



Baptist BEACON

Newsjournal for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan

Vision of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan:
**Partners in Advancing
God's Kingdom!**

Volume 58, Number 8 www.MichiganBaptists.org August 2014

2014 CHURCH EQUIPPING CONFERENCE

50+ workshops!
More than 30 leaders, including:



Lorna Buis
*LoveLoud Catalyst
NAMB*



Dexter Hardy
*African-American Ministries
Leader, Baptist State
Convention of Michigan*



Karen Mitten
*Church Clerk
Merriman Road Baptist
Garden City*



Lynn Pryor
*Publishing Team Leader
LifeWay Christian Resources*



Carlos Quinones
*Pastor
First Spanish-American
Baptist, Pontiac*



Yale Wall
*Media Director
State Convention of Baptists
in Indiana*



David Washington, Jr.
*Pastor
Canton Christian Fellowship
Church, Canton*



Sheila West
*Ministry Multiplier for
Women
LifeWay Christian Resources*

For more information and to register, visit ChurchEquippingConference.com


Church Equipping Conference
ChurchEquippingConference.com

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2014
8:00 am - 4:15 pm
Cornerstone Baptist Church
Roseville, MI



Baptist BEACON

**Gluten-free ministry
shares Christ with the
celiac community**

Anchor Community Church in Grand Rapids hosts food fair, workshops to reach gluten-free community for Christ

**State Missions Week
focuses on ministry
across Michigan**

Frances Brown State Missions Offering, week of prayer for state missions highlight September emphasis

page 2

page 3

Newsjournal of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan • Volume 58, Number 8 • August 2014 • www.MichiganBaptists.org

September conference aims to equip pastors, staff, lay leaders

By **JONATHAN GUENTHER**
Managing Editor

ROSEVILLE — The 2014 Church Equipping Conference will be held Saturday, September 13, 2014 at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Roseville.

This year's conference also features a new Friday session, with special three-hour intensive workshops held on the afternoon of September 12. Two options are offered for the Friday intensives: "Legal Issues Impacting Churches" and "Church Outreach and Marketing."

"The Church Equipping Conference is a one-stop ministry resourcing buffet that is the place to be for every pastor and Christian who is serious about improving their ministry and service to the Lord," said Kevin Hester, Pastor of The Shore Church in St. Joseph, who has previously attended and presented at the conference. "The CEC is the perfect place where my leaders and potential leaders can be solidly equipped."

More than 30 workshop leaders will lead more than 50 workshops at the weekend event. The workshops will cover topics ranging from missions, evangelism, leadership, church

starting, church strengthening, and prayer. Topics will also be offered on different church ministries, including adult ministry, children's ministry, student ministry, administration, worship, and pastoral ministry.

"The CEC was a great opportunity to get training in many different areas of ministry," said Jonathan Turner of Clinton Baptist Church in Clinton. "All of our members who came were able to take helpful ideas away from the breakout sessions with ideas for easy application in our church setting. Sometimes the training that is promised doesn't always live up to our expectations but I think the wide variety of training offered and the quality of presenters made this a conference that our churches should desire to attend to be equipped in advancing the Kingdom in so many areas!"

This year's conference features keynote speaker Gordon Fort, Vice President of the Office of Global Strategy of the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board. Fort, born in Zimbabwe to a missionary family, will also lead a prayer workshop entitled "A Passion for Prayer."

Past keynote speakers for the

conference have included the likes of Ed Stetzer, President of LifeWay Research, and Jeff Iorg, President of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

"The Church Equipping Conference was one of the best conferences I've seen in SBC life — well organized, passionate leaders, and good focus," said Stetzer, who spoke at the conference in 2012. "I'm thrilled to have been a small part."

Registration for the conference is \$15 through September 12 and includes access to the Friday intensive workshops, the complete event on Saturday including all materials, and lunch.

Two special lunch options are

offered, one for pastors and spouses and another for youth ministry leaders. Those with special dietary needs for lunch should contact Nancy Spears at nancy@bscm.org.

Pastors can register for free when registering three others. To receive the free ticket, enter promotional code "pastorfreewith3" when registering.

For more information about the workshops or their leaders, to download promotional materials, to find additional information such as the conference schedule or lodging options, or to

register for the conference, visit the conference website at churchequippingconference.com. ■



Gordon Fort, Vice President of the Office of Global Strategy for the SBC's International Mission Board, will be the keynote speaker for the 2014 Church Equipping Conference. (Photo courtesy of Gordon Fort)

Detroit-area church uses door-to-door evangelism to reach neighbors

By **DAVID B. SMITH**
Baptist Beacon

HARPER WOODS — Remember the bygone days of Monday night visitation? A group would arrive at church, receive a visitation assignment, have a prayer, and then proceed to make personal visits in the neighborhood.

Those days are back at Eastside Community Church in Harper Woods. Since becoming the pastor over three years ago, Matthew Vroman has been going door-to-door in his Detroit neighborhood. He visits at least once during the week and once on Saturday.

"The scriptures are clear: we are accountable for our Jerusalem," Vroman said. "From the first day at the first door, our goal was to simply share the gospel."

Since starting the ministry, over 20,000 gospel tracts have been dis-

tributed.

His neighborhood is comprised mainly of single-family homes. Vroman and others in the church go house to house and share the gospel. They don't ask for prayer requests, but realize prayer will come later as they build relationships.

He says the greatest obstacle to this kind of evangelism is a cold heart and unwillingness to go.

"Once you get over that, it's easy," he said.

The church uses literature free from the Fellowship Tract League so there is no expense involved.

Very seldom is there a problem. Vroman said even if people refuse to talk at the door, they almost always take the tract.

Eastside Community knew Vroman was intentional about sharing the gospel when they called him. He had served for over nine years in Turkey as a faith missionary and came to

Detroit with a hunger for the lost.

He says the greatest blessing is the satisfaction of obedience. Reaching our Jerusalem is our responsibility. Then, of course, there's the wonder of seeing people trust Christ as Savior.

After that, Vroman says watching the people who have been transformed experience God working through them is beautiful. Sixty percent of those who participate on Saturdays were saved because of this ministry.

"Seeing the city of Detroit change because people are being saved is very cool," Vroman said. "The only way to transform a city is through the salvation of its residents."

He said the elements for this kind of ministry are simple. First, the pastor must be convinced it is necessary. If the pastor isn't on board, pray the Lord will move his heart.

Next, a church needs a good map

of the area and a good, solid gospel tract to which a flier about your church is attached. The final need is a door and the willingness to knock on it.

For those interested in starting this kind of evangelism effort, Vroman says he's willing to come and bring some of his folks and do training.

"Start slow and train your people," Vroman said. "Have them watch a few times and make sure they know what scriptures to use."

This effort leads to conversions. Eastside Community has not seen an overwhelming response, but they are baptizing approximately one new believer per month. He attributes that directly to the door-to-door evangelism.

"We need to be who God called us to be," Vroman said. "Our neighbors are so open to real rather than weird. It's our job to connect with them." ■

Gilstrap resigns as State Executive Director

BY BAPTIST BEACON STAFF

FENTON — In the July 29 Executive Committee meeting, Dr. Bobby Gilstrap announced his intent to submit his resignation at the Executive Board meeting on August 26. The Executive Committee voted to allow Dr. Gilstrap to go on a paid administrative leave until August 26 so that he might pursue other ministry opportunities.

The Executive Committee further decided to hire Jimmy Jones, former Baptist State Convention of Michigan Evangelism Director and pastor

of First Baptist Church of Trenton, to serve as the Convention's Executive Administrator until the Board meeting on August 26, at which time he will be recommended to serve as the Interim Executive Director.

Jones served the Baptist State Convention of Michigan for many years. He "retired" from the convention after having served as the Evangelism Team Leader. He was born, raised, and saved right here in Michigan.

He is a former Convention President and continues to pastor F.B.C. Trenton, where he served prior to working on the convention staff. He

is well respected and loved by people all over the state.

As the Executive Committee works to fill the office of the Executive Director, it is committed to continuing the vision of "Partnering in Advancing God's Kingdom." The committee will remain steadfast in "Doing whatever it takes to see lives transformed for Christ through Starting, Strengthening, and Mobilizing Churches."

Prayers are appreciated for Dr. Gilstrap as he seeks other ministry

opportunities. Please pray also for Bro. Jones as he takes on the Executive Administrator role. Pray for the Executive Committee as they develop a recommendation for an Executive Director Search Team to be voted on at the August 26 Board meeting. ■

Jimmy Jones will assume the role of Executive Administrator until August 26, at which time he will be recommended to serve as the Interim Executive Director. (submitted photo)



Gluten-free ministry shares Christ with the celiac community

BY MARY LOU HALL

Baptist Beacon

For the Anchor Community Church in Grand Rapids, a gluten-free ministry was born because of a need for everyone in the church to be able to partake in the Lord's Supper.

John Coin, pastor of the 50-member church, noticed that half the congregation were gluten-free due to celiac disease. It came to his mind that when they had communion, only half could take it because of gluten in the wafers. Today, the Lord's Supper is gluten-free for everyone; children's ministries are gluten-free, as are fellowships and snacks served at the church.

"Someone in the church came to me about the need for celiac awareness in the church, and a gluten-free food fair would be a great way to start," said Coin, referring to the first mention of the idea 9 years ago. "The neat thing about this is who the ministry came from – someone in the congregation, not the pastor.

"As time went on, one thing became clear: as effective as the food fair was at getting people to attend, what was not effective was engaging the people with the Gospel," Coin said. "Various attempts were made with no success."

Anchor Community Church now hosts an annual gluten-free food fair, gluten-free group workshops and a Bread 4 Life ministry.

"We are called to gluten-free ministry, helping restore health, homes, families and relationships and leading people to a hope and faith in Jesus Christ," said Nancy Spears, a member of the



1,865 people attended the Eighth Annual Gluten Free Food Fair, held May 17 in Grand Rapids. (submitted photo)

church.

Spears personally knows the needs as many members of her family are celiac.

The Eighth Annual Gluten Free Food Fair, hosted by the church, was held May 17 at The Delta Plex Arena and Conference Center in Grand Rapids. Attendance at the Food Fair exponentially increased from an unexpected high of 500 eight years ago to 1,865 attendees in 2014.

Coin realized that the success was the ratio of

Anchor workers to attendees – thirty church members to 1,865 attendees.

"God is doing great things through small people," Coin said, using the biblical illustration of Jesus feeding 5,000 with just 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread.

"Oftentimes, we feel we can't be effective to the Kingdom because we don't have the funds or creativity because we are small," Coin said. "We have found out that if you are committed – and maybe just crazy enough – God can still do radical things through a small group. You are not limited because God is not limited."

Rental for the Delta Plex Arena cost \$7,000 and Anchor didn't pay a penny. Instead, the cost of the event is absorbed by the vendors. Attendance and parking is free to the public.

"Effective ministry is not about reaching over one thousand people, but that the Gospel impacts people on an individual level," Coin said. "The workshops were very effective at making and growing disciples."

Anchor's Bread 4 Life ministry began at Anchor Community Church in 2012.

