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THE GREATER WABASH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
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Briefs from Brent

Mary and Joseph were devout Jews who followed the laws and traditions of their faith. They did this not just as ritual but because they loved God and the ways of God and desired to live holy before God. They desired to raise God honoring children so forty days after his birth Mary and Joseph took Jesus to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. This trip required time, effort, and some measure of expense and therefore was something that many chose to forego but in dedication to God, Jesus' parents went and presented or "gave back" Jesus to the Lord. In the process they committed themselves to being parents who would be a faithful example of what a follower of God should be and do.

While they were in Jerusalem, they encountered a righteous and devout man named Simeon. Simeon was old and had spent his life looking for, waiting for, and hoping for a glimpse of the Lord's Christ. He believed that the Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Christ. When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple the Spirit pricked his heart and let him know that this child was the one he had been waiting to see. In Luke 2:28-35 we discover a beautiful picture of Simeon taking the child Jesus into his arms and blessing God for the moment. "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32).

That blessing gives a word of thanksgiving for being able to see and feel the reality of the Lord's salvation. As an old man Simeon could now die in peace because the promise of God had been kept. Salvation was not just a vague unseen hope but it was a reality. Simeon also understood the scope of this salvation. It was not just for a select few but in Jesus salvation was being prepared for all peoples. It was something designed for all peoples to witness and experience. God's salvation in Jesus was light in a dark world. This light could penetrate darkness in such a powerful fashion that Gentiles who were far from God and who had no prior knowledge of God could understand the truths of God and accept those truths and come to know God. In Jesus God's redemption was available to anyone who would believe and follow him. People everywhere could be grafted in and become a part of God's family. This was a good thing that would bring glory to God and glory to the people of God. Embracing that truth and propagating that truth makes us a missionary people.



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Baptisms

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

Sims Missionary Baptist Church

On December 28 the congregation at Sims Missionary Baptist Church rejoiced in the baptism of Evan Elliot. It is always great to see the baptism waters being stirred. This is evidence of the stirring of the Spirit in people's lives and in the life of a congregation.



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

Upcoming Events

Iron Sharpens Iron

On Saturday January 17 - 8:30AM-11:30AM at the Associational office we will have a meeting that we call "Iron Sharpens Iron". This meeting is for pastors and preachers and those who have an interest in becoming preachers. We are going to explore together ways of preaching from the "I AM" sayings of Jesus from the Gospel of John. Our AMS, Brent Cloyd will be facilitating this time of study and fellowship.

Gathering with the New IBSA Executive Director

On Sunday March 1, Scott Foshie, our New IBSA Executive Director is coming to visit. This meeting will take place at First Baptist Church in Fairfield at 2:00 PM. This meeting is for everyone. There will be refreshments! It is a time for both pastor and people to meet Scott and for him to listen to us and for him to share his heart for the work of Illinois Baptists. Please gather your people and come and let's take time to dream together about what we can accomplish in our state.

Associational Training Event

On Thursday evening March 12 we will have an associational training event focusing on two subjects. Participants can choose between the two subjects. We will start at 6:00 with a light meal and begin training at 6:30. The location is yet to be determined.

Kaleb Collard will be helping us discover ways to use church media, particularly our on-line presence, more effectively.

Jay Loucks will be helping us understand ways to develop youth and children's ministry.

Deacon Training

On Saturday March 21 we will conduct a Deacon training. Bob Dickerson from IBSA will be leading this event. He will be talking about "What is a deacon supposed to be" and "What is a deacon supposed to do." This event will begin at 8:00 AM and conclude at 10:00 AM. Location is yet to be determined.

A Word of Thanks

All of us would like to say thank you for the Christmas bonus that the association gave us. We enjoy working for GWBA and appreciate all of you.

Brent, Jeanette, Janie, and Kerri

Sims Hosting Lay Preachers Meal of Appreciation



Camp Information

February Is Camp Month

The single biggest annual event we do in our association is our GWBA Youth camp that takes place each July at Lake Sallateeska. It is also the most expensive. That cost is largely covered by the camp fees paid either by the individual campers or the churches those campers are affiliated with. Even people who serve on our camp staff either pay their own way or their churches pay their way. The cost of doing camp will undoubtedly rise along with the rest of our economy. However, we believe in the mission of our camp ministry and want to make it possible and affordable for anyone who wants to attend to do so. Our hope would be that any increase in the fees charged to campers would be small and that we could do some extra things to make camp a better experience. To accomplish that we will need funding from different sources.

We are asking our churches and/or individuals to consider making a special gift to our camp ministry. This gift would not take the place of any fees charged to individual campers or staffs but would be used to undergird our entire camp ministry and hopefully allow us to keep any fee increases charged to campers at a minimum. We are making February of 2026 Camp Month and are encouraging people to give to this important ministry during this time. Those wishing to give can make checks payable to GWBA and mail them to GWBA, 101 NE 7th Street, Fairfield, IL 62837. Please make a note that the gift is for camp ministry and our treasurer will handle the funds accordingly.

Glorious things happen at our GWBA camp every year. Last year 18 young people were saved during our Junior and senior camps. We saw young people make commitments that will change the trajectory of their lives as they determine to live right and to serve the Lord through His church. We believe we are seeing young leaders emerge from our camp ministry who will one day lead our churches. Will you please consider making a gift to this important ministry?

Please click [HERE](#) to download a flyer that can be used as you promote Camp Month.



