

STARTING

STRENGTHENING

Building a Better Bambi

By Mick Schatz

Hello from Bambi Lake! It was a great summer here at the lake and the fall is going to be just as amazing. As I have never been here in the Fall, I am excited to see the amazing colors as the leaves change. Looking ahead, I am also excited to see how God uses the Francis Brown State Mission Offering to accomplish His purposes here at Bambi. Bambi is poised and ready to follow God's direction and impact the state of Michigan and beyond.

In Romans 1:16 Paul states, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." (NASB) This is the heart of Bambi. We are not ashamed and we will proclaim the Gospel! So, as we think about the Francis Brown State Offering and Bambi, I would like to share with you what happens when you give financially to Bambi Lake Retreat and Conference Center.

When you give to Bambi you are investing in the lives of present and future generations who will be attending camps and retreats at Bambi. You are giving many the opportunity to hear the gospel for the first time. Others are learning how to grow and mature in their faith. While others just needed some time to get alone with God, hear His voice and find some peace in this noisy culture. Your investment helps moms and dads give their children a spiritual experience that will stay with them the rest of their lives. You help marriages grow stronger. You help men and women grow deeper in their walk with God. When you give you truly are a "Difference Maker" in the lives of thousands.

When you give to Bambi you are honoring the generations who have come before us. Bambi Lake has a great heritage of being a place where God shows up, and a place where you can come and enjoy God's creation and just relax in His presence. This did not happen by accident. The founders of Bambi Lake purposely purchased and planned this camp for that reason. They intentionally wanted Bambi to be "Sacred Ground", a "Sanctuary", where the people of Michigan could experience God. What an awesome vision! When you give to Bambi you are strengthening that heritage, and reinforcing the vision that brought Bambi together.

When you give to Bambi you are literally "Building a Better Bambi". When you give to Bambi you are helping to build new buildings and new activities for campers to enjoy. You are helping to repair and maintain facilities and equipment. You are helping Bambi update its infrastructure and roads. You are helping to build retaining walls and landscape flower beds and walking trails. You are helping to support the staff, interns and seasonal workers who keep Bambi functioning all year long.

To all of those who have invested in Bambi in the past, thank you. To everyone who will be investing in Bambi in the future, thank you. I believe God will richly bless as you invest, honor and build at Bambi and for the generations to come.

Training for everyone!

By: Staff

FENTON, MI - The 2017 Church Equipping Conference provides specialized training for everyone who serves in your church. Don't believe us? Click [HERE](#) to take a peek at the list of speakers and varied topics to choose from. We are confident the Holy Spirit will be moving through this event, and we hope you are there to experience it!

Lay leaders, Sunday School teachers, music staff, discipleship trainers, prayer warriors and anyone else who seeks to serve the local church will find value in this one day of intense training and fellowship. Though we are not all called to stand in a pulpit, we do want to serve well and the CEC provides opportunity for growth, encouragement and refining of skills, all for the glory of the Gospel. It is not too late to attend. Share this opportunity with your church and offer to get them here, September 16.

Join us at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Roseville on September 16th from 8:30am-4pm. Tickets are just \$15. Come on your own, or bring your whole church. Just make sure you are here! This is a perfect jump start into your Fall season.

To register today visit us at BSCM.org/event-registration, or [CLICK HERE!](#) We are thrilled to see how God works at this event. This is not something you want to miss!

Dive In – Girls' and Teen Girls' Mission Camp

By: Nelda Popkey

ROSCOMMON, MI - “. . . That moment when every girl in your cabin starts screaming bloody murder, and you think something is wrong but it's just a daddy long leg. : - Ruthie Bowman, Assistant Leader

. . . That moment a girl catches a fish, to only have it eaten by a bigger fish.

. . . That moment a young girl prays to accept Jesus as Savior.

These are moments to be treasured, and Girls' and Teen Girls' Mission Camp is a place to find those treasures. Ninety-four girls and leaders came from across the state to Bambi Lake for a week of diving into the Word, meeting our missionary from Russia and applying missions to their lives.

Through Bible study and quiet time, four young ladies prayed to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Through mission study, mission projects and our missionary, Jessie Hoyer, 10 girls made commitments to missions. Seven girls rededicated their life to Jesus. God was at work throughout the week making Himself known.

The week was full of activities and fun. Creative track times included drama, painting to music, sewing and learning how to use a storytelling cloth and henna. The sewing group made T-shirt dresses for mission teams to girls who need them.

“Our master seamstresses are going to make some young ladies very happy!” - Denise Dishon, Leader.

The younger girls gathered for their mission project to count out bead activity packs to send to a missionary in Thailand. Each girl made five sets of a bead activity that the missionary could use to help girls in Thailand stay off the streets. More than 180 packs were made.

The missionary, with the help of two cabins of girls, led morning worship. The girls participated by reading the scripture, praying, introducing our special speakers and picking the songs to sing. It was the best way to start out our day!

There was swimming, boating, fishing, messy games, and Lori Burford, from the Department of Natural Resources, led the girls on a hike through the grounds of Bambi Lake. Campfires with s'mores and singing, water games, and mini-golf were all part of the fun. It was hard to pick a favorite activity.

Following the Girls' and Teen Girls' Mission Camp, the Mom and Me Weekend started about 4:00 pm on Friday afternoon. Nine girls, eight moms and grandmas, and five leaders spent the rest of Friday and Saturday together. The joy of seeing young moms who had once spent a week at Bambi Lake as a child was overwhelming. It was exciting to see them share their stories with the girls about their days at Bambi Lake.

“I can't wait until next year for Mom and Me!” – Heather Sommers, Mom
“Thank you to all who took care of our girls this week.” - Erica Horton, Parent

“Thank you to all the leaders for giving your time this week! My daughter, Elli, and her friend, Chelsea, were blessed. The seeds were planted and watered. May the Holy Spirit bear fruit!!” – Pastor Matt Trombley

Thank you to the women and young women who volunteered to spend the week at Bambi Lake so that these girls could come and experience God in a very personal way. Memories were made and lives were changed.

Submitted by - Nelda Popkey who serves on the Michigan WMU Team as a past state president and is currently the Woman on Missions consultant. Nelda is co-director of our Girls' Mission Camp and a member of Eastside Community Church in Eastpointe, MI.

ERLC conf. urges parents to be models for children

by Tom Strode

NASHVILLE (BP) -- Christian parents must seek to be what they want their children to become, a sellout audience was told during the final two days of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission's 2017 national conference. A diverse collection of speakers -- including a United States senator, a filmmaker, storytellers, songwriters, as well as pastors and authors -- addressed about 1,300 attendees at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville. The three-day event -- titled "Parenting: Christ-centered Parenting in a Complex World" -- concluded Aug. 26.

Longtime pastor and author Crawford Loritts told the crowd Aug. 25 whatever he wants his children to be they have to see in him. "They have to see me moving aggressively toward" that goal, he said. "At the end of the day, the thing that's going to shape your future, shape your family, help your child to make it home before dark spiritually are callouses on your knees with an open Bible and a walk before God," said Loritts, senior pastor of Fellowship Bible Church in Roswell, Ga. "That must never be forsaken. That has got to be the centerpiece of what we're really, really all about."

