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THE GREATER WABASH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

March 2026

Volume 49 Issue 3

Briefs from Brent

How much would you give up to follow Jesus? If you are poor you might say take what I have. What do I have to lose? If you have a good job, money in the bank, and enjoy a measure of notoriety you may be more reluctant to walk away from what you have.

Levi was a tax collector. In terms of remuneration this was a good gig. Even an honest tax collector could expect to have a steady income and enjoy a nice life but if your scruples were questionable and if your heart was even moderately harsh you could make a killing collecting taxes; giving the government their expected share and holding on to what was left. Of course, you did not have many friends and the friends you had were a little suspicious of you. But Jesus saw Levi sitting at his tax booth counting his money and shaking off the crude remarks being said of him. When Jesus saw him, he called out to him "Follow Me."

What did Jesus see in Levi that made him want to invite him to become one of his followers? He saw something that the people who visited his tax booth did not see. They saw a crook. They saw someone who had it better than they did. They saw a hated man. They also saw a man to be jealous of. He had more money and power than they had and truth be known they might have liked to have had his job. They would complain about him, but they might have liked to have been him.

Jesus saw in Levi a man whose character was better than it appeared. He saw someone who was unsatisfied and dissatisfied. He saw a sinner, but he also saw a soul who had a bit of a hunger and thirst for righteousness. He saw a man who was moldable. This was the kind of person he was looking for to be a part of his movement so he issued an invitation "Follow me." Levi accepted the invitation and left everything and followed him. I am not sure if this yet means that he was ready to leave his tax business. I suspect he left someone in charge of the booth and the books so he could go inquire more about Jesus. But he stepped away from his office and began listening to Jesus and he heard enough from Jesus that he liked what he heard, and he wanted to listen more. Levi was curious enough about Jesus that he made a great feast and invited a large company of tax collectors to come and meet Jesus and his disciples. Without shame and without trying to hide it, Jesus and his disciples had table fellowship with tax collectors and sinners. Now that will make some religious people grumble.



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Baptisms

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

Sims Missionary Baptist

Sims Missionary Baptist Church had to do some maintenance on their baptistry but the repairs have been made, and the baptismal waters are being stirred once again. On Sunday February 8, the congregation had the privilege of seeing a husband and wife giving testimony of their faith through baptism. Pictured is pastor Daniel Bradley baptizing Walter and Kathy Tibbs. On that same day Kaylee Bullard and Lexi Hatcher were baptized. Meah Nettleton was baptized on the following Sunday, February 15.



Crossville Missionary Baptist

Crossville Missionary Baptist Church Pastor Ron Fellows had the privilege of baptizing Matthew Steward on Sunday February 22.

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

Celebration

This past Sunday March 1 we had a great turnout from our association to meet our new IBSA Executive Director Scott Foshie. People from 15 of our Greater Wabash churches were present and were able to listen to Scott share his burden for reaching Illinois for Christ and his dreams and plans of how Illinois Baptist churches can be effective in this endeavor.

At this same gathering our Greater Wabash churches had the opportunity to express their appreciation for retiring AMS Brent Cloyd. Brother Cloyd and sister Jeanette were presented with gifts and individuals were able to leave cards and express in writing their memories of the Cloyds during their eleven year ministry with the association.



Thank you so much for the gift of the wooden cross presented to me on March 1, commemorating my 11 years of service with GWBA. It has been a great joy to be your leader during this time. Keep believing and preaching and teaching that "we must needs go home by the way of the cross, there is no other way but this".

Brent



Appreciation



On Friday January 30 the Sims Missionary Baptist Church hosted a Lay Preacher's Dinner for the men and their families who pastor our small churches and do pulpit supply in our churches. It was a good opportunity for these men and their families to connect and fellowship with one another. Thank you, Pastor Bradley, for having the vision for doing this and thank you Sims Missionary Baptist for doing the work and bearing the cost.



Words of Thanks

GWBA Brothers & Sisters,

Thank you for the generous gift to our family cemetery fund given in my dad's memory. I am certain the upkeep of a family resting place is somewhat of a thankless task. The memorial gifts given will encourage and assist those who maintain those grounds. I'd also like to thank Brent and Jeanette for their encouragement, prayers, and concern for dad and for Sheila and I as we cared for him. God bless you all.