"[This ministry] brings the Bread of Life to the people who have found an answer to a health need," said Nancy Spears. "You can find the food [gluten-free], but the problem is the life change –

See GLUTEN-FREE on page 12

THE BAPTIST BEACON

Official publication of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan, in association with the Southern Baptist Convention

Editor: Bobby Gilstrap – bgilstrap@bscm.org

Managing Editor: Jonathan Guenther – beacon@bscm.org

The Baptist Beacon:
Telling the stories
of what God is doing
through His people
in Michigan and
Around the World,
plus
Helping Resource
the Vision of your
Church!

SUBSCRIPTION: FREE
to all members of Michigan Baptist churches. Send request to:
beacon@bscm.org

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:
Email info from old label with new address to beacon@bscm.org
Postmaster: Mail Permit #48106
Send form 3579 to
The Baptist Beacon,
8420 Runyan Lake Rd,
Fenton MI 48430.
Phone: 810.714.1907

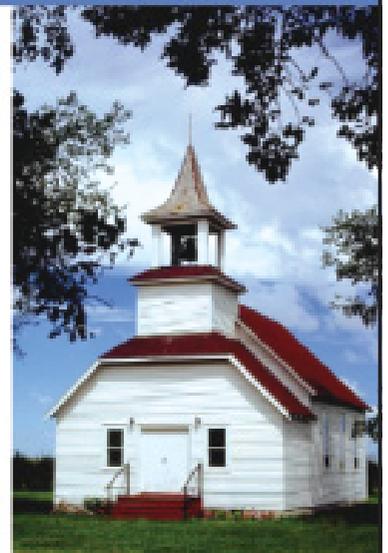
www.MichiganBaptists.org

CHURCH UPDATE

Tell us about your new Pastor, an evangelistic outreach event, a mission trip, or something else that you'd like to share with our convention of churches.

Send updates
about your
church to:

beacon@bscm.org



State Missions Week focuses on ministry across Michigan

BY BAPTIST BEACON STAFF

Southern Baptists understand that God uses combined gifts for a common cause to effect more for His Kingdom than individuals or congregations ever could separately. State Missions Week offers a great opportunity for Michigan Baptists to live out this concept through prayer and financial support.

The Frances Brown State Missions Offering enhances Kingdom growth in Michigan in areas of church starting, church strengthening, church mobilization, and at Bambi Lake. Every penny donated goes directly toward funding ministry opportunities across the state of Michigan.

State Missions Week also offers an opportunity for Michigan Baptists

to pray for ministry happening across the state. During State Missions Week, take the opportunity to pray for the following ministries:

Impact Michigan

Less than one out of ten Michiganders attends an evangelical church. Gifts to the Frances Brown State Mission Offering provide financial assistance for current and potential church starters in Michigan.

Pray for strength and wisdom for church planters. Pray for more to answer the call to become church planters.

Equipping Leaders

The Baptist State Convention of Michigan offers leadership development resources and training for pastors, staff, and laypeople. Coaching is available to help pastors and church planters reach their God-given potential in ministry, and resources and training for disciple-making and

ministry skill development are also available.

Pray that churches will tap into the resources available for training, such as the Church Equipping Conference, for pastors, church staff, and lay leaders.

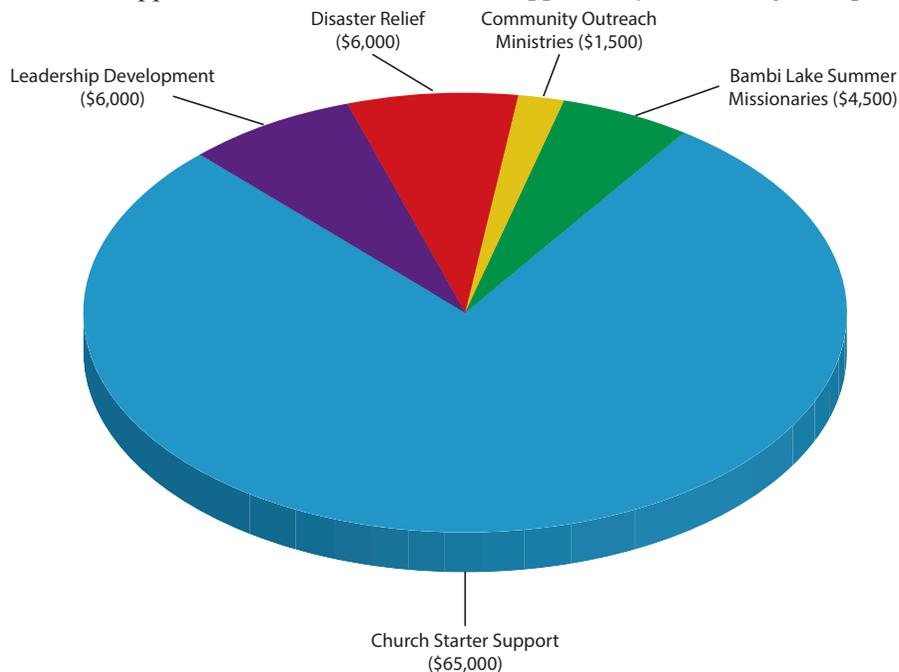
Disaster Relief

Michigan Southern Baptist Disaster Relief units respond to disasters all across Michigan and

beyond. Over 500 trained volunteers are ready to be deployed when disaster strikes. Gifts to the Frances Brown State Mission Offering help to buy needed equipment and supplies to keep units ready for action.

Pray that God would provide resources for equipment, additional units, reliable vehicles to pull the units, and a building to house Disaster Relief.

See STATE MISSIONS WEEK on page 12



Frances Brown State Mission Offering allocations (Graphic by Jonathan Guenther)

Who was Frances Brown?

Who the person behind Michigan's state mission offering? Frances Brown came to Michigan in November 1958 as the executive secretary of Michigan Woman's Missionary Union. As a leader, Brown used her influence to lead Michigan Baptist women to minister to the people in the state who did not know Jesus. She served 20 years, and after retiring in April 1978, the Baptist State Convention of Michigan honored her by naming the state mission offering after her. Brown died in 1979, but her challenge to Michigan Baptists to be willing to give of their time, money and selves for the cause of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ lives today.



Week of Prayer for State Missions and Frances Brown State Mission Offering

ALL FOR JESUS

MICHIGAN

Then Jesus said to His disciples,
"If anyone wants to come with Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me."
 Matthew 16:24 HCS

September 7-14, 2014

Stay the course



LARRY ALLEN
State Convention
President

We often find ourselves using idioms as we communicate with others. “Stay the course” is one such example. When we use this phrase we are most often indicating that we need to finish some task we have been pursuing.

Many say that “stay the course” is derived from a nautical setting. Staying the course is the set of the sails and rigging in such a way that you continue steadfastly toward your destination.

Others have said the phrase comes from the world of horse racing. They say that “stay the course” is a reference to the stamina necessary for a horse to be able to complete the race. Either case seems applicable to where the Baptist State Convention of Michigan finds itself today.

Thirteen years ago when I first came to the BSCM there were nine missionaries working in our convention offices. Today there are none.

Instead, three faithful and fearless women hold the fort: an Executive Assistant/Office Manager, a full time

secretary, and a part time secretary. In addition we also have an extremely courageous building and grounds manager who is doing great job.

The natural response to such a development might be to panic. But I say we need to stay the course. Let’s look at it as a blank page upon which we can create an entirely new list of missionaries to assist us to fulfill our mission. It is an opportunity for us to step up and take ownership of our mission.

One of the earliest uses of “stay the course” found in literature used the phrase to describe a rowing competition. The rowers pulled together to “stay the course” to the finish time. Now is a time for Michigan Baptists to pull together to “do whatever it takes to see lives transformed for Christ.”

Not too many years ago the Future Focus Team appointed by then-President Pastor Roscoe Belton set out a course for our convention to assist our churches to reach our state with the Gospel of Christ. It is a good plan. The threefold focus is Starting, Strengthening, and Mobilizing Churches.

The convention accepted and ap-

proved the plan. Now we need to stay the course. While at times it might appear that we have lost our way our mission continues to be to assist our churches to “see lives transformed for Christ.”

The Executive Committee and Executive Board are going to work with our capable field missionaries and consultants to stay the course. We are faced

with a tremendous opportunity to work together to see God’s kingdom advance here in Michigan.

After all, we are “Partners in Advancing God’s Kingdom.”

For some this may just be some nice sounding slogan. However, we are committed to seeing it become the reality within our convention.

Please be encouraged. Our challenges are opportunities to rebuild something better and rely on our God who is faithful and powerful in all things. The future is bright. We must stay the course.

Jesus told us that “the fields are white and ready for the harvest.” Now we must “pray to the Lord of the harvest for the laborers who are needed. ■

“We are faced with a tremendous opportunity to work together to see God’s Kingdom advance here in Michigan.”

Dead end Detroit



MARC BEWLEY
Church Starter
Strategist

Recently I had the pleasure of taking some potential church planters on a vision trip in Detroit. On the east side there was a lot of blight and burned out buildings like you see below.

That is, until we

reached this neighborhood that borders Detroit. There was a two-sided fence in the middle of the road with this sign. The group got out the car and stood in the middle of the road and I took a

picture of this unbelievable sight.

This isn’t between East and West Berlin during the Cold War, but in the US, separating Detroit and a suburb on Eight Mile Road.

This is hard to believe until I begin mentioning Detroit to a lot of churches and pastors. They will go on a mission trip and repair buildings, feeding the hungry and clothing the naked in another country, but the “road ends” when it come to Detroit. They feel like it is a dead end when it comes to ministry or that they don’t “deserve” their help.



Submitted photo

Satan has fed us lies and we have believed them. Detroit needs help: the help that comes from the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Does it need a “bailout”? Only if Christ “bails” it out! Is Detroit Bankrupt? Yes, when you talk about the true gospel and not prosperity gospel that so many have fallen prey to believing.

Don’t allow Detroit to be a “dead end” for you and your church. God is at work in Detroit. Why don’t you join Him? ■



Submitted photo



Jerome Taylor

@brojerome

Wow! I am overwhelmed by the love & generosity of the people @eastgatebc! Today we celebrated 1 year together as their pastor. #BeTheChurch

Ken Leslie

@kenleslie

Experiencing church on vacation really opens your eyes to what first time guests experience at your church!

David Washington Jr.

@pastordwash

The disease of entitlement causes us to become blind to the reasons we have to give God praise, honor, and thanksgiving that He is due!

David Washington Jr.

Kayre Stanley, II

@PastorKayre2

The greatest gift we have is grace.

Dan Russell

@pastordanrussel

Too many minds are like concrete: all mixed up and permanently set.

John Smith

@PastorJESmithJr

It becomes anti-Christ to only welcome people who think, look, and act like us into the Lord’s Church.

Carlos Liese

@liese1000

Faith under construction: that’s me! I don’t think/feel like I’ll graduate until I meet the Teacher face to face. And you?

The Disaster Relief Journey



WIN WILLIAMS
Disaster Relief
Director

June 29 was a memorable day for me. Even though it was Sunday, I was trying to catch up with maintenance around my house. I was power washing my deck in preparation for painting when I fell off the 4' retaining wall and fractured my ribs. Of course, I jumped up, not wanting my neighbors to know I was hurt and feeling embarrassed. The first thing that came into my mind was my dad always preached you should not work on Sunday!