Bible teacher and author Jen Wilkin said in an address on rearing an "alien child" -- a phrase based on I Peter 2:11 -- the bottom line is: "The only reliable way to raise an alien child is to be an alien parent. "Just think about this, before your child ever learns to read a Bible, they will read you," she said. The "alien parent" is not concerned with what other parents think; they are concerned with what God thinks, Wilkin said. "Alien parents trade the fear of man for the life-giving fear" of God.

Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., said parents are going to feel guilty about the lack of time with their children in an age when work is normally separated from home. "You're always going to feel guilty, because we're going to fail as parents," he told attendees Aug. 26. "So one thing to do is to flee to Christ. ... They're ultimately His kids, and we're trying to steward them." In an in-person interview with ERLC President Russell Moore, Sasse addressed themes in his new book *The Vanishing American Adult*.

Sasse described the concept of adolescence -- the "greenhouse phase" from about 18 months to four years after reaching puberty -- as "basically a pretty good thing." He said, however, "Perpetual adolescence is a disastrous thing where you never end that middle state. "Adolescence is a means to an end. It's not a destination," Sasse told Moore and the audience. Sasse said the practice by churches of "generational segregation" in corporate worship is problematic. "The reality is that we should recognize that we live across generations and ultimately we're going to be in a dependent state again unless the Lord returns prior," he said. "We live in a world where we are going to decline and we should love our neighbor, and we should start doing that now."

The Aug. 25 evening session focused on artists Sally Lloyd-Jones, author of *The Jesus Storybook Bible* and other books; singer/songwriter/author Andrew Peterson; and Phil Vischer, creator of *Veggie Tales* and "What's in the Bible?" Lloyd-Jones told Moore in an in-person interview she wrote *The Jesus Storybook Bible* because she wanted children to know God loves them. "We're part of an incredible, real-life fairy tale," she said.

"Storytelling is often the most effective way to ambush us. "Really, the most beautiful characters in the Bible are the ones who turn and repent. And we love them because we see ourselves in them." Lloyd-Jones encouraged the audience to tell children the truth even about scary things. "Tell it in an age-appropriate way, but don't shy away from it," she said. "Unless you tell them the truth, it's more terrifying to them. "Our job is not so much to protect children as to equip them."

Peterson told his story of being captivated by fantasy novels as a boy until an experience when he was 19 transformed him and he became "wide awake to God's presence." "What I was looking for all along had found me," he said. "This beautiful, broken world that had been hidden in plain sight my whole life suddenly ambushed me." "I believe the Lord used those books to pique my desire for another world, to exercise the muscle of my imagination ... and even to comfort a little kid," Peterson told attendees.

"I think the trick to captivating your child's imagination with the beauty of the Gospel is to show them that the Gospel matters at all and it matters in every corner of the universe," he said. "That doesn't mean that we shouldn't exercise discernment. It does mean that Christ is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." After he spoke, Peterson sang a song he had finished writing only a couple of days before on the preeminence of Christ based on Col. 1.

After the end of Veggie Tales, Vischer said he looked back and wondered, "Am I persuading kids to behave Christianly without giving them Christianity? I realized to help kids I needed to go deeper." The DVD series "What's in the Bible?" came as a result. He encouraged parents at the conference and watching by live stream to tell kids the whole story about the Bible so they can build a "spiritual foundation for a moral imagination."

"The world today is trying to decorate a tree with morals without a tree," Vischer said. "The world is hanging morals in the air and hoping they'll just stay there somehow. We still have the tree to hang morality on. "The world desperately needs us to keep telling our story, the story of God who made you special and loves you very much, who has a plan, a plan of salvation, a plan of redemption, who's calling us to be ambassadors of reconciliation. We can change the world because we are the ones with the story."

Dennis Rainey, longtime president of FamilyLife, offered from his own experience four Gospel lessons for parents:

- "Model and pass on the truth about God and your experience of God.
- "Pass on the good news about how Jesus came to rescue us from the wrath of God from hell.
- "Model and teach your children to love God and to love others.
- "Transmit a vision for their mission."

"Your home is an embassy of the King of kings and Lord of lords," Rainey said. "The world we're operating in is not our home. The embassy you're from represents the place that is home. And so you're raising emissaries; you're raising dignitaries; you're raising children who are to be ambassadors to their generation."

Danny Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, told attendees "a strong marriage empowers us to be strong parents." "When you love your mate well, you are loving your children well," he said. "And your children first see love and understand what it is by watching the way you love one another."

Phillip Bethancourt, the ERLC's executive vice president, said in remarks based on Eph. 6:10-13 parents must give their children "a purpose to pursue," "an identity to embrace" and "a battle to fight." "One of the best ways we can lead our children in the battle is by modeling what it means to fight the good fight of faith in our home," he said. "We're not just seeking to tell our kids they need to engage in spiritual warfare. We're saying, 'Watch me, because I'm going to show you what it looks like.'"

On Aug. 25-26, the conference included panel discussions during the plenary sessions, as well as breakout sessions on a variety of topics Aug. 25. One of those breakout sessions -- on sexual orientation and gender identity -- was greeted by a group of about 50 demonstrators from the pro-lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender organization Faith in America, which is seeking to persuade churches to change their viewpoint about the biblical teaching on the issues. The group gathered outside the room where the session was held and sang "Amazing Grace" as part of its peaceful demonstration.

The ERLC's 2018 national conference is scheduled Oct. 11-13 in Dallas. With the theme of "The Cross-shaped Family," the event will feature such speakers as Bible teacher Beth Moore, Nashville pastor Ray Ortlund, as well as Moore and Wilkin.

Submitted by: Tom Strode is Washington bureau chief for Baptist Press, the Southern Baptist Convention's news service. BP reports on missions, ministry and witness advanced through the Cooperative Program and on news related to Southern Baptists' concerns nationally and globally.

Men's Conference: God's Man Reaching a New Generation

By: Staff

FENTON, MI - Dr. Chuck Kelley is a follower of Jesus, husband to Rhonda, and president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. His passion is sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He was recently quoted as stating, "Lostness in North America is having a bigger impact on Southern Baptists than Southern Baptists are having on lostness. Put another way: The world is having a bigger impact on the behavior of Southern Baptists than we are having on the behavior of the world. In addition to the decline in baptisms, we are down in membership, down in worship attendance, and down in Bible Study attendance. We have more churches, but fewer people, and the people we have are drifting away."

This year's men's conference is a call to action and there is no one better to make the call than Dr. Kelley, a man that lives out his faith every day and in every way. Register today, make plans to bring the men of your church, young and old alike. Start something new with your men, encourage and motivate your men's ministry, call out the men of your congregation to be the difference makers.

Are you ready for a two-day spiritual retreat where you breakaway from everything and focus on your relationship with God? If so, then come and invite your friends to attend.

Come see the rustic beauty of Bambi Lake and engage with Dr Chuck Kelley from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. You are assured of a life changing experience.

