

**Southern Baptist Convention**

**June 15-17, 2015 in Columbus, OH**

**Annual Meeting Highlights:**

Spiritual awakening, the defense of marriage and the preservation of religious liberty were among key themes addressed by messengers at the Southern Baptist Convention this year. The meeting was highlighted by a Tuesday night prayer gathering, led by SBC President Ronnie Floyd, with 7,000 in attendance who spent 2 hours in prayer asking God for a third Great Awakening in America, plus the global advance of the gospel.

A total of 5,407 registered messengers took several actions to advance racial and ethnic diversity within the SBC. They also celebrated a first ever joint missions service of International and North American Mission Boards commissioning and sending out sixty new missionaries around the world.

President Ronnie Floyd was re-elected to a second term as president and he called for Southern Baptists to provide spiritual and moral leadership amid a time of crisis in our world.

Other actions taken at the convention were:

-IMB President David Platt denied reports that a new personnel policy lowers standards for missionaries. The policy seeks to align the IMB’s requirements with the Baptist Faith and Message.

-NAMB President Kevin Ezell reported 985 church starts in 2014, a 5% increase from the previous year.

-Messengers amended an EC recommendation that would have allowed the messengers present at any session of an SBC annual meeting to constitute a quorum.

-An EC recommendation was approved to change the name of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary to Gateway Seminary of the SBC.

-Messengers approved an EC recommendation to amend NAMB’s ministry assignment, enabling the convention’s entity charged with facilitating North American missions to “provide specialized, defined and agreed upon assistance to the IMB in assisting churches to plant churches for specific groups outside the U.S. and Canada.”

-WMU elected Linda Cooper of Bowling Green, KY, as president.

-Crossover, the annual evangelistic blitz preceding the annual meeting, yielded at least 4,950 Gospel conversations and 345 professions of faith.

-Nine resolutions addressed pornography, the sanctity of human life and the Cooperative Program among other subjects.

One statement that was made really caught my attention: “Our God can do in a moment what would take us a lifetime to do.”

Terry Mathis, Director of Missions

**JULY MISSION ACTIONS:**

Christian Activity Center in E. St. Louis. Each church is asked to collect school supplies for the children at the center. Collected items can be dropped off at the UBA Office no later than July 27th. They will be picked up on the 28th.

Leadership: Vienna 1st

Ice Cream donations for the Nine-Day Trail Ride. We are asking for homemade or store bought ice cream to be brought to the UBA Office on July 28th, no later than 4:00 p.m. The ice cream will be served at the trail ride. Please call the UBA Office and let us know how many gallons your church will be providing.

Leadership: Dixon Springs

**AUGUST MISSION ACTION:**

Local Crisis Intervention – Each church is being asked to serve the police, firefighters, EMT’s, or other ministries in their community.

**PASTORS’ BOOK**

**STUDY GROUP!**

Please pray for the following teams:

Mexico: July 11-17 – Life Church Eastland – Eighteen people, from Life Church and Simpson, will be traveling to 2 cities and holding VBS during the day and a marriage conference in the evening.

Haiti: July 16-20 – Metropolis 1st- This is a medical mission trip.

Colorado: Nelda Smothers has been serving as an IBSA Disaster Relief Chaplain.

West Memphis, AR: June 22-27- World Changers Group

**CONFERENCE**

**March 15-18**

**Metropolis 1st Baptist**



**AFTER COMPLETING YOUR VBS, PLEASE SEND A COPY OF YOUR REPORT TO THE UBA OFFICE.**

Financial Advisors:

Chester Lawrence and Sherri Pearcy, representing Lawrence and Bean, Vienna, IL, attended our last associational meeting. They presented information about themselves as well as information about the importance of building a financial future for yourself, your family and future generations. Please feel free to contact either one of them at 618-658-9121 or call the UBA Office at 618-524-9738 to set up an appointment for free consultation. Areas that might most benefit you include Social Security, Guidestone (benefits that may change with your coverage due to age), Budgeting, and Investments such as IRA’s, Annuities and Life Insurance.

VBS Dates:

Life Church:June 29-July 3, 9:30 a.m-12:30 p.m.

Hillerman: June 28-July 2, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Metropolis 1st: July 6-10, 9:00 a.m.-noon

Mt. Zion: July 6-10, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Vienna 1st: July 13-17, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Dixon Springs: July 20-24, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Brookport: July 26-30, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Karnak:July 19-23, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Simpson: July 26-30, 6:40-8:30 p.m.

County Line: August 1, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

(One Day)

The association will be holding a book study for pastors. The book we will be studying over the next 3 months is “What to Do When You Don’t Know What to Do”, by Dr. David Jeremiah. We will be looking at and discussing the first 4 chapters on July 1st at 10:00 a.m. at the UBA Office. If you are interested in joining, please let us know. You can purchase the book at LifeWay. The cost is $15.00. After our discussion time, we will go out for lunch and fellowship.

**2015 World Changers**

**June 22-27, 2015**

**West Memphis, AR**

Those who attended World Changers this year are:

Terry Mathis, MacKenzie Easter, Emma Lange, Elizabeth Rottmann, and Heather Rottmann from Metropolis First.

Gary Moore, Eli Windhorst, Jeff Windhorst and Brandon Land from Brookport First.

Bill Burkhead, Miranda Hartline and Madalyn LaDue from Life Church Eastland

Hondo Ragsdale and Adam Ragsdale from Hillerman Missionary

Vivian Burton from New Hope

Jessica Cook and Shawn Stafford from Vienna 1st

Ralph Steel from Sharon Baptist in Mayfield

Calissa Glass from County Line

Zach Walquist from Joppa Missionary

The Send North America Conference is a two-day gathering of the church in North America. The heart of this gathering is to see a movement of people from within the church living out the mission of God in their everyday lives.

This year’s conference will feature leaders who exhibit and lead out in what it means to live life on mission. Their collective heart to see a movement of people joining the everyday mission of God will motivate and equip.

Some of the leaders listed for this conference are David Platt, Russell Moore, H.B. Charles, Jr., Kevin Ezell, Eric Mason, Louie Giglio, and many others. Worship music will be by Crowder, Casting Crowns, Shane and Shane and Passion Band.

If interested in attending as a group, please contact the UBA Office by July 24th. For more information, please visit sendconference.com.

**August 3-4 in Nashville, Tennessee**

**SEND>>NORTH AMERICA**

**CONFERENCE 2015**