On June 30, Carolyn and I went to bed knowing a storm was forecast on the news. We were awakened about 2:30 a.m. by a loud noise. Our two grandchildren came telling us to go downstairs as a storm was coming and we had no electricity. Ten minutes later we realized the storm was already over. So we took our flashlights and went outside to discover two 75 foot trees had fallen on our deck and roof. A total of 8 trees were damaged and removed. As Carolyn and I were talking after going back to bed, I asked, "What purpose and what blessing can we take from this?" Her reply was, "We are all safe and no cars were damaged," even though there were limbs all around the new DR van.

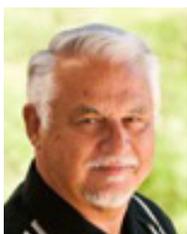
After five days without electricity and \$12-15,000 worth of damage to the house, we are still feeling blessed. Yes, we did have seven wonderful volunteers from the Michigan Southern Baptist Disaster Relief chain saw team come and remove five trees not covered by insurance. They were such a wonderful team and blessed our hearts by their willingness to serve Christ in a time of our crisis. As I was busy trying to take care of our disaster at home, the following Monday, July 7, I received an e-mail asking for help in the Wyoming and Kentwood area because of a tornado on that Sunday causing a lot of damage. Over 200 homes were damaged or destroyed. I contacted and met with the pastor of Remedy Church, Bro. Brian Mattson in Kentwood. Bro. Brian offered his church as a staging area for our operations, even though it was small with no air conditioning, small kitchen, and small bathrooms. I felt God wanted DR presence as a witness in that church, connecting community to the church. The first week we also were limited with the use of part of the building because a new church plant was using the building every night for services. It was a challenge for Judy Roy, our ministry assistant, to get enough volunteers because of VBS, vacations, illness, and because it was a local event and not out-of-state. I heard all kinds of complaints from some of

our volunteers the first week because of the size of the church and the lack of amenities. It is, after all, Disaster Relief work!

The second week we had the church to ourselves and invited six Ohio Disaster Relief volunteers to help us. The Ohio chaplains led a waitress at a Cracker Barrel and five others to the Lord while working in Kentwood. Being short of volunteers to work in Kentwood, the Lord provided. We had a man stop by and talk to our blue hats, Don Bezeau and Skip Mattson. Our rules are volunteers must be 18 and Southern Baptists. The blue hats found out he was an experienced tree climber with the equipment. He was from an independent Baptist church in a neighboring town. He also had volunteers from his church, who were willing to come and help pull brush. As we worked in Wyoming and Kentwood, we had the opportunity to meet the mayors and chiefs of police from both cities and share at their town hall meetings about Michigan Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, who we are, what we do, and how we can help to meet the needs of the residents of each city. I was able to share with them about the need for patience, because I had just experienced what they were going through. Because of our willingness to serve Christ and help meet the needs of the two communities, a new awareness

of Christ and the Southern Baptist ministry in that area was forged. On Friday of the second week, the man who we allowed to work alongside Michigan Disaster Relief volunteers invited us to attend a cookout that his church provided. It was a great meal – then even provided steaks – and great fellowship with fellow Christians. While there, Skip Maxson and I talked to the pastor at length about the possibility of his church joining our convention. I have asked Pastor Bob King from Charity Baptist, Paris (Big Rapids) to meet with him for coffee and fellowship to see what God would have them do. God is doing great things through your Michigan Disaster Relief volunteers. We ask for your prayers and financial support now more than ever. As the ministry grows, we need new and younger replacement volunteers and more and better equipment. We need pastors and churches to open their facilities for the volunteers to work out of, we need pastors and churches who will do follow-up to the homes where we have ministered. We need your prayers for the volunteers' safety, health, and well being as they go to minister on your behalf in the name of Christ. I do not know where God is leading us in this fabulous ministry journey, but we want you join us to discover and enjoy! ■

Serving the Baptist State Convention of Michigan



GERALD COLBERT
Interim State Church
Starting Missionary

It is a privilege to again serve the Lord by serving the Baptist State Convention of Michigan as an interim with church starting ministry. Three questions need to be answered from my perspective. What is the BSCM? It is not a building in Fenton, MI. It is not the staff that serves in or out of that building. The BSCM are the churches that have chosen to partner with one another in the state and other churches across the United States and Canada. The churches partner in seeking to make disciples of all nations – ethnic, language, people groups – to preach the gospel to all creation, and to be witness in our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth. To assist in this partnership, the Michigan churches have followed the example of churches in other states and have organized a convention and employed staff. But that is not the convention, the churches are. What is the purpose of this organized convention and the employed staff? From my perspective it is to assist, encourage, and resource the churches

in their task making, marking, and maturing disciples, preaching the gospel, and witnessing here and to the ends of the earth. Part of my task is to encourage churches in seeing and reaching those persons in our Jerusalem – the cities, towns and villages where God has placed us – and our Judea – this state of Michigan – that our existing churches can effectively reach and disciple through that church. It is also to see those who our existing churches are not reaching and assist, encourage, and resource the planting of new churches to reach those persons. Do the churches that make up the BSCM need encouragement to reach people and plant churches to reach others? Let's look at the figures from our churches' Annual Church Profile for the last ten years. During the last ten years our churches have reported baptizing a total of 13,125 persons. Praise God for each of those who received Jesus and choose to identify with Him and His church by believer's baptism. Let's look a little closer. In 2004 we baptized

1,633 persons at an investment of just under \$15,511 per baptism. In 2013, the 937 baptisms represented an investment of \$15,497 per baptism. Even though 13,125 persons were baptized during the period from 2004 to 2013, we reported 9,254 less members and 4,377 fewer persons in worship. According to the GlenMary study of churches and population, "The population of Michigan was 9,883,640 in 2010; in 2000 it was 9,938,444. The total population changed -0.6%. The adherent totals of the religious groups listed (in Michigan) are 4,165,343 persons or 42.1% of the total population in 2010." There has been minimal change in the population in Michigan since 2010. Using the 2010 numbers and percentages, let's look at the other side of the numbers. 47.9% of Michigan's population – or 4,734,263 people – claim no church affiliation. Now, begin to break that millions of unaffiliated people down to something more personal and manageable. Put the names to those within six blocks or a half mile of our church's building or your home. See these as real people for whom Christ died and about whom He says, "Make disciples."

Year	Congregations	Members	Baptisms	Worship	Gifts
2004	299	37,135	1,633	17,822	\$17,164,173
2013	305	27,881	937	13,445	\$14,520,829

'Staggering' number of believers in China, Christian workers say

BY CAROLINE ANDERSON

Baptist Press

EAST ASIA (BP) — Alexander and Maggie Kirkpatrick* moved to East Asia in 1989 — the same year as the Tiananmen Square massacre. Their wedding anniversary shares the same date.

During their 25 years of service, the Kirkpatricks watched China change and the church boom. The Christian workers say the number of believers in the country is “staggering.”

“The day where we arrive in a city and we go for months and months and never find a Christian are really gone,” Maggie said. “That is a major, major God-thing.

“[We] would pray that the Gospel would take root in the far reaches,” Maggie, recalling their first years on the field, said.

“We would be disappointed, if after 25 years, we couldn't find

any trace of the Gospel in any of the places we've been,” she said. “But God hasn't disappointed. We can find the results of evangelism and discipleship, even in some of the most far-flung places.”

The Kirkpatricks moved to Asia to work in an unengaged and unreached city in western China. In the late 80s and early 90s, western China was the “wild west” — uncharted territory for many Westerners.

“Twenty five years ago, we came here to be the Christians in those cities and to be a presence of Christ in some of those unreached places,” Maggie said.

As the nation and church were still recovering from Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution, “it was very difficult to even find anyone who believed,” she added.

“[Believers] were there; they were the remnants of the church prior to the Cultural Revolution. It took time and relationships to find some of those people.

“In the meantime, we set about breaking new ground and winning the lost,” Maggie recalled. “It is many of those people who believed in the early days who are now taking the Gospel forward in China.”

Stories and historical tapestries began to unfold as Christian workers in China led people to Christ.

“Interestingly, as we've won new people, we began to discover more and more about the church that was left here after the Communist takeover,” Maggie said. “A number of those networks from prior to 1950 are still alive and well and spreading the Gospel not just in China but all over the world.”

Believers from 20-30 years ago began new house church streams, sharing the Gospel domestically and internationally.

“It is all a God thing; it wasn't our doing that caused a wave of change,” Alexander said. “We were just there on the front row, or second row, participating in the joy.”

The change of a nation

Politician and reformer Deng Xiao Ping's economic reforms ushered in a new era for the nation, the couple noted. China's economy went from being state-run, to foreign companies being encouraged to joint venture with Chinese companies.

“The younger generation is quickly forgetting what their grandparents' generation went through during the Cultural Revolution,” Maggie said. “That era in China, to them, is long ago and far away. Their China is connected to the world.”

The Kirkpatricks at first had to travel in and out of China from neighboring countries. “It's gone

from us not even knowing if we could live in country for long periods, to being here long-term,” she said, recalling they even had to use special currency.

The city where they first served is now a major hub for expatriates. Western amenities are abundant such as Starbucks, Dolce and Gabbana, Mexican food

and Walmart.

The couple remembers when Chinese people lived in work units called a “danwei.” People of the same profession would live in the same building.

Under the old socialist system, food, housing and health care were all provided. Now, people are free to live wherever they choose and provide for themselves.

The Kirkpatricks remember big Russian trucks and no private cars. Bicycles were the main form of transportation in the late 80s and early 90s.

Now, Lamborghinis, Maseratis and Ferraris tear through the empty night streets, revving their high-dollar engines. “China has so many millionaires — that was unheard of back then,” Maggie said.

However, a recent World Bank listed China among the five nations housing the world's poorest people.

Freedom of travel has also been a major change. The couple recalled when only the Communist Party could get a passport and visa.

“From Paris, to Munich to Rio de Janeiro, to Mogadishu; pick a city, [Chinese people] are there,” Maggie pointed out.

If there is a sizable population of Chinese people in a city, virtually in every nation in the world, the Gospel is as well, she added.

“If they take the Good News with them,” Alexander said, “it will be a way to get the Good News out faster.”

As the Chinese moved into various cities to find work, cities became a prime place for seeing the Gospel spread.

“[Apostle] Paul was relating to people in the cities,” he said. “Cities are still strategic because of ... migrants coming to the city to find work.”

Migrant workers move frequently. And many of them who are new believers often return to their hometowns and begin spreading the Good News. “[The Gospel] travels back with them to their homes and families,” Alexander said.

Alexander said he's partnering with a seminary in the U.S. to provide theological education for believers.

The role of the Western Christian worker in China has changed, he added. Now, their role is “primarily to come alongside [local] workers, provide training, equipping, encouragement ... and eventually finish the task, the Great Commission.”

The growth of a nation

Alexander said he sees parallels between the growth of his own son and daughter and the growth of the church in China.

“At first, you need a lot of information on what to do and how to do... As you grow in your walk, you need someone to come along and encourage and work alongside ... not as much directive but more supportive,” Alexander said.

In addition to training, Alexander counsels pastors and leaders on small group dynamics, investing time into building up the church and helping believers learn how to cast vision. He challenges Chinese believers to take the Gospel to unreached areas.

Maggie said, “The local brothers and sisters are doing the work. Some of the things they need to accomplish what God is asking them to do are things we can provide.”

The Chinese church sends its own workers

to countries Westerners cannot enter. Chinese believers also founded the Back to Jerusalem movement — a commitment to take the Gospel to unreached areas.

“In 25 years, we've gone from seeing people come to faith, to training them, to seeing them do it themselves,” Maggie said.