In Christ's Love,
Bennie & Sheila Tomberlin

GWBA Family,

Thank you so much for the many ways you have shown Christ's love to me during the recent loss of my beloved dad. Your prayers, words of comfort, and delicious meals truly mean more than my words can express.

Thank you,
Jeanette

Upcoming Events

Associational Training Event

At 6:00 PM on Thursday March 12 we will have a training night. We will have training in two areas. Kaleb Collard will help us discover ways to better use church media both in our buildings and in our on-line presence. Jay Loucks will be helping us to implement ways to better minister to youth and children in our churches. This meeting will be held at North Side Baptist Church in Fairfield. The Church is located at 905 N. First Street in Fairfield. This training time will begin with a light meal.

Deacon Training

On Saturday March 21 from 8:30 until 10:30 we will have a Deacon Training. Bob Dickerson, former pastor at First Baptist Marion and current IBSA Regional Consultant will be leading this training. Bob will be teaching us about "What is a Deacon to Be and What is a Deacon to Do." This training will take place at Sims Missionary Baptist Church.



Upcoming Revival at Olive Branch

OLIVE BRANCH MISSIONARY BAPTIST
CHURCH

Spring Reset Revival



**MARCH 26-29, 2026
6PM NIGHTLY**

Speakers



NATHANIEL MARLOW



LANDON MISCHKE



WYATT HAMSON

NATHANIEL IS A SENIOR AT WEBBER HIGH SCHOOL AND RECENTLY WRAPPED HIS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL CAREER AS THE #2 ALL TIME IHSA BOYS BASKETBALL SCORER

LANDON IS A 2021 GRADUTE OF WOODLAWN HIGH SCHOOL. HE IS NOW A POLICE OFFICER FOR THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON

WYATT IS A 2023 GRADUATE OF HAMILTON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL. HE NOW OWNS AND OPERATES HAMSON FAMILY FARMS IN BELLE RIVE

PASTOR STEVE HAMSON: 618-237-1099

Youth Worship Night at Mt. Carmel



Please Join Us!

YOUTH WORSHIP NIGHT

**Sunday, March 22nd
Mt. Carmel First Baptist Church
6-8 P.M.**

**OUR WORSHIP NIGHT IS OPEN TO
ALL ASSOCIATIONAL AND LOCAL
CHURCHES, YOUTH GROUPS,
PARENTS, AND GUESTS.**

**GIRLS, PLEASE BRING A DESSERT.
GUYS, PLEASE BRING A SIDE OR CHIPS**

MUSIC, FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, AND GAMES

Priority Women's Conference

This year's Priority Conference is like no other.

1 CONFERENCE
priority

2 DAYS
April 24-25

3 LOCATIONS
Markham, Decatur, Troy

priority
BEAUTIFUL SCARS
FROM PAIN TO PURPOSE

REGISTRATION
IS NOW OPEN

IBSA
Home Calendar Cooperative Program Contact News

1 CONFERENCE
priority

2 DAYS
April 24-25

3 LOCATIONS
Markham, Decatur, Troy

WE WILL GATHER FOR ONE CONFERENCE, OVER TWO DAYS (APRIL 24-25), IN THREE DIFFERENT LOCATIONS ACROSS THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Priority is a gathering of like-minded women intentional about being a disciple who makes disciples.

We will gather for ONE conference, over TWO DAYS (April 24-25), in THREE different locations across the state of Illinois.

It's a chance for women celebrate God's faithfulness through worship and studying God's word; equip themselves to live as a follower of Jesus through educational breakout sessions and leave ready to return to their area of ministry reminded that they are not alone on their journey. Priority is planned with you in mind. You are our community.

There will be live worship, breakouts, and expo halls at all locations, and the main teaching sessions will be broadcast from Decatur to the other 2 locations.

Check out the schedule and the biographical information about the speakers [HERE](#).

Plan to attend this outstanding Women's Conference.

Lake Sallateeska Volunteers Needed

VOLUNTEER



Help us show God's love in practical ways this summer

JUNE & JULY 2026

Lake Sallateeska Baptist Camp

Serving at camp is a powerful way to make a difference. Whether you can help for a week or just a day or two. Your time and willingness matter. Every role helps create a fun, safe meaningful experience for campers. There is a place for everyone to serve this summer.