Where: Bambi Lake Retreat and Conference Center

Dates: Friday & Saturday, September 22-23

Check-in: Friday after 2pm, Starts Friday 6:30pm with dinner

Check-out: Saturday afternoon 2pm

Cost: \$85

Register: BSCM.org/Bambi

6 Ways to Incorporate Social Media You Haven't Thought of Yet

J. Allen

MINNESOTA - How effectively a church communicates with its members can often determine how effective they are in their different areas of ministry. With social media so prevalent in today's society, it is something that can be used as an effective way to build communication in your church, resulting in more positive ministry experiences. So while churches are scrambling to stay up to date with the latest technology trends or social media crazes, I've come up with six creative ways to incorporate social media into your church that you might not have thought about yet.

Remind App

Got a junior high/middle school camp coming up? Is registration due this Sunday for the youth group fall conference? Did an urgent prayer request just come through to the church that needs to get out quickly? If you've ever said yes to any of these, then the Remind app is for you. While built as a website for schools, it can just as easily be translated to churches. If you visit www.remind.com it's easy and free to sign up. The website allows you to sign up (again, for free) and send out remind text messages to groups of people. You can send out messages as often or as little as you want. When you type in the message, it sends it as a text message to anyone who wants. Since most phone plans have unlimited texting these days, it's free to receive texts, too.

Facebook Live Feeds

Can't make it to church Sunday morning? Why not bring church to you! Sometimes circumstances don't allow you to be at church. Whether you're recovering from a recent surgery or enjoying a family vacation a thousand miles away, having a live feed of your service gives you the feeling of being right there. While podcasts are great, live feeds are where it's at! Facebook provides one of the easiest avenues to provide a live feed to your service to those who can't otherwise attend. The only downside here is trying to get your 90-year-old grandma connected to Facebook!

Member/Guest Blogging

Amongst the writing world, guest blogging seems to be one of the most innovative and up and coming trends out there. The owner/author of a website has someone write an article for them and in turn that person brings in a new crowd or audience to that website, creating a bigger traffic flow. In blogging, the bigger your target audience is the

better off your website and blogging career tend to be. You can use the same concept to build your church. Have a featured member write a little about themselves. Naturally they'll have all their friends, relatives and even coworkers checking them out on the church's website. As they're looking, they scroll through other areas like upcoming events and different types of ministries and outreaches. In doing so, this creates a buzz and interest in what the church is doing. In addition to reaching a completely different audience, it helps build community within the church.

Youth Group Scavenger Hunts

If you have a group of youth leaders who are all connected via Google Drive (as simple as having a Gmail account), then you can have an interactive scavenger hunt. Give each team five minutes to get to their destination and then upload the list of things they need to find. Each youth leader will have access as soon as it's put into Google Drive. You can upload pictures onto the drive and have them shared with the youth leaders. If you ever need pictures for a slideshow, then you've already got them in your Google Drive. If you want to take it a step farther, you can upload a random task every couple of minutes and have your youth members complete the task, again with proof of picture. A sample scavenger hunt might look like:

6:00-6:04 – Pump someone's gas.

6:04-6:08 – Hold the door open for someone.

6:08-6:10 – Get a picture of a stranger's driver's license.

6:10-6:13 – Pick up a piece of litter and put it in a nearby trash can.

Every couple of minutes you would put in a new task for each team to do. If they upload a picture in the time frame given, they are awarded points. With Google Drive, everything is saved with a timestamp so the pressure is on to meet the time constraints. You can make the hunt as hard, or easy as you want depending on your youth group needs.

Facebook Groups

Our church's secretary, Alison, does a great job of sending out a list of who is working in different areas of children's ministry each week. She really is great at sending reminders to everyone. From toddlers to little kids to infants, each person knows each week where they're working in advance. While our church uses it mostly with children's ministry, having a Facebook group is a great and easy way get the word out and keep everyone connected. Tagging people as a reminder of when they're scheduled goes a long way in making sure you're covered.

Calendar of Events

Similar to using Gmail and Google Drive for your scavenger hunt, anyone in your church who uses them can be connected to an online, interactive calendar of events. Instead of having to log into a computer, go to the church's website and scroll through to find a calendar, you can use a Google calendar to keep everyone informed of all those upcoming events. From Bible studies and camps to choir practice and upcoming baptisms, you can keep everyone connected through one Gmail church calendar.

Conclusion

Consider exploring apps based on needs of your church or group. Slack is a wonderful app for churches and small groups, community groups, etc. as it functions like a private social site. Social media use is such a great way to not only grow but connect your church with communication. Social media extends past websites such as Facebook and Twitter and goes into simply using 21st century communication avenues. Many times these communication avenues are great fun and will help your church to connect in an exciting way. Don't be afraid to use such avenues to help reach the world for Christ!

Submitted by: J. Allen has a heart for reaching today's youth. He is a teacher, coach, and sports advocate. He also writes from deep in the wilderness for Lights UP North, a source of encouragement and inspiration.

Study: With evangelism, small things matter

by Bob Smietana

NASHVILLE (BP) -- Small churches can make a difference by sticking to the basics, according to a study released today (Aug. 28). The study -- conducted in collaboration by the Billy Graham Center of Wheaton College, LifeWay Research and the Caskey Center for Church Excellence of New Orleans Baptist Theological Center -- identifies at least 13 effective ways small churches can attract and retain more new converts, including many practices churches have used for years.

The research, additionally sponsored by 11 denominations, and undertaken by LifeWay Research, shows that among the 13 are: holding classes for new attenders, committing a healthy portion of the church budget to evangelism and missions, serving outside the church to share the Gospel with unchurched people, and having the pastor set up specific hours to share the Gospel. LifeWay Research tested 29 factors that could potentially affect the number of people who decide to follow Christ and stay committed to small churches. Thirteen of those factors predicted which churches retained more converts.

Doing all 13 well can create an environment that helps newcomers connect with the church, said Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Research. "There's no single approach or strategy that leads to more converts in small churches," he said. "Instead, it appears that doing a lot of small things really adds up."

A little more intentionality matters

The phone survey of 1,500 pastors of small churches -- evangelical and Black Protestant congregations of 250 or fewer -- asked how many converts each church had in the last 12 months and whether those converts stayed with the church after they came to faith. Researchers then compared the 20 percent of churches with the most retained converts (11.7 or more per 100 attendees) to the 50 percent with the fewest retained converts (5.56 or fewer per 100 attendees).

Here are some of their findings. Among pastors of churches with the most retained converts:

- 93 percent say their church engages in ministry outside the church at least every six months to share the Gospel with the unchurched.
- 92 percent consistently hear reports of church members engaging in evangelistic conversations and sharing their faith with non-Christians.
- 68 percent offer classes for new attenders at least every six months.
- 66 percent ask people weekly to commit to Christ following a personal presentation of the Gospel.
- 57 percent block out time on their calendar at least once a week for the purpose of sharing their faith with non-Christians outside the church office.
- 51 percent attend training on personal evangelism at least every six months.
- 26 percent have a higher percentage of the church's budget (30 percent or more) given to evangelism and missions.

