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**Volume 1, #37**

**Please continue to pray for the following churches as they search for a pastor:**

**Dixon Springs (Interim, Matt Snell), Seven Mile and**

**Simpson (Interim, Ken Wilson)**

**Pastor & Wife Birthdays**

**June 19 – Leetta Ervin, Pastor’s Wife, Weaver Creek**

**June 22 – David Faulkner, County Line**

**June 23 – Jerry Jackson, Mt. Zion**

**Wedding Anniversaries**

**June 4 – Ed & Sandy Hollis, Vienna First**

**June 6 – Jim & Penny Wilson, Mt. Zion**

**June 13 – Cliff & Michele Easter, Metropolis 1st**

**June 14 – David & Anita Wright, Joppa Missionary**

**June 26 – Matt & Katrina Snell, Dixon Springs**

**June 26 – Ben & Eren Hottel, Hillerman Missionary**

**June 30 – Jake & Leeta Ervin, Weaver Creek**

**June 30 – Glenn & Kim Coram, Immanuel**

**Church Staff Anniversaries**

**David Faulkner, County Line, 2005**

**Dean West, Karnak 1st, 2008**

**Bill Gholson, New Salem, 2011**

**John Windings, Metropolis 1st, 2013**

From the D.O.M.’s Desk:

Change! It’s a word that sends fear up the spine of many church members. I remember someone telling me early in my ministry, “Preacher, no one likes change, not even the babies in the nursery, for when they need to be changed, even they get upset.” The older I get, change is somewhat difficult for even me. I do realize change is sometimes necessary even in the ministry and the church.

Thom Rainer, one of my favorite writers, has written several books and articles on change, both in leadership and in churches. I receive a daily e-mail from him and recently he wrote on the changes that have taken place over the past years. Even our state convention (IBSA) included an article on this in their Connection E-Mail. This got me to thinking about the several changes I’ve seen in our churches and ministries over the past seventeen years as your Director of Mission.

Not all of the changes are bad. Most of them are enhancing the spread of the good news of the gospel. Other changes don’t make a difference in the ministry and its effectiveness. Then there are some changes that I worry about because I fear we may be losing the focus of our main calling. Let me give you five out of the several changes that I’ve seen in the last seventeen years as Director of Missions.

1. The disappearance of church choirs - The change of many churches to Praise & Worship has made a great impact, yet it has taken away the participation of many people in the church. On the other hand, several of the smaller congregations have stopped using a choir and only use a song leader.
2. Dress is more casual - I have to admit that I, myself, have made this change. Suits, ties and beautiful dresses are not as often worn to church. Now, this doesn’t affect the ministry. It is just an observation of change that I have made.
3. Social media - I noticed this change this past year as I taught 5th and 6th grade VBS classes. When I asked them to turn in their Bibles to a certain book, over half of them got their phones out. Good or bad, I don’t know yet, but I hope we don’t create a generation that doesn’t know how to find the books in a hard copy of the Bible. Then there are the videos. I love to use videos, as well as see them being used in the worship and preaching services. They seem to enhance the services and preaching.
4. Lack of missions promotion - We all know about missions, yet I don’t see a lot of promotion about missions. I’m afraid we are raising a generation of believers that know or understand very little about how the Cooperative Program and the Local Association work.
5. Sunday Evening Services disappearing - The churches that have decided to not have Sunday Night Services are having Small Groups in homes, which is not a bad idea. At the churches that still have a Sunday Evening service, I’ve seen a major decline in attendance. I always thought that Sunday Night was the time for the greatest opportunity to teach discipleship to my people. It was also a good time to learn about the work of the church, the doctrine of the church, the mission of the church, evangelism, etc….

These are just a few of the several changes that I have noticed taking place. Again, change is not bad if we keep our focus on the main purpose that Jesus had in His coming.

Luke 19:10—“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.”

Serving the Lord Together,

Terry Mathis

Director of Missions

***Church Contributions for Budget***

***(rec’d & deposited in April)***

Brookport First $ 0.00

County Line $ 400.00

Cypress First $ 48.00

Dixon Springs $ 147.00

Hillerman Missionary $ 912.78

Immanuel $ 277.95

Joppa Missionary $ 929.54

Karnak First $ 681.51

Life Church Eastland $ 200.00

Metropolis First $ 2,416.65

Mt. Zion $ 762.08

New Beginnings $ 0.00

New Hope $ 2,419.03 New Salem $ 0.00

Oak Grove $ 50.05

Seven Mile $ 0.00

Simpson $ 208.00

Vienna First $ 433.33

Waldo $ 466.67

Weaver Creek $ 25.00

**Any offerings received after April 23rd were deposited in May and will show up next month.**

**Compassion**

***“Moved to Move”***

***Matthew 9:35-38***

**Secretary’s office hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

***If you have information that you would like to have included in our monthly newsletter, please call or email the UBA office by the 20th of the month. We would be happy to promote any special events (revival, singing group, special programs/ministries, etc.)***

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*Return Service Requested*

**JUNE 2014 NEWSLETTER**

***MISSION OF THE UBA*** *– To glorify God by assisting its family of churches and other activities to carry out the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20) individually and collectively*

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