Even with the rapid changes and developments in China, the Kirkpatricks said there are many places in China that are the “old China.”

“There are places where the future and past coincide,” Alexander said.

The next 25 years are an open book for China, The Kirkpatricks say. They pray it will be 25 years saturated with the Bible.

Caroline Anderson is an IMB writer living in Southeast Asia. Names marked with an asterisk (*) have been changed. ■



The usual church leader is away this evening, and in his absence a layman leads the singing, worship service, and prayer time. (Photo © 2014 IMB / Hugh Johnson)



The walls of the living room where the church meets display exposed electrical wiring, peeling wallpaper, a calendar, and an accurately set clock. (Photo © 2014 IMB / Hugh Johnson)

Christians in Iraq 'facing extinction' at Islamists' hands

BY GREGORY TOMLIN

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (BP) — Islamic militants have eradicated virtually every trace of Christianity from Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, Nina Shea, director of the Hudson Institute's Center for Religious Freedom, said July 23.

"There are no Christians left in Mosul," Shea told CBN News. "They have all been driven out. They have been told to convert to Islam or die, or to leave."

Mosul has been the center of Iraq's Christian community for two millennia, but it is also a site with a significant place in biblical history. Ancient Mesopotamia was the location of both the Babylonian and Assyrian empires, as well as the ancestral homeland of Abraham. The city of Mosul is located on the site of the ancient city of Nineveh, the capital of the brutal Assyrian empire and the location of Jonah's preaching in the biblical account. Nineveh, according to the Bible, was established by Noah's grandson Nimrod.

Mosul became a familiar location to Southern Baptists in 2004 when four Christian aid workers, affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, were ambushed there. Larry and Jean Elliot, David McDonnell and Karen Watson died in the attack. Only Carrie McDonnell, David's wife, survived, though she was seriously wounded.

Shea, who formerly served as vice chair for the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, said fighters with the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) marked the property of Christians in Mosul with the Arabic word "Nasrani," or "Nazarene" — a clear reference to Christianity. Christian property owners were then driven out.

Last month militants offered Christians in Mosul the opportunity to enter into a dhimma, an agreement which would have allowed them to practice the Christian faith behind closed doors after they paid a hefty tax and agreed not to proselytize. However, multiple sources in the region said that offer was later withdrawn and all Christians were told to leave or face execution.

Members of Assyrian Christian and Chaldean Catholic groups streamed out of Mosul when the final ultimatum was delivered this week by ISIS militants, Shea said, and they left empty handed. Militants confiscated all of their possessions, including homes, cars, clothes "and even their wedding rings, sometimes with the finger attached if it would not come off," she said.

Shea also said she saw reports of ISIS militants destroying or defacing ancient Christian sites, such as the supposed tomb of the prophet Jonah, fourth century monasteries and churches. She added that militants tore down crosses in the city and burned ancient Christian manuscripts.

"There is zero tolerance for the religious other on the part of this group," Shea said. "They are rabidly bigoted against Christians. They hate Christians. They are eradicating every trace of the 2,000 year history of Christianity in every area they have conquered, including in Iraq's second largest city, the center of Christianity in Iraq, which is Mosul."

David Curry, president and CEO of Open Doors USA, which offers assistance to persecuted Christians around the world and lobbies repressive governments to cease religious persecution, called the plight of Christians in Mosul and the remainder of northern Iraq "unprecedented in modern times."

"This latest forced exodus of Christians further shows why Western governments and the people in the West need to cry out in support for religious freedom in the Middle East and elsewhere," Curry said in a statement. "If this does not move us concerning the near extinction of Christianity in the Middle East, it's likely nothing else can."

Since the United States invaded Iraq in 2003 to overthrow Saddam Hussein, nearly 1 million Christians have fled the country for safer surroundings. An estimated 500,000 Christians remained throughout the northern portion of the country chiefly among the Chaldean Catholic community, which has existed there for 1,700 years. The archbishop for the region, Shimoun Nona, told the Catholic World Report after Mosul fell to militants in June that the Christian population had dropped to 35,000 and then to only 3,000.

According to recent reports from the region, only a few hundred Christian families remained in Mosul before ISIS gave its ultimatum last week. Its stance toward Christians who remained may mean the hardened Al-Qaeda offshoot is becoming even more intolerant of dissenting faiths as it tightens control over a large swath of the plain of Nineveh, where Mosul is located.

ISIS alone is not to blame for the crisis in northern Iraq, Shea said, noting that the inaction of the Obama administration and the Iraqi government have made matters worse.

Obama "should be talking about it," Shea said. "It is important also to keep pressure on the Iraqi government, which has failed in every way. It is a narrow, sectarian government that has, as I've heard reports today, rescued Shiite minorities from the north but is leaving the Christians ... to fend for themselves. They only rescued Shiites from the wrath of this Islamic state."

Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va., said on the floor of the U.S. House June 22 that the Obama administration was watching the "extinction" of Christians and other religious minorities take place in northern Iraq.

"I believe what is happening to the Christian community in Iraq is genocide," Wolf said. "I also believe it is a crime against humanity."

Wolf said he and 54 other members of Congress — Republicans and Democrats — urged the Obama administration in a letter to engage the Iraqi central government and the Kurdistan Regional Government and ask them to prioritize additional security support for especially vulnerable populations in the region. Among those are Iraq's ancient Christian communities, he said. The members also asked the administration to provide humanitarian assistance to religious refugees from the area.

"I want to read the last line from our letter: 'Absent immediate action, we will most certainly witness the annihilation of an ancient faith community from the lands they've inhabited for centuries,'" Wolf said. "It is happening. They are almost all gone — just as we predicted. The Obama administration has to make protecting this ancient community a priority."

Wolf spoke about the war on Iraqi Christians from the House floor again July 24, warning, "Christianity as we know it in Iraq is being wiped out."

"Where is the West? Where is the Obama administration? Where is the Congress? The silence

is deafening," Wolf said. "The West, particularly the church, needs to speak out."

Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki finally addressed the plight of Christians in Mosul in a statement to the Iraqi News Agency July 20. Al-Maliki, a Shiite Muslim, said the actions taken by ISIS in northern Iraq "undoubtedly reveal the criminal nature of terrorists and extremist groups, which pose danger to the humanitarian legacy and heritage through the centuries."

Al-Maliki called on the government to render humanitarian aid and to support efforts of the Kurds to care for displaced peoples from Mosul. Many Christians have found protection among

Kurdish fighters, who oppose ISIS's domination of the area.

In addition to the condemnation of forced deportations of Christians from Mosul by Shea, Wolf and Curry, interfaith groups and other religious leaders have also condemned ISIS's repression of Christians.

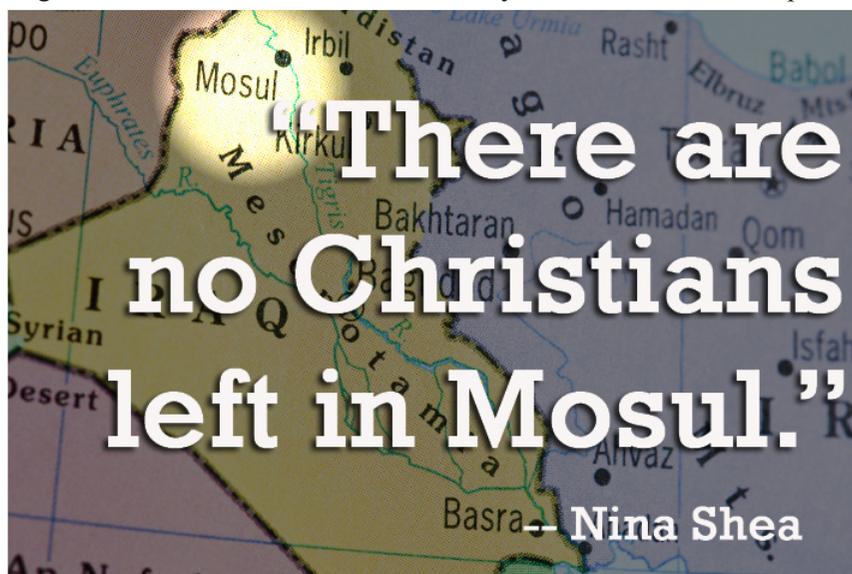


Image: iStock; Graphic by Laura Erlanson.

Rabbi Yitzchok Adlerstein, director of interfaith affairs with the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a global Jewish human rights organization, said too many people believe "forced conversions and expulsions of entire religious communities were part of a distant, medieval past."

"It is not too late to realize that many others — Christians today, but certainly Jews, Baha'i, Hindus, Muslims and others — are mortally endangered by a potent religious fanaticism that threatens tens of millions, and which still can be resisted," Adlerstein said in a statement.

Even prominent Sunni Muslim scholars claimed the forced deportation of Christians from their homes was not a true representation of Islamic doctrine. Sheikh Youssef al-Qaradawi said the International Union of Muslim Scholars (IUMS) condemns the actions of ISIS.

Christians "are native sons of Iraq and not intruders," a statement from the group told Reuters in Doha, Qatar, July 22. "The aim must be to bury discord, unite the ranks and solve Iraq's problems, rather than thrusting it into matters that would further complicate the situation."

IUMS does not disavow the notion of an Islamic caliphate as a goal to be obtained in the future. It claims, however, that a majority of Muslims in an area have to agree to join such a caliphate. That makes the caliphate announced with force by ISIS unlawful, according to the group.

The reach of ISIS began to expand into northern Iraq after fighting spilled over into the country from Syria in the spring. Militants overtook Mosul June 10, followed by the city of Tikrit, less than 100 miles from Baghdad. They captured Tal Afar and portions of the "Sunni Triangle" in western Iraq, including Ramadi and Fallujah. ISIS also temporarily took the town of Baquba, less than 40 miles from Baghdad, June 16.

The terrorist group now controls nearly one third of Iraq and Syria, an area larger than Jordan, Lebanon and Israel combined.

Gregory Tomlin is a writer based in Fort Worth, Texas. ■

Slaughter of Nigerian Christians rises sharply

BY BAPTIST PRESS STAFF
AND MORNING STAR NEWS

NIGERIA (BP) — Boko Haram extremists and others have killed nearly as many Nigerian Christians in the first seven months of this year as were killed in all of 2013, the advocacy group Jubilee Campaign reported Tuesday, July 29.

Approximately 1,505 Nigerian Christians have been killed for their faith to date this year, compared to 1,783 Nigerian Christians killed in all of last year, based on Jubilee's tally of deaths on its blog *FactsNigeriaViolence.org*, a compilation of reports from various news sources.

The 2014 total to date is nearly 85 percent of those killed in all of last year.

In attacks targeting religious communities, Boko Haram and others also killed Muslims, government officials, and other civilians in Northern Nigeria, for a total of 4,239 deaths to date this year, compared to 3,124 deaths in all of 2013, Jubilee reported.

Christians killed to date include seven fathers of the 223 Chibok school girls still missing after Boko Haram kidnapped more than 300 students in mid-April. The men were killed July 20 when Boko Haram attacked Damboa, just 52 miles from the Borno state capital of Maiduguri, and hoisted a Boko Haram flag there, the Associated Press reported.

Boko Haram and others have killed at least 52 Muslims this year, compared to 66 in all of 2013, Jubilee reported. Based on an interview with Emmanuel Ogebe, manager of Jubilee Campaign's Justice for Jos Project, Morning Star News reported a trend this year of Boko Haram targeting some Muslims primarily because they cooperate with the Nigerian military.