AMS Announces Retirement Plans

Retiring March 31, 2026

In April of 2015 I began serving as the Interim Director of Missions for the Greater Wabash Baptist Association. Eight months later I was called to the position full-time. The opportunity to serve in this capacity has been very humbling to me. During this time, I have developed a great love for the churches, pastors, and the people of our association. Jeanette, Brock, and I have made a lot of dear friends for which we are deeply grateful. Therefore, it is with a measure of deep sadness that I announce to you that on March 31, 2026 I will be retiring from my role as the Associational Missions Strategist (AMS) of the Greater Wabash Baptist Association. This date corresponds to my 69th birthday (I will turn 69 on April 2) and will mean that I will have completed eleven years as your associational leader.

Coming to this decision has been a huge personal struggle. I have found my time among you to be very fulfilling. The job has broadened my horizons and has enabled me to experience ministry in many meaningful ways. I will tremendously miss serving you. However, I believe it is time to write a new chapter in my life. I cannot write the new chapter until I end this chapter. I am calling this retirement but I am hoping it will be a new adventure in ministry. I am believing and planning for that to be the case and am asking the Lord for the wisdom and courage to make it so.

In accordance with our By-laws, I will be working with our leadership team to forge a path forward in terms of direction and leadership for the future. Jay Loucks is our associational moderator and our by-laws instruct us to lean on him during the absence of an AMS. As processes develop you will be kept informed.

I believe there are great days ahead for the Greater Wabash Baptist Association.

Sincerely,
Brent Cloyd



Ellis Mound Calls Pastor

Don Evans has been called as pastor of the Ellis Mound Missionary Baptist Church. Don is married to Sharon. They have 4 children and 11 grandchildren. Don has been preaching since 1965 and began pastoring in 1968. He has tried to retire 3 times but every time the Lord quickly calls him back into service and each time he says yes to the call! Don is excited about being the pastor at Ellis Mound and the church is delighted to have him. Don reports that they are seeing some growth in the church. As an association lets pray for Don and the church and look in expectation as to what the Lord is going to do there.



GWBA - January Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 **Liz Rhinehart** (celebrating 2 years at FBC Carmi)
- 5 **Drake & Alydssa Caudill**
- 6 **David Harl** (celebrating 6 years at FBC Fairfield)
- 12 **Joanna Harl**
- 15 **Steve Hamson**
- 15 **Daniel Bradley** (celebrating 3 years at Sims)
- 20 **Vanessa Keiser** (celebrating 6 years at FBC Carmi)
- 25 **Paxton Smith**
- 29 **Liz 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 November 2025			
General Fund Income	Amount	General Fund Expenses	Amount
Crossville Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 300.00	AMS Health Life Retirement	\$ 2,007.83
Ellis Mound Missionary Baptist Church	\$ -	AMS Salary	\$ 2,885.61
Elm River Baptist Church	\$ -	Meeting Expense	\$ -
First Baptist Church, Albion	\$ 1,503.58	Office Expense	\$ 139.18
First Baptist Church, Carmi	\$ -	Telephone	\$ -
First Baptist Church, Fairfield	\$ 100.00	Utilities	\$ 147.84
First Baptist Church, Grayville	\$ 167.00	Administrative Assistant Salary	\$ 450.00
First Baptist Church, Mt. Carmel	\$ 250.00	AMS Hospitality	\$ -
Jasper Baptist Church	\$ 141.88	Christmas Bonus	\$ -
Keenes Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 244.00	Convention Expense	\$ 382.09
Liberty Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 357.00	Payroll Taxes	\$ 53.56
Mill Shoals Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 267.00	Staff Mileage	\$ 337.40
Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church	\$ -	Treasurer Salary	\$ 250.00
North Side Baptist Church, Fairfield	\$ 2,230.06	Improvements Repair New Equipment	\$ 128.89
Northside Missionary Baptist Church, Grayville	\$ 250.00	Benevolence	\$ -
Olive Branch Missionary Baptist	\$ 318.00	Leadership Development	\$ -
Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 400.00	Mission Development	\$ -
Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 150.00	Payroll Liabilities	\$ (196.07)
Samaria Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 589.80	Student Ministry/Camp	\$ -
Sims Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 400.60	WMU	\$ -
Stewart Street Baptist Church	\$ 167.92	Investment Expense	\$ 30,000.00
Ten Post Oak Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 65.00	Associational Clerk Salary	\$ -
Wayne City Baptist Church	\$ 327.18	Insurance	\$ 416.68
Miscellaneous	\$ 200.00	Total General Fund Expenses	\$ 37,003.01
Transfer from Savings	\$ 38,000.00		
Investment Income	\$ -	Associational Missions Bank Balances	
Total - General Fund	\$ 46,429.02	General Fund Balance - Checking	\$ 2,064.22
		Special Gifts - Designated Savings	\$ 12,456.95
Monthly Income & Transfers	\$ 46,429.02	Total	\$ 14,521.17
Previous Balance	\$ 638.21		
Expenses	\$ 45,003.01	Investments	
General Fund Balance	\$ 2,064.22	Baptist Foundation of IL	\$ 60,000.00
		* BFI Cash Management	\$ 33,211.53
		Peoples National Bank	\$ 65,877.77
		Total	\$ 159,089.30
Special Gifts Income		Special Gifts Expense	
Camp	\$ -	Camp	\$ 8,000.00
Disaster Relief	\$ -	Disaster Relief	\$ -
Mission Fund	\$ -	Mission Fund	\$ -
New Equipment	\$ -	New Equipment	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 1.30	Miscellaneous Transfer	\$ -
Total Special Gifts Income	\$ 1.30	Total Special Gifts Expense	\$ 8,000.00
*We transferred \$30k from Designated Funds, FNB, to BFI Cash Management, for a 3.75% interest rate. \$5k from Camp and \$25k from Disaster Relief.			

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.