Pastors of churches with 5.6 or fewer converts are less likely to follow these strategies so frequently:

- 83 percent say their church engages in ministry outside the church at least every six months to share the Gospel with the unchurched.
- 77 percent consistently hear reports of church members engaging in evangelistic conversations and sharing their faith with non-Christians.
- 47 percent offer classes for new attenders at least every six months.
- 37 percent ask people weekly to commit to Christ following a personal presentation of the Gospel.
- 31 percent block out time on their calendar at least once a week for the purpose of sharing their faith with non-Christians outside the church office.
- 32 percent attend training on personal evangelism at least every six months.
- 16 percent have a higher percentage of the church's budget (30 percent or more) given to evangelism and missions.

The number one predictive factor, according to researchers: Churches with more converts tended to attract and keep more unchurched people. Pastors of churches with the most retained converts were more likely (35 percent) to say half of their congregation used to be unchurched. That dropped to 18 percent for churches with the fewest

retained converts. Small churches may be able to reach more people simply by doing what they are already doing -- with a little more consistency, McConnell said.

Asking more non-Christians to come to church, sharing the Gospel with them, following up with them, and inviting them to follow Jesus can all lead to more converts. Jeff Farmer, associate professor of church, ministry and evangelism at New Orleans Seminary and lead researcher on the project, said inviting more unchurched people to attend services is key. "We need to be focusing on lost people -- those who have no previous church background -- and there are plenty of them," he said. And a pastor can lead the way, Farmer said. "No one in the church is going to share the Gospel more than the pastor. Pastors who make time for sharing their faith with non-Christians and who teach church members to do the same can have a big impact," he said.

Rick Richardson of the Billy Graham Center of Wheaton College agrees, saying that the churches with the most converts in the study seemed to do a better job at attracting and keeping new people. "Those churches go the extra mile when it comes to inviting people and extending hospitality," he said. Overall, Richardson was encouraged by the study, which showed that most small churches are active in evangelism. They're doing the right things, Richardson said. They just need to become more consistent in evangelism and outreach. "A few small things can make a big difference," he said.

Methodology

The study was sponsored by the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College and the Caskey Center for Church Excellence at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. The phone survey of pastors of churches in evangelical and black Protestant denominations was conducted March 16 to March 31, 2017. The calling list was a random sample, stratified by church membership and denominational groups, drawn from a list of all evangelical and black Protestant churches. Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest of the church called. The completed sample is 1,500 surveys. Responses were weighted by region and denominational group to more accurately reflect the population. The sample provides 95 percent confidence that the sampling error does not exceed plus or minus 2.7 percent (This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting). Margins of error are higher in subgroups.

The research was sponsored by the Billy Graham Center, the Caskey Center, the Assemblies of God, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, the Church of the Nazarene, the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference, Converge Worldwide, the Evangelical Covenant Church, the Evangelical Free Church of America, the Foursquare Church, The Missionary Church, the Southern Baptist Convention, Vineyard USA, and The Wesleyan Church.

LifeWay Research is a Nashville-based, evangelical research firm that specializes in surveys about faith in culture and matters that affect churches.

Submitted by: Bob Smietana is a Nashville-based correspondent for Religion News Service and former religion writer for the Tennessean.

The Great Physician

By: Mike and Karen Davis

FLINT, MI - Thursday, March 16, 2017, is a day in which our household was dramatically changed for the rest of our lives. It was a day the journey of repeated trips to and from the hospital began.

My two children, Ana (15) and Steven (13) were busy finishing up on homework and playing games on the computer. Karen, my wife of 19 years, was finally coming home late from work. She had been working a lot lately, and after dinner fell asleep in her recliner. I did not want to wake her since she was comfortable and sleeping so soundly. Sometime later, I was awakened by a sound and rolled over to go back to sleep, but there was this nagging sensation for me to investigate. It was 5:04 in the morning.

Opening the bedroom door, I found Karen beneath the dining room table. I went over to her and tried to wake her, but to little avail. All Karen would say is, "I can't breathe." My eyes quickly caught the sight of Ana and Steven's faces, both white as sheets, staring in silence at the sight before them. Immediately, I called 911. The paramedics were there in minutes and took her to Hurley Medical Center in Flint. I called our family Pastor, Ted Stephens, who came immediately. We sat alone in the waiting room, numb and silent, trying hard to make sense of what had happened.

The ER physician said they believed Karen had suffered a pulmonary embolism that had gone to either her heart or her lungs, but they were unsure, since they were unable to perform the correct testing. Karen's heart kept stopping. She had been given powerful medications to break up the clot, but it had failed to work. The doctor calmly said that there was nothing more they could do, but to clean Karen up to make her presentable, and for the three of us to go back, hold her hand, speak with her, and be there when she takes her last breath.

My two children immediately broke down. I just sat there, numb to it all. I thanked the doctor as she went out the door, then I shut off my emotions. I could not concentrate on Karen. I had to think about my children. I stood up, pulling them up with me, and stated that we were not going to do this; we needed to stay strong. We prayed selfishly. We prayed that if it is God's will then take her home, but we also asked God to keep her here with us. We hugged and cried.

The doctor returned, and escorted us to Karen's room. The three of us walked slowly, our heads held high, with me trying hard to be strong for my teens. Pastor Ted appeared behind us as we went. The vitals screen in Karen's room showed her heart rate to be 232 (double normal rate) and having an oxygen level of 46 (normal is 90 to 100). Her chest was heaving up and down, almost lifting her entire torso off of the bed. Her hands were tied down with tubes going down her throat and numerous tubes to her arms and legs. It was so much to take in, too much yet we found the strength for her.

We began to speak to Karen, telling her how much we loved her, and that it was okay to go home. 'Go home, Mom. Go home,' I can still hear my children utter those words in my ears. We prayed for her and tried to speak about the good times that we had. As we spoke, time slowly crept by- 3 minutes, 5, 10, then 15 minutes. As we spoke I noticed

that Karen's skin began to appear pink. At this point the ER physician rushed us out of the room, stating that they needed to do more work on her.

Around noon, a new physician for that shift said she read Karen's charts and spoken with the staff and several other physicians concerning Karen. They all had come to the conclusion, due to the number of times Karen's heart had stopped (seven times), and how long she had gone with low oxygen to expect Karen to have neurological brain damage, and possibly other neurological damages, as well. The doctor told me this to ask, if knowing this, would I want Karen resuscitated if her heart should stop again. I turned to Pastor Ted, Joe and Lisa Hanson, our close friends from church who had come to the hospital, and asked what they thought. I found myself unable to make any more decisions, I was too worn out. Lisa counseled to resuscitate to find out what the damage was and I agreed.

They moved Karen to the Critical Care Unit (CCU) where her new physician ordered that all medications be stopped, so he could, 'see what I have to work with'. To everyone's amazement, Karen responded better than expected. When questioned, she knew where she was and what was going on. Over the next two weeks, cardiologists, hematologists, nephrologists, and other specialists, would run tests on Karen, with each doctor being completely stumped on what happened to Karen. The staff was so amazed that the ER physician and crew would keep coming up to see Karen over the next three or four days. No one could believe she was alive, and no one could believe that she didn't suffer neurological damage.

But for my family and our church, we know there was only one possibility - a miracle. The Great Physician was on duty that day, reminding all of the power of prayer and how He is in control, not us.