"The pattern therefore is that if you do not do what they demand, even if you are Muslim, you

become an 'apostate' deserving of death," Ogebe said. "Therefore the difference between Boko Haram's approach to Christian 'infidels' and Muslim apostates is you are killed as a Christian 'just because' your name is Christian — you go to church, etc. — whereas Muslims are generally killed 'for cause,' for example working for the government or refusing to pay extortion taxes to Boko Haram."

In terms of the number of faith communities attacked, 75 Christian communities were assaulted in the first six months of this year, compared with eight attacks on Muslim communities, the group reported. Christian communities were defined as churches, pastors, predominantly Christian enclaves and other explicitly Christian targets. Muslim communities were defined as imams or explicitly Muslim targets, though Jubilee noted Boko Haram itself insists that it does not target mosques.

"Prior to 2014, all so-called mosque attacks were assassination attempts on prominent Muslims who disagreed with Boko Haram," Jubilee reported. "The attacks took place when the targeted Muslims were entering or leaving a mosque, but there were no attacks on the mosque or Muslims as

such."

This year, however, marked the first targeting of Muslims in a mosque, Jubilee reported.

"It should be noted that this attack was reported to be retaliation for their cooperation with the authorities and not necessarily for their faith," Jubilee

reported. "It is instructive that even in perceived random attacks on communities, there is still distinct religious cleansing going on in selection and separation of Christians for elimination."

Borno attacks

Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), anti-aircraft guns and rocket-propelled launchers were among the weapons that suspected Boko Haram gunmen used in a July 14 attack on the predominantly Christian village of Dille in Borno state, Morning Star News reported. The gunmen set three churches ablaze, including one belonging to the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria, and reportedly killed dozens of people.

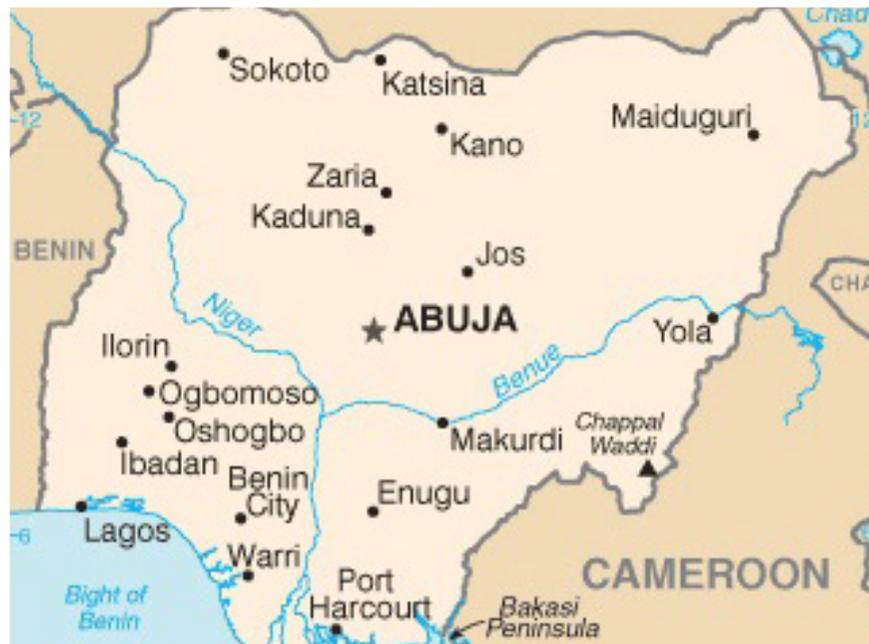
Among the dead is Taiwo Dokun, pastor of the Redeemed Christian Church of God, Morning Star News reported. The assailants burned down his house in the Askira-Uba Local Government Area in the northeastern state, but the bodies of Dokun's

wife and three children were not found, their whereabouts reportedly unknown.

In November 2013 the United States designated Boko Haram a Foreign Terrorist Organization. At a June 11 hearing before the Congressional Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations, Republican Rep. Chris Smith of New Jersey blamed Boko Haram as a major factor in the displacement of 3.3 million people in Nigeria.

Christians make up an estimated 51.3 percent of Nigeria's population of 158.2 million, while Muslims account for 45 percent and live mainly in the north.

Compiled by Diana Chandler, Baptist Press general assignment writer/editor, with reports from Morning Star News. ■



Church Strengthening

BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION of MICHIGAN

Get banners for your church

Want to have the same high-quality banners in your church that the Baptist State Convention of Michigan uses at their events?
Now you can.

Visit
www.groupimaging.com/MichiganBaptists
and choose from a variety of banners and sizes.
Order yours today!

Christian worker shares report on 'invisible war' with Ebola

BY CHARLES BRADDIX
Baptist Press

JOHANNESBURG (BP) — While the International Mission Board has issued a statement indicating all its personnel in Ebola-stricken West Africa are safe, a Christian worker on the ground released a first-person account of her thoughts on “the invisible war” with the deadly Ebola virus.

IMB’s statement said, “IMB personnel continue to monitor the Ebola epidemic. Our medical coordinators in West Africa have been in touch with Southern Baptist missionaries in the region to keep them informed of the changing situation. Currently in the affected areas, IMB has personnel in Guinea and Liberia, but not in Sierra Leone.”

IMB indicated there are no plans at this time to ask personnel to leave their homes in these countries.

The number of Ebola-related deaths in West Africa approaches 730, with more than 1,300 cases now reported in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, according to the World Health Organization.

Two American aid workers — one with Samaritan’s Purse and the other with SIM (Serving in Mission) — who became infected remain in serious condition, and are being transported to the United States for treatment, according to news reports.

Rebecca Waters,* a Christian worker living and serving in Liberia, shared a firsthand account of what it’s like to face an “invisible enemy” like Ebola on a daily basis.

Following is a portion of Waters’ account of the situation in Liberia:

“A war is raging in West Africa, but this war is different from others.

This time the enemy is invisible,

sneaking up on its victims unaware. By the time the victim realizes he has been attacked, it is usually only a matter of days before he dies. That is,

[with SIM] contracted the disease, has only elevated the paranoia.

“Samaritan’s Purse has ... been on the front lines in Liberia and spear-

heading a national awareness campaign and providing education programming about Ebola. Samaritan’s Purse also provides medical examinations and clinical care to those infected. They manage the quarantine and decontamination units and assist in sanitary burial procedures.

“Tonight we happened upon a Samaritan’s Purse worker who was picking up supplies. He told us that three new patients arrived today ... and there was no place to put them.

He said everyone is so discouraged, some to the point of just giving up. They are here trying to help, yet they are met with resistance.

“This invisible enemy is taking its toll on Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. In Sierra Leone, Ebola seems to be even more out of control....

“Over 1,300 cases have been reported with over 700 confirmed deaths. And the numbers continue to grow.

“This nation that thrives on relationships is now being reprimanded for giving a handshake or a hug. Taxi drivers are wearing gloves and masks. Grocery store workers and others are wearing gloves. Tonight we went to the grocery store and before entering, we had to wash our hands with bleach water. A few restaurants and other businesses have shut down until Ebola comes under control. Borders to Liberia have been closed except for the three major borders and two airports. And tonight, I read that one of our major West Africa airlines has cancelled all flights between Liberia and Sierra Leone.

“This invisible enemy must be stopped and there is only One who is able to stop it — the Prince of Peace, Jehovah Rapha. Please speak to Him on behalf of the West African peoples, on behalf of those working on the front lines, on behalf of those who are sick and trying to overcome, on behalf of all of us who are wondering what to do, how to help and how best to be His light in this dark world.”

*Name changed. Charles Braddix is an IMB writer based in London. ■



The European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) works to contain the epidemic that has killed nearly 730 people in West Africa. (Photo by EC/ECHO, used with permission.)

after he has infected dozens of others, and then they too die. This enemy is called Ebola.

“Ebola first reared his ugly head back in March, in the forest region of Guinea. Because of the porous borders, the disease quickly spread into Sierra Leone and Liberia’s northern county.

“In May, it appeared as if the disease was coming under control, but I believe that was due largely to fear and irrational behavior. People have become afraid to expose themselves, so when they become sick, instead of going to the doctor they run and hide. They just do not understand. [Physicians have] been chased out with machetes from the forest region of Guinea ...

“Saturday I heard two women discussing their views of Ebola. They said many small clinics have shut down for fear of someone with the disease coming in. They said that parents, who take their kids in for headaches or malaria symptoms, simple diarrhea, etc., are rushed off to the Ebola clinic and sometimes even police are called in to escort them. For this reason, people are just not going to the doctor, but trying to treat themselves, thus putting others at danger. Many people believe Ebola is a scam, and even these two women indicated that they really don’t think Ebola exists.

“This week, the news of two prominent national health workers contracting and dying of Ebola, followed by the news that an American doctor [with Samaritan’s Purse] and another American female aid worker

7,075

The number of people who prayed to receive Christ through the ministry of Southern Baptist-endorsed chaplains.



EVERY NUMBER HAS A STORY



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

Love In Action
www.sbc.net/cp

Discovering Southern Baptists through an array of resources

BY BAPTIST PRESS STAFF

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptists seem to show up everywhere when people are searching for answers amid times of upheaval and emptiness.

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers clad in yellow shirts and hats are quickly amid the debris and anguish from hurricanes on the East Coast, flooding in middle America or wildfires in the West. Southern Baptist missionaries carry the Gospel to both remote and urban areas in the Far East, the Mideast, Eastern Europe and Africa and Latin America. Southern Baptist church members volunteer at pregnancy crisis centers and food pantries across the United States.

But who are these people?

An array of print and online resources available through the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee demonstrate Southern Baptists' heart and numerous ways of sharing new birth in Christ in their communities and states, across the nation and throughout the world.

Two brochures Meet Southern Baptists and A Closer Look that provide basic information about Southern Baptists are available as free downloads as well as full-color print pieces that can be ordered at a very minimal cost-recovery price here. In addition to PDF formats, the brochures also can be read online here and here.

Many Southern Baptist churches and other congregations interested in cooperating with the SBC request these resources, said Roger S. Oldham, the Executive Committee's vice president for convention communications and relations.

"I have been in numerous meetings where pastors and members of various groups have been complimentary of the brochures and have asked how to order the brochures," Oldham said.

Some churches place the brochures alongside other materials where visitors can easily pick them up. "We are aware of a number of churches that routinely order the brochure for use in their new member training classes," Oldham also noted.

Meet Southern Baptists is a practical explanation of the Southern Baptist Convention and its entities. Whether someone is seeking more information on Southern Baptist life or is searching for a concise way to explain the Southern Baptist Con-

vention, Meet Southern Baptists is informative and thorough.

The brochure explains such facts as:

- Southern Baptists are a diverse group of autonomous churches united by a love for the Gospel and by a "confessional consensus,"



vention, Meet Southern Baptists is informative and thorough.

- Southern Baptist missions and ministries begin locally and extend globally.
- Southern Baptist causes are funded by local churches' gifts through the Cooperative Program, a key channel of cooperation that has proven its viability for nearly 90 years.
- The Southern Baptist Convention is comprised of 11 ministry entities, one women's auxiliary missions organization and an Executive Committee that exist "for the express purpose of assisting churches in the ultimate goal of advancing the Gospel."
- The purpose of the convention, summed up as follows: "It is by the Gospel, because of the Gospel, and for the Gospel that the Southern Baptist Convention exists; so it only makes sense that everything about Southern Baptists is tied directly to the Gospel."

