$ -
Keenes Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 196.00	Convention Expense	\$ -
Liberty Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 279.00	Payroll Taxes	\$ 53.56
Mill Shoals Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 317.00	Staff Mileage	\$ 261.10
Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church	\$ -	Treasurer Salary	\$ 250.00
North Side Baptist Church, Fairfield	\$ 545.20	Improvements Repair New Equipment	\$ -
Northside Missionary Baptist Church, Grayville	\$ 250.00	Benevolence	\$ -
Olive Branch Missionary Baptist	\$ 322.00	Leadership Development	\$ -
Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 800.00	Mission Development	\$ -
Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 150.00	Payroll Liabilities	\$ 103.87
Samaria Missionary Baptist Church	\$ -	Student Ministry/Camp	\$ -
Sims Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 281.40	WMU	\$ -
Stewart Street Baptist Church	\$ 146.68	Postage	\$ -
Ten Post Oak Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 141.00	Associational Clerk Salary	\$ -
Wayne City Baptist Church	\$ 287.30	Insurance	\$ 512.24
Miscellaneous	\$ 150.00	Total General Fund Expenses	\$ 7,045.21
Transfer from Savings	\$ 172.97		
Investment Income	\$ -	Associational Missions Bank Balances	
Total - General Fund	\$ 6,745.48	General Fund Balance - Checking	\$ 1,876.88
		Special Gifts - Designated Savings	\$ 41,744.75
Monthly Income & Transfers	\$ 6,745.48	Total	\$ 43,621.63
Previous Balance	\$ 2,349.58		
Expenses	\$ 7,218.18	Investments	
General Fund Balance	\$ 1,876.88	Baptist Foundation of IL	\$ 60,000.00
		BFI Cash Management	\$ 922.03
		Peoples National Bank	\$ 66,110.42
		Total	\$ 127,032.45
Special Gifts Income		Special Gifts Expense	
Camp	\$ 800.00	Camp	\$ -
Disaster Relief	\$ -	Disaster Relief	\$ 76.40
Mission Fund	\$ 100.00	Mission Fund	\$ 96.57
New Equipment	\$ -	New Equipment	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 1.76	Miscellaneous Transfer	\$ -
Total	\$ 901.76	Total Special Gifts Expense	\$ 172.97

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.