Submitted by: Michael Davis of Flint, Michigan, where he and the Davis family reside. Michael is as an Adjunct Professor for a local university, while Karen is a Territorial Assistant for Hallmark Greeting Cards. They have two teenagers, Anastashya and Steven. The entire family are members of North End Baptist church, This past August 23rd, Michael and Karen celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary.

SENDING**6 Ways to practice hospitality**

by Brandon Clements

COLUMBIA, SC - Hospitality evangelism isn't new or tricky rather a way to connect with your neighbors and begin to live out your faith before them. Hospitality got lost in the me generation so we need to be more intentional in our efforts to invite people into our homes and show them the love of Jesus. Adapt these practices to your environment.

1. Reserve a night for "neighbor night."

Years ago, when my wife and I started talking about wanting to develop a lifestyle of biblical hospitality, we made a decision that changed everything for us. We always felt like we were too busy to really practice this in a substantial way, but we realized we had most Tuesdays open. So we decided to block off Tuesday nights for the purpose of being "neighbor night."

Neighbor night was specifically designed for us to host people with whom we were building relationships—whether it was a non-Christian friend or neighbor, a Christian who was struggling or someone God just had on our minds recently. The idea was just to make a little bit of extra food—whatever we were gonna make anyway—and have them over. This changed the game for us, because it took so much of the hassle of scheduling out of the equation. When this went into effect, anytime my wife or I met someone we wanted to have over, all we had to say was "What are you doing next Tuesday night? We'd love to have you over."

This practice, without a doubt, has been the most effective means of practicing hospitality we've ever experienced. We've watched God do so many incredible things over those simple meals in our homes. Of course, this doesn't have to be every week—it can be on what your schedule allows. But if you don't put it on your schedule, the odds that it will ever happen drop tremendously.

2. Practice the "always rule."

The idea of something like neighbor night often brings up questions like "How will I meet people to invite over?" or "How do I even meet my neighbors?" Of course, you can start by practicing hospitality with anyone—friends, co-workers, acquaintances, etc. But often one of the best places to focus on is your neighbors, and the always rule is a helpful tool in that regard.

This is something I created for myself years ago, because I noticed that when I am outside in my neighborhood, that's my absolute best time to meet my neighbors. But it always just feels like the wrong time, doesn't it? I'm getting my kids out of the car, or I just got my mail, or I'm unloading groceries. A neighbor that I don't know walks by, but I'm busy so I just smile and wave. And if I ever see them again, it will be months or years.

So, the always rule is a rule that when I see a neighbor that I haven't met yet, I have pre-decided that I am going to stop and meet them and have a brief conversation. Always. This has been a tremendously helpful change for me to build relationships with those that live around me. Embrace the "always rule" and stop what you're doing to be friendly.

3. Use sports.

Many of us love sports, and so do your friends, coworkers and neighbors. If you're all going to be watching a game, why not watch it together at your place? Sports can be a super simple way to get started practicing hospitality. Remember it isn't about the game or which team you may prefer, rather about building organic relationships with the people God has placed around you.

4. Use shared interests.

The same idea for sports can be applied to an endless number of things. You can use a TV show as a common interest to have people over, awards shows, video games or books through hosting a book club. These are low-barrier ways to get people doing things they are already interested in while also building a relationship with you. Win-win!

If you are stumbling over this idea of shared interest it may be because you have yet to meet your neighbors and begin to learn about them. Just get started and listen. When someone recognizes genuine interest they will open up and share more than a casual acquaintance.

5. Host a neighborhood cookout.

If you want to get to know your neighbors, hosting a neighborhood cookout is a fantastic way to start. We did this when we moved into our current house, and we had neighbors that had lived two doors down from each other for 15 years who met for the first time at our house. People often have a genuine desire to meet their neighbors and get to know them better, but most people just won't take the initiative to do it. Maybe it's a fire pit in your driveway with fresh coffee and good conversation. Maybe it is making your home a collection point for a food drive or such where your neighbors come to your home with a purpose. The ideas are endless.

6. Practice reverse hospitality.

Reverse hospitality is when you do something hospitable for someone by taking something to their house. For example, when new people move into your neighborhood, you could practice this by making something and taking it over to them. This is often a great first touch point to begin building a relationship with someone. We live in a world where connecting with others, even those living next door takes effort. Be the one to step out, ring the doorbell and say, hello. The Lord will lead you from there.

Submitted by: Brandon Clements is a pastor, author and serves with the North American Mission Board's Send Network. Brandon works with church planters across North America to engage communities with the Gospel message.

Houston, Help is on the way

By: Staff

FENTON, MI - MI Disaster Relief (DR) has been activated as one of the nation's worst natural disasters continues to clobber the Texas coast. Hurricane Harvey made landfall on August 26th moving inland and bringing a record setting amount of rainfall.

There are several ways to help:

Give financially to the MI Southern Baptist teams working in the Texas disaster and for buying needed relief supplies. Send your checks to: BSCM - Disaster Relief, 8420 Runyan Lake Rd., Fenton, MI 48430.

Churches and individuals can go to BSCM.org and click on the "Online Giving & Hurricane Harvey Relief" yellow button or GIVE NOW Hurricane Harvey Relief button!

Click "Give Now" and then on the popup page select a fund to donate to:

MI - Cooperative Program

North American Missions - Annie Armstrong Offering

International Missions - Lottie Moon Offering

State Missions: Bambi Lake - Frances Brown Offering

Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund

Add the gift amount and click "Next" to complete your contact and bank information. You can even set this up for regular giving as well as a one-time-gift. Go to BSCM.org now and check it out!!

Go as a volunteer to Texas to help! You don't have to be a trained DR volunteer. DR would provide on-the-job training free in transit to the location. If your church, individuals, or mission team could go, please call Judy at 810-223-2465 to arrange the schedule and travel information.

Pray! Pray for the families devastated by this disaster. Pray for those still trapped amidst rising waters. Pray for the rain to end and for more volunteers to come to the aid of our fellow citizens. Gather in groups to pray, join in corporate prayer as a church, pray as you watch the news or think of loved ones in that area.

IMB Sending Celebration Announced

By: Julie McGowan

RICHMOND, VA - "Are you looking for ways to lead your church members to take their next step in God's mission? Join us for the next IMB Sending Celebration on September 13 at 7:00 p.m. in Spilman Auditorium at Ridgecrest Conference Center in Ridgecrest, North Carolina." This will be a time to celebrate the sending out of new missionaries who will share the Good News of Jesus around the world.

If you can't attend in person, you are invited to a Livestream Sending Celebration to be broadcast live from Ridgecrest, N.C. Join in celebrating 51 new missionaries sent from Southern Baptist churches to the field. Register to watch the next Sending Celebration on your own, in a group or with your church family. <http://IMB.world/Sept2017Sending>

"At the celebration, we will worship with the new missionaries, hear stories of their call to missions, and pray together for their families as they take the gospel to unreached people and places around the world and are challenged with a message from David Platt to do your part in participating in God's global mission. Immediately following the service, we will have a reception outside Spilman Auditorium. We anticipate a large crowd, so please carpool and arrive early. Overflow seating will be available.

"Don't miss this exciting opportunity to gather with a coalition of churches to celebrate the sending out of missionaries. "Gather with a small group, your family or church to watch online with people all over the world and participate in worship, prayer and sending out missionaries."