A Closer Look delves into various facts, and some common misconceptions, about the Southern Baptist Convention. If a church member is curious about Southern Baptist life, for example, this is an effective resource. It offers an in-depth look at the SBC's annual meeting, its enti-

ties, the Executive Committee and the Cooperative Program, exploring such questions as:

- What is a motion?
- What is a resolution?
- Who is a messenger?
- How do I become a Southern Baptist?



- Is my church autonomous?
- Where does Cooperative Program funding go?

Also available for download at sbc.net's About Us tab are specific brochures about the SBC's International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, LifeWay Christian Resources, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, GuideStone Financial Resources and the convention's six seminaries.

While helping local churches, Oldham also noted, "We also use the brochures to help members of the secular media gain a better understanding of who we are as a convention, and as a network of cooperating Baptist churches, associations and state conventions.

"Much confusion abounds even within our churches. We are not a top-down hierarchical 'church' as are many Christian denominations; we are a network of fully autonomous churches that voluntarily cooperate together for the Gospel," Oldham said.

In addition to the brochures, the Cooperative Program is given visual life through seven videos available for free download on the SBC website at CP Videos.

Videos that range in length from two to three minutes are:

- The animated CP Rant explaining the Cooperative Program and the scope of what it does. Set in a conversational style, the video is intensely engaging yet practical. It answers prevailing questions among young evangelicals about CP and was detailed in a Baptist Press story in April. (Video produced by Louisiana Baptists)
 - For Others showcases the magnitude of the work that can be accomplished for the Kingdom when people work together. It is from a child's perspective, amplifying the fact that anyone can be a part of worldwide outreach through the Cooperative Program. (Video produced by Innovative Faith Resources)
 - Pass the Plate highlights the power and influence that a tithe can have. The video exhibits how a tithe to the local church transforms into CP missions — in each state and in the nation and world. (Video produced by Innovative Faith Resources)
 - The 1% Challenge recaps key statistics about the Cooperative Program and explains what the SBC-wide "1% CP Challenge" is and why it's important. This video challenges a viewer to "be the one." (Video produced by The Resonate Group)
 - From You to Eternity is an engaging, highly visual presentation of the Cooperative Program, describing what it is, how it works and why it exists. (Video produced by the Missouri Baptist Convention)
 - Empty Hands demonstrates the devastating effect that an empty offering plate can have on missions. It also shows the impact that a full offering plate can have through CP. (Video produced by Innovative Faith Resources)
 - — Imagine is from a child's perspective highlighting the ratio of Southern Baptists to Southern Baptist missionaries. It highlights what could be accomplished through the Cooperative Program if every Southern Baptist tithed. (Video produced by the Executive Committee of the SBC)
- Additional resources and information about the SBC entities, how to become a Christian, daily devotions and various other resources may also be found online at sbc.net.
- Compiled by Baptist Press intern Myriah Snyder, BP general assignment writer/editor Diana Chandler and BP editor Art Toalston. ■

Official tally: SBC registration 5,298

BY BAPTIST PRESS STAFF

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — SBC registration secretary Jim Wells has released official registration figures for the 2014 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Baltimore.

A total of 5,298 messengers were sent by 2,257 churches from 49 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Only North Dakota sent no messengers.

Attendance was 195 higher than at Houston's 2013 annual meeting, but the numbers show no remarkable trend, Wells said.

"The messenger count was up from Houston. Baltimore was a destination that our messengers really enjoyed and I heard lots of positive comments about the city, waterfront etc.," Wells said. "I am praying that the emphasis on Prayer, Revival and Spiritual Awakening by Dr. Ronnie Floyd will bode well for the convention in Columbus, Ohio, next year."

Of the 1,298 messengers who responded to the registration survey, 731 of them, or 58 percent, were age 50 and older. Only 94 of them, or 7 percent, were under age 30, registration figures show.

Messengers were nearly evenly distributed among the remaining age groups. Messengers 30-34 years old accounted for 8.5 percent; messengers in the 35-39 and 40-44 age groups accounted for 8.7 each, with the remaining age group, 45-49, drawing 8.9 percent of those registered.

Virginia had the largest number of messengers, 506, at the June 10-11 meeting in the Baltimore Convention Center, accounting for 9.55 percent of the registration total. A total of 183 Virginia Baptist congregations sent messengers.

The next four leading states in messenger count were Maryland, 428 (8.08 percent of the total) from 153 churches; North Carolina, 420 (7.93 percent of the total) from 205 churches; Tennessee, 419 (7.91 percent of the total) from 173 churches; and Georgia, 371 (7 percent of the total) from 173 churches.

Official registration numbers follow: Alaska,

15; Alabama, 250; Arkansas, 179; Arizona, 20; California, 99; Colorado, 29; Connecticut, 10; District of Columbia, 20; Delaware, 23; Florida, 301; Georgia, 371; Hawaii, 12; Iowa, 4; Idaho, 4; Illinois, 94; Indiana, 76; Kansas, 29; Kentucky, 251; Louisiana, 175; Massachusetts, 17; Maryland, 428; Maine, 1; Michigan, 29; Minnesota, 3; Missouri,



153; Mississippi, 200; Montana, 6; North Carolina, 420; Nebraska, 2; New Hampshire, 5; New Jersey, 39; New Mexico, 32; Nevada, 26; New York, 67; Ohio, 89; Oklahoma, 134; Oregon, 2; Pennsylvania, 111; Puerto Rico, 4; Rhode Island, 4; South Carolina, 242; South Dakota, 4; Tennessee, 419; Texas, 317; Utah, 8; Virginia, 506; Vermont, 6; Washington, 5; Wisconsin, 10; West Virginia, 41, and Wyoming, 6.

The official number of churches from each state registering messengers: Alaska, 10; Alabama, 125; Arkansas, 69; Arizona, 11; California, 54; Colorado, 13; Connecticut, 6; District of Columbia, 6; Delaware, 9; Florida, 127; Georgia, 173; Hawaii, 8; Iowa, 2; Idaho, 2; Illinois, 40; Indiana, 30; Kansas, 12; Kentucky, 121; Louisiana, 70; Massachusetts, 6; Maryland, 153; Maine, 1; Michigan, 16; Minnesota, 2; Missouri, 72; Mississippi, 99; Montana, 3; North Carolina, 205; Nebraska, 1; New Hampshire, 4; New Jersey, 11; New Mexico,

16; Nevada, 12; New York, 27; Ohio, 43; Oklahoma, 5; Oregon, 1; Pennsylvania, 35; Puerto Rico, 3; Rhode Island, 1; South Carolina, 125; South Dakota, 1; Tennessee, 173; Texas, 135; Utah, 4; Virginia, 183; Vermont, 4; Washington, 4; Wisconsin, 3; West Virginia, 17, and Wyoming, 4.

By gender, 62.9 percent of the messengers were male, 37.1 percent female.

By vocation, according to the data supplied by the messengers responding to the survey, 41 percent were senior pastors; 11.5 percent were homemakers; 13.6 percent were other church staff; 3.7 percent worked in associational missions; 6.5 percent were state convention, entity or institution staff members; 1.8 percent were seminary students; 1.7 percent were involved in North American or international missions; 2.7 percent were other denominational employees; 1.2 percent worked in evangelism; and 15.9 percent listed "other."

For 297 of the responding messengers, or 23 percent of the total, the convention in Baltimore was their first SBC annual meeting; 397 had attended an SBC meeting five times or less (31 percent); 273 had attended six to 10 times (21 percent); and 301 had attended 11 or more times (23 percent).

In traveling to Baltimore, 45.2 percent of the messengers came by plane, 52.4 percent by car, and 2.4 percent by another form of transportation. In terms of expenditures to attend the annual meeting, 54 estimated they would be spending under \$100 (3.12 percent); 73 estimated \$100-299 (5.75 percent); 167 estimated \$300-599 (13.2 percent); 241 estimated \$600-999 (19 percent); 306 estimated \$1,000-1,499 (24.13 percent); 290 estimated \$1,500-1,999 (22.8 percent); and 137 estimated \$2,000 or more (10.8 percent).

Of the 1,298 messengers who provided the additional information at registration, 402 said no other family members were with them in Baltimore (31.7 percent); 621 brought one family member (48.9 percent); 201 brought two to four family members (15.8 percent); and 44 brought five or more family members (3.5 percent). ■

CLASSIFIEDS

Church Information Packets

are mailed to every staff member once per month and posted online. These contain promotional posters, sign-up sheets, informational articles and more. Visit www.MichiganBaptists.org for more information.

Preschool/children's minister needed

Crossroads Community Baptist Church, Ann Arbor is seeking a part-time minister/coordinator preschool and children's ministries. Crossroads is a culturally and ethnically diverse congregation of 250-300 members and regular attenders located in a collegiate community.

Crossroads is seeking a candidate who is a faithful follower of Jesus, committed to discipleship and outreach, and experienced in leading and administering a children's ministry. This position is salaried at 30 hours per week. Salary range is \$30,000-36,000, depending upon education and experience. Submit résumé and cover letter to KMST@crossroadsA2.org.

Did You Know?

You Can Submit your items for publication to the Baptist Beacon by emailing beacon@bscm.org by the 20th of each month for publication in the next month's issue

Two bi-vocational ministers needed

Hilton Oaks Baptist Church, Ferndale is searching for a bi-vocational pastor. The right pastor must be a man of God, must love God's Word, and must have a heart of compassion for all God's people.

Hilton Oaks is also searching for a bi-vocational youth pastor. The church is looking for someone who loves God and His Word and who has compassion for teenagers and their families.

Both applicants must pass background checks prior to being called to serve. For more information or to apply, call (248) 543-1136 or email hiltonoaksbc@yahoo.com.

Pastor needed

Harper Creek Baptist Church in Battle Creek, Michigan is looking for an experienced full time pastor to lead a congregation of 75-100 people.

This dynamic group of worshipers is grounded in the Word of God and enjoys a blended type corporate worship. HCBC offers salary with benefits commensurate with years of experience. If you are interested in helping us "share Jesus" and grow in our faith then please visit our web site at www.harpercreekbaptist.org for further information. Please direct inquires to HCBaptistJob@gmail.com.

Back to Church Sunday offers unique evangelism opportunity

For millions of people, church is where they learn about God. They have stories to tell about lives changed, families rescued, marriages recaptured – because of what God has done in their lives through meeting Him and His people at church.

Those who do not attend church do not have stories like these to share. That's where Back to Church Sunday comes in.

"Back to Church Sunday is simply effective," said Philip Nation, Director of Ministry Development at LifeWay research. "It can mobilize your church to engage the community through the power of one simple tool: a personal invitation."

Back to Church Sunday is the largest annual community-based church outreach effort in the nation. The campaign empowers churches and their members with the tools they need to welcome their neigh-

bors, friends and loved ones back to church, while providing an easy way for everyone in the community to find a welcoming church.

National Back to Church Sunday began as a movement to invite everyone in America back to church by empowering and motivating church members to invite their family and friends to come with them to a special service hosted by the local church.