Contact Us

618-336-5272



JacobKimbrough@lbsa.org

IBSA Camps are made possible by the generous giving of Illinois Baptist churches through the Cooperative Program and Mission Illinois Offering.

Ordination of Father and Son

On Sunday February 15 the First Baptist Church of Carmi ordained Bill Foote as a deacon and they ordained Bill's son Ben Foote to the Gospel Ministry. Ben was recently called to be the pastor at Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Pleasant Grove dismissed their worship service that morning and their congregants worshipped with the Carmi congregation and participated in their pastor's ordination. Andy Hannaford, former youth pastor at Carmi, preached the ordination service.



GWBA - March Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 **Dennis Seidel** (celebrating 17 years at Northside, Grayville)
- 2 **Doug Haile**
- 6 **Kenzie Seidel**
- 13 **Derek Ready**
- 13 **Betty Minnick**
- 16 **Derek Ready** (celebrating 18 years at Jasper)
- 20 **Benny Rhinehart**
- 29 **Doug Haile** (celebrating 11 years at Ten Post Oak)

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			
January 2026			
General Fund Income	Amount	General Fund Expenses	Amount
Crossville Missionary Baptist Church	\$ -	AMS Health Life Retirement	\$ 2,051.17
Ellis Mound Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 608.09	AMS Salary	\$ 2,842.27
Elm River Baptist Church	\$ 50.00	Meeting Expense	\$ -
First Baptist Church, Albion	\$ 1,801.02	Office Expense	\$ 282.28
First Baptist Church, Carmi	\$ 575.00	Telephone	\$ 104.81
First Baptist Church, Fairfield	\$ 100.00	Utilities	\$ 293.00
First Baptist Church, Grayville	\$ 167.00	Administrative Assistant Salary	\$ 450.00
First Baptist Church, Mt. Carmel	\$ 250.00	AMS Hospitality	\$ -
Jasper Baptist Church	\$ 61.42	Christmas Bonus	\$ -
Keenes Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 446.00	Convention Expense	\$ -
Liberty Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 484.00	Payroll Taxes	\$ 53.56
Mill Shoals Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 332.00	Staff Mileage	\$ 226.60
Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church	\$ -	Treasurer Salary	\$ 250.00
North Side Baptist Church, Fairfield	\$ 564.65	Improvements Repair New Equipment	\$ -
Northside Missionary Baptist Church,	\$ 250.00	Benevolence	\$ 75.00
Olive Branch Missionary Baptist	\$ 323.00	Leadership Development	\$ -
Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist	\$ 400.00	Mission Development	\$ -
Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 150.00	Payroll Liabilities	\$ (174.74)
Samaria Missionary Baptist Church	\$ -	Student Ministry/Camp	\$ -
Sims Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 720.37	WMU	\$ -
Stewart Street Baptist Church	\$ 149.44	Postage	\$ -
Ten Post Oak Missionary Baptist Church	\$ -	Associational Clerk Salary	\$ -
Wayne City Baptist Church	\$ 350.30	Insurance	\$ 416.66
Miscellaneous	\$ -	Total General Fund Expenses	\$ 6,870.61
Misc.Transfer from Special Accounts	\$ -		
Total - General Fund	\$ 7,782.29	Associational Missions Bank Balances	
		General Fund Balance - Checking	\$ 3,792.26
Monthly Income & Transfers	\$ 7,782.29	Special Gifts - Designated Savings	\$ 28,316.99
Previous Balance	\$ 2,880.58	Total	\$ 32,109.25
Expenses	\$ 6,870.61		
General Fund Balance	\$ 3,792.26	Investments	
		Baptist Foundation of IL	\$ 60,000.00
		BFI Cash Management	\$ 33,358.16
		Peoples National Bank	\$ 69,301.08
		Total	\$162,659.24
Special Gifts Income		Special Gifts Expense	
Camp	\$ 13,658.70	Camp	\$ -
Peoples National Bank	\$ -	Disaster Relief	\$ -
Mission Fund	\$ -	Mission Fund	\$ -
New Equipment	\$ -	New Equipment	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 0.75	Miscellaneous Transfer	\$ -
Total	\$ 13,659.45	Total Special Gifts Expense	\$ -

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.