"We hope to see you either in person or online."

Submitted by: Julie McGowan, APR. Julie is the Public Relations Manager for the International Mission Board, SBC and resides in Richmond, VA.

COLUMNS

Turning Up The Volume

By: Tim Patterson

FENTON, MI - Some people are lucky, some see themselves as fortunate, but I am blessed. The idea of blessing has as its source the hand of God. I have been blessed by the hand of God in a myriad of ways, but especially with the woman that God has given me as my wife. God knew who and what I needed far in advance of what my finite mind could conjure up. He knew the personality she would need to deal with all of my eccentricities and flaws. He also knew that she would have to possess a loving and forgiving spirit because of all the unconditional love she would have to show me, and the almost unlimited forgiveness that she would need to offer me on a daily basis.

I know that there is not a perfect wife out there, but mine comes as close to perfection as any could. She is kind, thoughtful and giving. In fact, her motivational gift is that of giving, and she exercises that gift very well. She is always surprising me with wonderful gifts on special occasions. Many Christmases ago she discovered and purchased for me an antique Victrola Phonograph. It is a beautiful piece of machinery, and a very nice representation of the craftsmen furniture makers of the time. It was built in 1904, and still works beautifully as it spins and plays those thick 78rpm recordings. Today, it resides in my office at the Baptist State Convention of Michigan where periodically it will provide some old Benny Goodman tunes for the entertainment, and at times, amusement of my guests.

It amazes me that every aspect of the sound reproduction that the Victrola provides comes from entirely mechanical means. There is no electricity or the use of electronics used to reproduce and amplify the sound. The genius of Mr. Edison's invention is that an individual storing up kinetic energy when a spring is wound up and then released provides the only power that is required. The volume of a phonograph is controlled by opening or closing louvers or doors. It is a simplistically ingenious machine, and for its time was cutting edge technology.

Today the recording, reproduction and amplification of sound are not even in the same realm as the old phonographs. Today, the power of electrical currents are transformed and channeled through a maze of electronic wizardry to provide us with sounds that can mimic anything in nature, and can be amplified in such magnitude that hundreds of thousands of listeners can hear a recording at one time. Phonographs could scarcely allow the listeners in one room the pleasure of music.

From the early phonographs to our present electronic marvels, power has been used to increase the volume of song. Power, whether provided by the turning of a human arm or by the turning of electric turbines powered by nuclear reactors, is what brings the music to our ears and increases the quality of the song. Power is invaluable if the song is to be heard. In our lives each of us has a song to sing, a song of hope and love, a song of faith and forgiveness, a song of grace and mercy. The songs that we hold in our hearts are as varied as the souls that possess them. If they are to be heard by others, at times, the volume and quality of the song must be increased.

To my amazement and surprise, I have found that God uses the power of pain to accomplish that. God uses pain in our lives to “crank-up” the volume of the song of our souls so that others may hear how, even in the midst of our difficulties and our disasters, God’s faithfulness and mercy still resounds in our souls. I know of few things in our lives that causes me to become more manifestly melodic than having come through great pain and finding God’s grace on the other side. Pain in our lives draws the attention and ears of those around us because all of mankind is keenly aware that we all have or will experience pain; mental pain, emotional pain, physical pain, spiritual pain and pains too numerous to mention. This is the lot of humanity. So when someone sings on the other side of pain or more especially in the midst of pain, folks take notice, not only do they notice, but we notice as well that the volume seems higher and the quality greater than before the experience.

Many today have only experienced the song of a primitive phonograph kind of pain, but if God is good and gracious to you it may be your privilege that He allows you to experience the kind of pain that produces a volume and quality of song that comes from a high-fidelity, surround-sound kind of pain. Right now, you may be going through some of the most difficult times of your life. Right now, the pain may be unbearable. Just remember, on the other side is a song from your soul that has increased in volume and quality. It will be a song you will love to sing and a song that others will long to hear. Just crank up the volume.

Fellowship, Foyers, & Bambi Lake

By: Tony Lynn

FENTON, MI - Family? Friendship? Community? Network? Whatever you call it does not matter, but you know it when you experience it at its best. You also know when that connection is missing from your life, and that is why the www.bscm.org/smo is more important this month than usual.

WASTED SPACE

A professor in seminary emphasized how every space in a church building or a gathering place should be maximized for people. He lamented the rooms where cartons of records or papers sat, year after year, until a moldy, musty odor filled the air. The professor winced when he recalled 4 out-of-tune, dusty pianos that filled a potential Bible study classroom, stating, “They looked like corpses awaiting burial.” I challenge you to take a look at the place where you gather for church and see if it’s true.

That same professor, however, would raise his voice with excitement when he told us how those who attended worship would give a certain amount to the church. He went on to explain that those who took part in discipleship groups or Bible studies would give yet another average percentage. Basically, what he said was those who shared life more often in a church would give more because that gathering place and the people who met there meant more to them. He even mentioned fellowship halls, saying the fellowship hall is where people spend time with one another sharing life so do not be afraid to provide that space for your people.

TIGHT SPACE

The last congregation I served was CrossPointe Church in Monroe, Michigan. The people in that church are genuine and caring people. When you go there you make friends in the first hour. We had two morning services split by a thirty-minute transition time to accommodate the growth. People flooded out of the building and exited the parking lot while others tried to stream in for the next service. It was choreographed well by all of the volunteers and people who loved people.

There was an overwhelming challenge with the space. What we called a fellowship hall was about the size of most living rooms. We also lacked a foyer or entryway of any size. Our people, on Sundays, shared their lives visiting in the sanctuary and in the 8-foot wide hallways wrapped around the building. We made it work because we loved spending time with one another. Men, during winter, would joke that if you were not careful you would put your arm through someone else's winter coat in the foyer of the church. Everyone kept their smiles and chuckled at the closeness of our fellowship.

TREASURED SPACE

All of this to say, this month we are using the State Missions Offering and Week of Prayer, September 10-17, to kick off a yearlong collection for the Bambi Lake Baptist Retreat and Conference Center in Roscommon, Michigan. That incredible facility has fallen into disrepair so our goal is \$500,000 in one year! Bambi needs improvements that more people of all ages might gather to worship, learn and grow in the Lord. All of the collected funds will go directly toward renovations and improvements. The retreat and conference center is a treasured space among our churches so join me in making a difference. Let's make Bambi better! This year our theme is be a difference maker, #Mldifferencemaker, "We believe in the power of one." You can be that one person who makes a difference by supporting the State Missions Offering for 2017. You can also learn more at:

www.bscm.org/smo

www.Mldifferencemaker.org

Facebook: MI-Difference-Maker or #Mldifferencemaker

"We believe in the power of one," means one more:

Salvation at the camp is worth our investment

Contribution can make a difference for the next generation

Christian surrendering to service will change the world

Life turned obediently toward God will create a revolution

I'm hoping you will join me as we start giving to the campaign to improve Bambi Lake. This month let's start the event off with big gifts and big dreams. Then over the course of the remaining 12 months let's find ways to contribute each month to that special place of fellowship.