"82% of the unchurched are at least somewhat likely to attend church if invited," writes Thom Rainer in *The Unchurched Next Door*. Yet only 2% of Christians ever invite someone to church.

For 2014's sixth annual Back to Church Sunday, 30,000 churches are expected to participate across several Christian denominations, holding special services that leaders estimate could involve more than 3.34 million

people around the world. Leaders seek to reach every home with an invitation to attend a Bible-believing church for Back to Church Sunday, and also seek to grow the roster of participating churches that will extend those invitations.

The official date for Back to Church Sunday is September 21, 2014, but churches may choose to hold the event any day they wish. There is no cost to participate, and churches may sign up on the roster at backtochurch.com.

In 2013, over 23,100 churches participated. On average, participating churches saw a 31% increase in their attendance on that day.

This year, event organizers invite churchgoers to use social media to share their stories, using the hashtag #MyChurchStory or posting to the Back to Church Sunday Facebook page. As more and more people share

their stories, supporters hope it will increase awareness of the event.

"We all love a good story, and it's especially heartwarming to hear stories of how churches have connected people to God and how their lives have changed," said Scott Evans, founder and CEO of Outreach, Inc., the nation's leading provider of church communications resources that helps support the Back to Church Sunday movement.

"We encourage everyone to join in the #MyChurchStory conversation," Evans said. "It's easy to do – share your own story as momentum builds for this exciting new project. Just tweet using the hashtag #MyChurchStory, or go to facebook.com/backtochurch and post there using the hashtag." ■

GLUTEN-FREE from page 2

your relationship to food and to each other. But if you don't have a relationship with God, you will never get this right."

Anchor's mission statement is "being previews of coming attractions".

"It is not about eating better," Coin said, "It's about being the best preview as we can of what restoration on the new earth will look like.

"Attempting to lower the problems found with celiac disease is one of the expressions of showing a

glimpse of life on the new earth — which will have no corruption from sin, thus no eating disorders. We are wanting to be agents of redemption in the lives of the celiac community.

"To see God take a small congregation and do such big and wonder-

ful things can be summed up with the phrase - through our little seeds, God still grows big trees," Coin said. "Numbers are not a stumbling block with our God; He is able." ■

STATE MISSIONS WEEK from page 3

Bambi Lake

Summer missionaries are an essential part of the Bambi Lake summer staff. They work in housekeeping, in the kitchen, on the grounds, at the front desk, in the shops, and in other ways. Whether working behind the scenes or leading a young person to Christ, summer missionaries have a major impact on the ministry at Bambi Lake.

Pray for summer missionaries who have just completed their summer at Bambi Lake. Ask God to continue to lead them to ministry opportunities.

Outreach

The opportunities for ministry in communities throughout Michi-

gan are limitless. Michigan Baptist churches can make a difference in meeting needs in communities while

also sharing Christ. The Frances Brown State Mission Offering helps fund opportunities like Operation 1-Day and other commu-

nity outreach ministries.

Pray for Operation 1-Day and other community outreach ministries.

Pray that churches will have a heart to reach their communities and meet physical and spiritual needs there. ■

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM
together
WE ARE THERE

The Cooperative Program is the plan Southern Baptists use to fund missions causes. CP helps support international and North American missionaries, state convention mission work, Baptist organizations and more!

How CP Works

1. As people give their tithes and offerings in their churches, a portion is sent to the Baptist State Convention of Michigan. (This amount is decided by the church.)
2. Part of this money is then sent to the Southern Baptist Convention to help fund missions and ministries in North America and around the world.
3. Another part is used for state missions and to help churches in Michigan be healthy.
4. A third part helps other Baptist organizations, such as colleges, and new churches

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

What's happening at your church? Let us know!

Email us at beacon@bscm.org

DID YOU KNOW ?

...The **Greater Detroit Baptist Association** is hosting its third annual Prayer Walk at Comerica Park on August 26? The group will give out tracts, read Scripture, and pray. Anyone interested in participating should meet in front of the main entrance of Comerica Park, next to the ticket windows across from the Fox Theater, at 10:00 am.

...The next **Mission to Dearborn** will be August 30 at 6:00pm? The group regularly prayer walks the community and interacts with those they meet, seeking to reach Muslims for Christ.. Interested participants should meet in the choir room of Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City.

...A **Contextualized Leadership Development** class will be offered this fall at the Greater Detroit Baptist School of Theology in Redford? The 3 credit-hour History of the Bible class begins August 26

and continues through December 2. To enroll, visit www.ggbts.edu/cld. For more information, contact director Roberto Santos at (313) 445-6286.

To include stories about your church in future "Did You Know" columns, email beacon@bscm.org.

- Upcoming Events -

- August 19-20, 2014: Jump-Start 4 Church Starters (BSCM Building, Fenton)
- September 13, 2014: Church Equipping Conference (Rosville)
- October 22-25, 2014: Church Starter Assessment Center (Garden City)
- October 24-25, 2014: Jump-Start 4 Church Starters (Garden City)

Register for Michigan Baptist events at register.bscm.org.

SAVE THE DATE

2014 Annual Meeting
UNLEASHED
EPHESIANS 3:20

57TH ANNUAL MEETING
of the
Baptist State Convention of Michigan
November 7-8, 2014
Bambi Lake Conference Center
Roscommon, MI

ESTATE PLANNING FOR NEW PARENTS

You've thought of all the details in preparing for the birth of your new baby. The birth of a new child is a good time to create or update an estate plan.

The Foundation helps hundreds of families each year with their estate plans, which allows parents to name a legal guardian for their children.

The Foundation also has a legal fees reimbursement plan if you want to leave a gift in your estate plan to a Southern Baptist Ministry.



Protect those you love.

	CP June	Designated June	CP YTD 2014								
				NEW LIFE CHAPEL	96.00	0.00	728.00	BRIGHTER DAY BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	50.00
				PAGE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	291.43	CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	300.00
				Total:	8,782.44	6,288.57	77,161.53	CANTON CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	750.00
BAY ASSOCIATION				GENESEE ASSOCIATION				CASS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH	83.10	0.00	462.50	AINSWORTH BAPTIST CHURCH	597.45	0.00	4,202.73	COMPASSION BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
BIRCH RUN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	526.00	CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH	360.64	0.00	2,638.48
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	329.16	0.00	2,172.74	BRAY ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	DEARBORN HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH	203.20	0.00	1,335.70
CROSSWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH	980.60	200.00	4,199.41	CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH	1,496.00	953.00	1,997.00	DETROIT BAPTIST TEMPLE	0.00	0.00	0.00
EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	717.86	361.00	4,570.38	CORUNNA ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	244.93	50.00	1,967.92	EASTSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH	1,081.59	0.00	1,081.59
HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH	100.94	0.00	563.15	DAVISON MEADOWS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	150.00	EBER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	EAGLE'S NEST BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	500.00
LIFEGATE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	EASTGATE BAPTIST CHURCH	1,548.81	200.00	10,870.52	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - RIVERVIEW	126.51	0.00	769.06
NEW BEGINNINGS - HARRISON	50.00	0.00	50.00	FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - DURAND	0.00	0.00	0.00	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - TRENTON	0.00	0.00	3,940.21
NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST	30.00	0.00	30.00	FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	FIRST SPANISH BAPTIST CHURCH	350.00	0.00	2,100.00
NEW HOPE CHURCH	320.00	0.00	1,813.00	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - CLIO	10.00	753.00	10.00	FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	133.33	0.00	1,166.55
RIVERBEND BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	5.00	40.00	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - FLUSHING	0.00	0.00	420.00	GREATER MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
RIVERWALK BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	506.96	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SWARTZ CREEK	0.00	0.00	12,054.49	INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	44.09
SAGINAW VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH	195.72	181.00	1,589.46	GALILEAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	JEFFRIES BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
SANFORD FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH	12.73	0.00	90.81	HANMAUM INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	600.00	LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
SUNRISE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	150.00	22,500.00	HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH	185.00	180.00	970.00	MERRIMAN ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	6,155.24	0.00	45,370.01
Total:	2,820.11	897.00	38,588.41	HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH	1,428.00	349.00	14,432.00	MIDDLEBELT BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	5,500.00
				LaFAMILIA MULTI-CULTURAL COMMUNITY CHURCH	87.00	10.00	484.00	MT. VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH	618.39	0.00	4,297.13
CENTRAL ASSOCIATION				LIGHTHOUSE CHAPEL OF THE DEAF	41.00	0.00	195.00	NEW TRUTH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	80.00
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	LINCOLN PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	52.93	0.00	274.24	OAK PARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CAMPUS TOWN CHURCH LANSING	9.80	0.00	83.16	MOUNT CARMEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	OPEN DOOR GOSPEL TABERNACLE	0.00	0.00	0.00
CEDAR STREET CHURCH	4,693.00	5,446.00	37,040.00	NEW HAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	100.00	PALMER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	200.00
CHARLOTTE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	NORTH END BAPTIST CHURCH	821.22	0.00	5,389.76	PEOPLE'S MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH	61.74	0.00	370.44	ONELIFE CHURCH	206.00	0.00	206.00	PHILIPPINE INT'L BAPTIST CHURCH - TAYLOR	75.00	551.00	450.00
DISCOVER LIFE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	3,179.44	OUTREACH BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	600.00	PHILIPPINE INT'L BAPTIST CHURCH - WINDSOR	0.00	0.00	200.00
FAITH FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	500.00	SHAWN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	600.00	PHILLIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - DEWITT	150.00	0.00	250.00	THE FIELDHOUSE	0.00	0.00	0.00	PRAISE BAPTIST CHURCH - PLYMOUTH	0.00	0.00	1,170.00
FIRST SPANISH AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	300.00	THE FIELDHOUSE	0.00	0.00	100.00	SECOND LAOTIAN BAPTIST CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	0.00
GETSEMANI BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	THE OPEN DOOR BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	231.25	SOUTHFIELD ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GOOD SHEPHERD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,437.09	THE POTTER'S WHEEL	0.00	0.00	1,250.33	STRAIGHT STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACE CHURCH	1,685.18	842.57	19,583.01	WESTSIDE CHURCH	804.00	213.00	4,822.00	TEMPLE OF FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH - JACKSON	684.49	0.00	4,285.99	Total:	7,722.34	2,708.00	62,453.24	THE CITY CHURCH	1.00	0.00	0.00
IGLESIA BAUTISTA GETSEMANI	0.00	0.00	0.00	GREATER DETROIT ASSOCIATION				TRENTON MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	811.00	500.00	2,093.52
IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANIC de ST. JOHNS	45.00	0.00	215.00	ANN ARBOR CHINESE CHRISTIAN	0.00	0.00	600.00	TRINITY CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
JACOB'S WELL BAPTIST CHURCH	16.82	0.00	93.12	BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	300.00	VICTORY FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	375.00
KALEO CHURCH OF LANSING	214.31	0.00	634.38	BREAHA MISSIONARY BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	0.00	WOODHAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH	500.00	0.00	2,500.00
KINGDOM LIFE CHURCH	1,026.10	0.00	7,093.77					Total:	10,464.90	1,051.00	77,811.34
NEW COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	76.70								

2013-2014 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget

This allocation budget represents anticipated gifts forwarded to the SBC.

\$191,500,000

73.20%

World Missions Ministries
International Mission Board (50.41%)
North American Mission Board (22.79%)

22.16%

Theological Education Ministries
Seminaries (21.92%)
Library and Archives (.24%)

2.99%

SBC Operating Budget

1.65%

Christian Ethics and Religious Liberty Ministries
Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission



Cooperative Program—The Heart of Southern Baptist Missions and Ministries

HURON ASSOCIATION

CAMPUS TOWN CHURCH ANN ARBOR	40.00	0.00	290.23
CONNECTIONS COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CROSSROADS COMMUNITY BAPTIST	2,800.39	0.00	8,809.09
FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF SALINE	1,494.85	0.00	11,942.60
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - GREEN OAK TWP	0.00	0.00	200.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SOUTH LYON	0.00	0.00	18,453.50
GRACEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	361.46	0.00	2,725.59
IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	123.00	0.00	1,054.00
LIVING WATER COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,400.00
NORTH PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,587.35
OAKWOOD CHURCH	880.00	0.00	4,254.00
PLEASANT VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
REACH CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
VISION COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	-73.00
YPSILANTI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	280.00
Total:	5,699.70	0.00	51,923.36

LENDALE ASSOCIATION

CLINTON BAPTIST CHURCH	488.34	2,558.25	1,618.83
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	450.00
FRONTIER BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	879.02
HILLSDALE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	9,515.76
NEW DAY/NUEVO DIA BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	400.00
TECUMSEH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,881.77
THORNHILL BAPTIST CHURCH	25.90	0.00	265.50
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH - ADRIAN	200.00	0.00	1,000.00
Total:	714.24	2,558.25	16,010.88

MOTOR CITIES METRO ASSOCIATION

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,569.21
BEACONSFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,245.20
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
COLUMBIA AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	618.58	0.00	4,976.38
CONGREGATION SHALOM	0.00	0.00	70.00
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	540.00	0.00	1,080.00
CROSS WAVES CHURCH	0.00	0.00	905.21
CROSSINGS CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH, SBC	0.00	0.00	0.00
FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - NEW BALTIMORE	3,064.74	0.00	16,004.68
FIRST HMONG BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST ROMANIAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST SPANISH-AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	300.00	0.00	1,500.00
FOREST PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	726.62	20.00	4,439.90
GOLGOTHA ROMANIAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACE BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HARRISON METRO CHURCH	259.62	500.00	1,298.04
HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH - SHELBY TOWNSHIP	0.00	0.00	1,557.65
HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH - WATERFORD	26.00	0.00	224.34
HIGHLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH	653.83	0.00	4,163.28
HILTON OAKS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	297.00
HMONG AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	424.18
HMONG PONTIAC BAPTIST MISSION	0.00	0.00	0.00
KOREAN FIRST BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
KOREAN IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
KOREAN NEW LIFE CHURCH	784.00	0.00	2,070.00
LAKEPOINTE BAPTIST CHURCH	2,730.00	1,000.00	10,080.00
LAKESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH	1,609.40	0.00	10,796.93
LAPEER COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEGACY CHURCH	1,647.28	425.00	10,366.37
LIFE OF PURPOSE CHRISTIAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	6,217.33
LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	300.00	93.00	900.00
MADISON HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00
MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH	3,300.74	739.16	10,530.27
MT. ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,456.00
NEW COVENANT CHURCH	646.46	0.00	1,521.34
NEW DAY HOUSE OF PRAISE - SBC	0.00	0.00	218.00
NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH - FRASER	100.00	0.00	900.00
NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH - NOWI	0.00	0.00	0.00
NORTHFIELD HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
OAKLAND WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	9,788.00
PATHWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	290.70	681.94	1,543.90
PHILIPPINE INT'L BAPTIST CHURCH - WARREN	0.00	0.00	0.00
REDEMPTION CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	300.00
SPRINGVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH	100.00	0.00	11,403.75
ST. STEPHEN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	300.00
STORYTELLERS CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE CHURCH CONNECTION	0.00	0.00	1,441.65
THE HILL CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE MASTERS BIBLE CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE SHEPHERD'S FOLD	0.00	0.00	200.00



TROY JAPANESE FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00
WARREN WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH	500.00	292.00	2,000.00
Total:	18,297.97	3,751.10	124,288.61

NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION

AGAPE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	75.00
ANTRIM COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CRYSTAL LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	708.40
EVERGREEN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	395.89	0.00
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH - PELLSTON	75.00	0.00	450.00
LAKE CITY BAPTIST CHURCH	20.00	0.00	120.00
LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NORTHSHORE COMMUNITY CHURCH	50.00	0.00	100.00
OUR FATHER'S HOUSE COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
REDISCOVER FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00
SAFE HARBOR SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE ORCHARD CHURCH	365.67	0.00	3,172.73
Total:	510.67	395.89	4,626.13

PINES ASSOCIATION

ALPINE VILLAGE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	667.49
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	77.15	0.00	526.15
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - ATLANTA	0.00	0.00	50.00
FRESH START FELLOWSHIP OF OSCODA	0.00	0.00	582.59
GOODAR BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	92.78
GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	634.39
GRAYLING BAPTIST CHURCH	86.23	0.00	443.15
HUBBARD LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HURON BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LAKE ST. HELEN BAPTIST CHURCH	139.17	0.00	1,152.16
NEW HARVEST COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
ONAWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	206.29
PATHWAY SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	365.00
PIGEON RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH	278.08	205.00	945.43
ROSCOMMON BAPTIST CHURCH	152.00	50.00	1,227.00
THE CONNECTION SBC	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total:	732.63	255.00	6,892.43

SOUTH CENTRAL ASSOCIATION

AMAZING GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	50.00
CANAAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH OF HASTINGS	0.00	0.00	1,727.49
EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH	727.86	0.00	5,241.21
FAITH BAPTIST - BATTLE CREEK	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - PORTAGE	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACE FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	164.01	0.00	884.25
HARPER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH	556.16	0.00	4,562.56
HIGHER GROUND MINISTRIES OF TEMPLE BC	0.00	0.00	0.00
LAKESIDE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	153.04

LEVEL PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	169.26	0.00	440.56
PRAISE BAPTIST CHURCH - KALAMAZOO	0.00	0.00	902.50
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	657.56
VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	223.74
ZOMI MISSIONS CHURCH	444.20	0.00	1,643.89
Total:	2,061.49	0.00	16,486.80

SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION

AMAZING GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,935.00
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	551.32	0.00	1,318.04
CROSSPOINTE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	8,971.32
DUNDEE BAPTIST CHURCH	270.00	0.00	2,068.00
EVERGREEN ACRES MISSIONARY BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	0.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,618.01
FRENCHTOWN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	515.33	0.00	1,515.78
GRAPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	576.05
HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
KENTUCKY PARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST	25.00	0.00	75.00
LAKESIDE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	300.00
LIBERTY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	304.40	0.00	2,300.85
MONROE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	11,103.23	0.00	58,245.78
PETERSBURG MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
ROCKWOOD MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	40.75	0.00	245.17
TRUE GOSPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
UNION STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total:	12,860.03	0.00	79,169.00

SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION

BANGOR BAPTIST CHURCH	99.00	0.00	485.00
BEACON BAPTIST CHURCH	60.00	0.00	368.00
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH - NILES	360.00	0.00	3,408.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - BERRIEN SPRINGS	48.00	35.00	520.53
GLENDALE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	293.34
NILES AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
ONTWA BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	950.00
THE SANCTUARY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE SHORE	0.00	0.00	1,064.08
Total:	667.00	35.00	7,088.95

UPPER PENINSULA ASSOCIATION

ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH - KINGSFORD	315.00	0.00	1,288.14
ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH - MENOMINEE	152.83	0.00	1,519.41
BAY AREA COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP SBC	177.00	0.00	311.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - DAFTER	100.00	0.00	651.89
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - GWINN	430.83	5.00	3,027.89
GRACE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP	20.00	0.00	106.00
HOUGHTON BAPTIST CHURCH	639.00	0.00	4,463.00
NORTHPOINT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP	179.55	0.00	1,175.35
Total:	2,014.21	5.00	12,542.68

WOODLAND ASSOCIATION

ALL NATIONS BAPTIST CHURCH - HOLLAND	0.00	0.00	0.00
ANCHOR COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	455.00
CHARITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - LUDINGTON	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST KOREAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACE COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HOLLAND SOUTHERN BAPTIST	380.68	0.00	2,520.01
IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANA	0.00	0.00	0.00
IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANA DE ALLENDALE	0.00	0.00	0.00
IB RECONCILIACION - GRAND RAPIDS	0.00	0.00	0.00
LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
REMEDY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
RIVERTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
SONRISE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH	30.00	0.00	180.00
Total:	410.68	0.00	3,155.01

NON-ASSOCIATIONAL

FAITH BAPTIST CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	4,893.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - LINDEN	25.00	0.00	150.00
HARVEY BAPTIST CHURCH	222.14	0.00	1,362.55
HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH - MONROE	0.00	0.00	17,375.10
NORTHBROOK CHURCH	0.00	0.00	100.00
Total:	247.14	0.00	23,880.65
Grand Total:	74,005.55	17,944.81	602,079.02





Flint churches host trilingual fiesta

While many churches seek to reach unchurched people from diverse backgrounds, one recent event stands out.

glorious, awesome God.”

The fiesta offered ethnic foods from Latino countries, a nacho and salad bar, as well as traditional

La Familia MC3, though, the idea of welcoming all people is nothing unique to one event.

“Our church represents a large variety of different types of people,” Truesdail said. “We have Hispanics from all over the world.”

The church began as a mission church, using part of another church’s facility. When another church in the area decided to close its doors and donated their facility to La Familia MC3, the church couldn’t help but give back.

“A deaf church in the area needed a building, so we let them use our fellowship hall,” Truesdail said.

La Familia MC3 uses Spanish songs, contemporary Christian music, and traditional hymns in worship, a blend that Truesdail says helps people of all backgrounds to worship.

“People tend to have a deeper form of worship if they’re worship-

ping in their native language,” Truesdail said.

The church, which has been without a pastor since February, is focused on outreach, as evidenced by the fiesta. They also seek to start leadership training classes to help members use their spiritual gifts.

“I think as a church we have an



The Homecoming Fiesta featured a variety of foods from different parts of the world. (Submitted photo)

Flint’s La Familia Multicultural Community Church - or MC3 - partnered with the Lighthouse Chapel of the Deaf to offer a trilingual church service as part of a Homecoming Fiesta on July 13. The service offered worship in English, Spanish, and sign language.

“Our fiesta allowed people of different cultures and languages to come together under the banner of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,” associate pastor Rick Truesdail said. “We all had a wonderful time celebrating our

American foods such as hot dogs and hamburgers. The event also featured a salsa tasting contest, bounce house, piñata, popcorn, snow cones, and cotton candy.

“Our fiesta is a celebration of God’s grace that extends to all people,” Truesdail said. “It’s a reminder of the Great Commission that tells us to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all the ends of the earth.”

The fiesta served as an opportunity for church members to reach out to those who hadn’t come before. For



The churches offered a variety of games and activities, including a piñata. (Submitted photo)

opportunity to offer a lot,” Truesdail said. “We’ve seen the hand of God work so much over the last few years, it’s hard not to be hopeful.” ■



On July 13, La Familia Multicultural Community Church and Lighthouse Chapel of the Deaf co-hosted a trilingual worship service in English, Spanish, and sign language. (Submitted photo)