Bambi Lake is not wasted space. Back in 1958, approximately 100 people stood and prayed over the property envisioning what God would do with the woods and a 13-acre lake. I cannot estimate the number of salvations and re-dedications, in nearly 50 years,

that have occurred at the retreat center but our Heavenly Father knows each one of them in full detail.

Bambi Lake is not tight space. There are 240 acres on which you can walk, visit, or meditate. There are spaces for fun, worship, and late night fires. You can camp in a tent or stay the night in one of the lodge rooms with a complete meal three times a day. The choice is yours.

OUR SPACE

Bambi Lake is important to me because it is our gigantic fellowship hall and our natural entryway with the sky for a ceiling. It is the one place on earth where our church members meet from time to time during retreats and conferences. Marriages are saved. Lives are redeemed. People surrender to Christ things that need to be released. It's the one place in Michigan where we are not members of separate churches instead we get to feel what it's like to be united in Christ even though we come from every corner, shoreline, and town throughout the state. For a few days during each event, we are family. We are friends. We are community. We form a network. Let's spend September and the next 12 months proving that we believe in a bright future for God's people throughout Michigan.

The insurmountable is doable!

By: Mike Durbin

FENTON, MI - Shar and I were leading the church we planted in Brazil to build our first building. It was a tough time to enter into a building project. Inflation had been crippling the nation for years. Unemployment was high, and the people were experiencing harsh economic realities. To make matters worse, at one point, there were three different currencies in circulation. I had read about hyperinflation during the World War, but I had never experienced it. There was a time in Brazil when I walked around with bills in my pockets that had 100,000 written on them that could hardly buy a popsicle. The value of the money in my wallet went down every day I didn't spend it. A few weeks after we arrived in the country, we had to wait over two hours for the bank we used to have enough cash on hand for us to buy appliances. We walked out of the bank carrying a small bag of money and a fanny pack full of cash.

These were hard times, especially for our Brazilian brothers and sisters. It was tempting to not ask them to give. We resisted the temptation to ask family and friends in the states to help us fund the building project. We chose to teach that the resources are in the harvest, and that God loves a cheerful giver. We led the church to buy a load of bricks when we could. We hired a mason when we could, and we did what we could as a church family. Little by little, the foundation was laid and walls went up. Sometimes, it was only half a wall at a time. We went a long time with holes in the walls where windows would one day be. There was no option to borrow money. The building was built and finished a little at a time. Today, it's a beautiful facility that has been added onto many times, but it took years to get to where it is.

I've been involved in a number of projects that overwhelmed me in the beginning. I've learned that what looks insurmountable is doable when God is in it and consistent actions are taken to move the project forward. It's a lesson that I needed to remember when we set our Frances Brown State Mission's Offering Goal this year.

Five hundred thousand dollars! \$500,000.00! One dollar 500,000 times. It doesn't matter how you write it or say it: That's a lot of money! Our Convention, under the visionary leadership of Pastor Tim Patterson, has set this goal for the Frances Brown Offering for State Missions. It's a monumental goal - basically five times more than State Mission Offerings of the past. It's a God sized goal to get us started on a major renewal project at Bambi Lake Retreat and Conference Center.

There has been a lot of speculation in recent years about the future of Bambi Lake. I have been asked numerous times over the last two years if there were plans to close the camp. I have assured people time and time again that no such plans exist. There are no discussions at our state office to sell or give Bambi away. In fact, this goal is our declaration that "It's a new day at Bambi." I realize there is so much concern for the future of Bambi because attendance at the camp has been declining in recent years and because the camp needs a major updating today for the future.

I am challenging Michigan Baptists to do two things to change both these realities.

Visit Bambi. If you have never been to Bambi or have not recently, it's time make a visit. There's a new atmosphere at the camp. It's hard to describe, but people feel and see it. Updates are happening all over the campus. A number of our churches have sent mission teams to paint, remodel, clean up, cut trees, build picnic tables, and a whole lot more. These volunteers have made an incredible impact on the look and feel of Bambi. They've given a great beginning. We are grateful for their hard work and ministry to our churches. They are leading the way forward.

Give sacrificially. Michigan Baptists are blessed to have a place of such natural beauty and peace. God often speaks to us through the majesty of His creation. The Psalmist declared, "He makes me to lie down in __green pastures. He leads me beside the __still waters. He restores my soul." Bambi has been this kind of place for me and so many others. It's the kind of place Michigan Baptists need as we serve God together.

How can Michigan Baptists reach this goal? Here are just a few examples:

Five hundred people could give \$1,000 through their churches.

Two hundred churches could give \$2,500 each.

One hundred churches could give \$5,000 each.

One hundred twenty-five churches can make it happen: Twenty-five churches could give \$10,000, twenty-five churches could give \$5,000, and twenty-five churches could give \$2,500, Twenty-five churches could give \$1,500, and twenty-five churches could give \$1,000.

Yep, \$500,000 is a lot of money for people like you and me. It's more than our churches have ever been asked to give - five times more. How do we do it? Ultimately, we depend on God who delights in generosity and we start, but the insurmountable is doable!

Building a Better Bambi

By Mick Schatz

Hello from Bambi Lake! It was a great summer here at the lake and the fall is going to be just as amazing. As I have never been here in the Fall, I am excited to see the amazing colors as the leaves change. Looking ahead, I am also excited to see how God uses the Francis Brown State Mission Offering to accomplish His purposes here at Bambi. Bambi is poised and ready to follow God's direction and impact the state of Michigan and beyond.

In Romans 1:16 Paul states, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." (NASB) This is the heart of Bambi. We are not ashamed and we will proclaim the Gospel! So, as we think about the Francis Brown State Offering and Bambi, I would like to share with you what happens when you give financially to Bambi Lake Retreat and Conference Center.

When you give to Bambi you are investing in the lives of present and future generations who will be attending camps and retreats at Bambi. You are giving many the opportunity to hear the gospel for the first time. Others are learning how to grow and mature in their faith. While others just needed some time to get alone with God, hear His voice and find some peace in this noisy culture. Your investment helps moms and dads give their children a spiritual experience that will stay with them the rest of their lives. You help marriages grow stronger. You help men and women grow deeper in their walk with God. When you give you truly are a "Difference Maker" in the lives of thousands.

When you give to Bambi you are honoring the generations who have come before us. Bambi Lake has a great heritage of being a place where God shows up, and a place where you can come and enjoy God's creation and just relax in His presence. This did not happen by accident. The founders of Bambi Lake purposely purchased and planned this camp for that reason. They intentionally wanted Bambi to be "Sacred Ground", a "Sanctuary", where the people of Michigan could experience God. What an awesome vision! When you give to Bambi you are strengthening that heritage, and reinforcing the vision that brought Bambi together.

When you give to Bambi you are literally "Building a Better Bambi". When you give to Bambi you are helping to build new buildings and new activities for campers to enjoy. You are helping to repair and maintain facilities and equipment. You are helping Bambi update its infrastructure and roads. You are helping to build retaining walls and landscape flowerbeds and walking trails. You are helping to support the staff, interns and seasonal workers who keep Bambi functioning all year long.

To all of those who have invested in Bambi in the past, thank you. To everyone who will be investing in Bambi in the future, thank you. I believe God will richly bless as you invest, honor and build at Bambi and for the generations to come.

AROUND THE STATE

Back to School Bash

September 9 – Free school supplies and backpacks, clothes and giveaways. Faith Fellowship Baptist Church. For more information contact Faith Fellowship Baptist Church, 1001 Dakin Street, Lansing, MI 48912, (517)853-9897, or faithfellowshiplansing@hotmail.com.

GDBA Celebrates 60 Years

Pastors and leaders,

I want to remind you to place this great time of fellowship and celebration on your calendar Oct 7, 2017. We will be celebrating 60 years of ministry for the Greater Detroit Baptist Association (GDBA) at our annual meeting.

I am also asking that you and your church join us in something that "we have never done before". We are calling it IMPACT, after our celebration and meeting we will have a light lunch then we would like you to join us in making an impact on the host church and their community by either working on a project or ministering to the community. This year are our host church is First Baptist Church of Trenton, they have asked us to help them in passing out flyers and sharing Jesus with their community.

This is an amazing opportunity for the GDBA to come together and do the work we are all called to do. "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20).

I cannot wait to minister with you!

Rev. Timothy Jones
Greater Detroit Baptist Association
Interim Strengthener/Mobilizer
24250 Joy Road
Redford, MI 48239
313-533-2663

RUSH HOUR RALLY!

Come and be a part of the RUSH on November 3!!! All 6th to 12th grade students are invited to our annual all-night, fast-paced multi-church lock-in at Eastern Michigan University's Recreation Center!

\$30 by Nov. 4, or \$35 at the door.

The night begins with the RUSH HOUR RALLY to be held at a church nearby the Rec Center (TBD--I am looking for a new location because we outgrew the church we used in the past). The Gospel will be clearly declared and then we will head to the Rec Center for a choose-your-own-adventure style night. Each student will be able to explore 4 stories of events to take part in.

Last year we had 230 students and 50 adults from 12 churches attend. We are praying for even more this year. Come and join the RUSH!!! It is unlike any other lock-in you have been to!

READ IT!

READ IT! Is a ministry of Eastside Community Church. It is a kids reading program and the children in our community love it. The program is designed to help with reading skills, especially for families with little help, no money and no time. READ IT! Focuses on getting children to read the Bible and grow in confidence both in the Word and in their reading skills. Last week 20 students attended. Eastside Community Church is providing this tool free to churches seeking ways to be part of the community. Contact Pastor Mathew Vroman for more information and to get started. Call (313) 657-1100 or email pastor@eastsidecommunitychurch.com.

CLASSIFIED

Classified Ad Submission Guidelines

1. Baptist Beacon classifieds are posted free of charge.
2. All classified posts will run for 2 consecutive months. Longer or shorter times may be requested. Publication of classifieds correspond with the monthly publication of the Baptist Beacon.
3. Classifieds must be from a BSCM church.
4. Be sure to include thorough details of request, name of church, contact information as well as a point of contact.
5. Submissions must be made no later than the 10th of the month prior to publication.
6. Submit all classified ads to beacon@bscm.org

Church Strengtheners/Mobilizers position

The Greater Detroit Baptist Association is seeking an individual for a Church Strengtheners/Mobilizers position. This position will replace the position of Associational Missionary (Director of Missions). [CLICK HERE](#) for more information about specific responsibilities, financial support, desired skills, education requirements, education requirements, ministry experience, and theological views. Interested applicants should send a cover letter and resume by July 31, 2017 to:

Mr. Nonnie Lesada,
Administrative Assistant
24250 Joy Road
Redford, MI 48239
detbaptasn@sbcglobal.net
313-533-2663

Family Ministry Leader

Warren Woods Baptist Church in Warren seeks a Family Ministry Leader to assist the church in developing a ministry to children, youth, and their families with the goal of inspiring faith, love and growing discipleship. Children's and youth ministry will reflect a balance of Bible study, fellowship, worship, service, and outreach.

Qualifications:

- A person with an undergraduate degree equivalent or with experience in children's and/or youth ministry
 - Strong organizational, leadership, and communication skills
 - Experience and ability in teaching and training
 - The ability to build and lead volunteer teams
 - A love for children, youth and families
 - In alignment and agreement with the Baptist Faith & Message 2000
 - A Christian who feels a call by God into ministry and demonstrates a personal relationship with Jesus Christ evidenced by Christian character and behavior
- This is a 20 hour per week position. Pay commensurate with qualifications. Please submit a resume to pcarnline@warrenwoods.org prior to May 31, 2017.

Singer or Speaker for Women's Group

Mary Hester is the pastor's Wife of The Shore Church in St. Joseph, Michigan where she serves with her husband, Church Planter and Pastor Kevin Hester. Mary has been involved in ministry for twenty plus years. She is a homeschooling mother of eight children with a passion for changed lives through the life changing power of God's word. Mary studied music at Bethel College in Mishawaka, Indiana and at Grace Bible College in Wyoming, Michigan. Mary is available to give full or partial concerts or for speaking engagements to women's groups. To schedule a concert or a speaking engagement contact Mary at mry_hester@yahoo.com.

Senior Pastor Needed

On January 1, Steve Oswalt resigned from Crossroads Community Baptist Church in Ann Arbor and started as senior pastor of Broadman Baptist Church, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. In the interim, Worship Pastor Douglas Keasal is serving as senior pastor. The search process for a new senior pastor is underway. Inquiries can be made directly to the church: Crossroads Community Baptist Church in Ann Arbor (2580 Packard Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48104) (734) 971-0773.

Part-time Worship Leader

CrossPointe Church is seeking a part-time worship leader to work with the lead pastor in planning and implementing all areas of our Christ-centered worship ministry. Our music style is considered "contemporary" as we are led by a team of musicians (piano, guitar(s), drums, bass, vocals). Within our "contemporary" style of music, we value both old and new songs that are theologically rich and seek to glorify God (examples: Citizens & Saints, Getty Music, Sovereign Grace Music, Indelible Grace Music). We are a medium-sized church affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) located in Monroe, Michigan. We offer two identical gathered worship services on Sunday mornings which include; biblical preaching, scripture reading, prayer, theologically rich music, and regular observance of the biblical ordinances (Lord's Supper and Baptism). Please visit www.crosspointemonroe.com for more information regarding CrossPointe's doctrinal statement, leadership, history, and various ministries. To apply for this position or request more information, please email resume along with links to samples of your worship leading to crosspointeworshipleadersearch@gmail.com.

Bi-vocational Pastor Needed

Liberty Missionary Baptist Church, in Monroe MI is searching for a bi-vocational Pastor. Please send resumes to retiredchief1980@att.net or curtpat33801@yahoo.com. If you have any questions you may call Ron Doolittle at 734-752-0238.

Church Information Packets

The information previously mailed out in the Church Information Packets will now be available online at bscm.org/flyers for all churches to download, print, and use!

ABOUT US

The Baptist Beacon is the official newsjournal of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan (BSCM), in association with the Southern Baptist Convention. The mission of the Baptist Beacon is to communicate with Michigan Baptists in our shared mission of punching holes in the darkness through starting, strengthening, and sending churches.

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