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**Sunday, March 9th**

**Don’t forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before bedtime on Saturday night!**

***We would like to welcome Ken and Cindy Wilson, along with their family, to the Union Baptist Association. Bro. Ken is the Interim Pastor at Simpson Baptist.***

 There seems to be a growing concern over the loss of evangelism within our churches. This concern has come as a result in the decline in baptisms over the past several years in the Southern Baptist Convention. Even though, in the Union Baptist Association, our baptisms have been up to their highest in the last couple of years, there is still a need for concern.

 I had the privilege to attend a Director of Missions Conference in Springfield where Dr. Chuck Kelly, President of the New Orleans Theological Seminary, spoke about this matter. Dr. Kelly talked about “Fostering a Positive Baptism Trend in an Association.” There are four areas that he said we need to focus on to make this positive trend happen.

 The first area is the need to Focus on Filling. This is the filling of the Holy Spirit for renewal and revival. We have gotten so used to working without the Holy Spirit that we are not accustomed to who the Holy Spirit is anymore. Secondly, we need to Focus on Fruitfulness. That means that we need to be intentional about evangelism because many of our churches are not reaching out into their community with the gospel. Thirdly, we need to Forcus on Faithfulness, the need to return to discipleship. Our problem today is that we don’t look or act like Jesus as an example for the lost. Finally, we need to Focus on Fighting. This may sound strange, but in order for change to take place in our churches and to reach the lost, there will always be conflict. Instead of fighting over changes, we must realize that, while we do so, there are people dying without Christ and going to hell.

 It all involves us refocusing on the true values of the work of God. We cannot blame others or even the past for the decline. What we need to do is focus passionately and sacrificially on the urgent need to reach people with the gospel in our challenging environment.

 Let’s get intentional about reaching the lost!

Serving the Lord Together,

Terry Mathis

P.S. Please note that included in this newsletter, are several evangelistic opportunities, along with some training events, that can help you and your church with evangelism.

**Pastor Birthdays**

**March 4 – Cliff Easter, Youth Minister**

**Metropolis First**

**March 17 – Dean West, Pastor of Karnak 1st**

**Pastors’ Wives Birthdays**

**March 5 – Grace Buchanan – Metropolis 1st**

**March 7 – Laurel Anderson – Life Church Eastland**

**March 25 - Jenny Windings – Metropolis 1st**

**March 26 – Elaine Jackson – Mt. Zion**

**Wedding Anniversaries**

**March 19 – John & Jenny Windings, Metropolis 1st**

**March 31 –Ryan & Laurel Anderson, Life Church Eastland**

**Pastors’ Church Anniversaries**

**Glenn Coram, Immanuel Baptist (2011)**

***Church Contributions for Budget***

***(rec’d & deposited in January)***

Brookport First $ 339.71

County Line $ 200.00

Cypress First $ 48.42

Dixon Springs $ 212.00

Hillerman Missionary $ 536.47

Immanuel $ 263.64

Joppa Missionary $ 981.87

Karnak First $ 691.47

Life Church Eastland $ 200.00

Metropolis First $ 2,106.82

Mt. Zion $ 344.17

New Beginnings $ 80.73

New Hope $ 2,061.91 New Salem $ 30.00

Oak Grove $ 67.90

Seven Mile $ 0.00

Simpson $ 208.00

Vienna First $ 433.33

Waldo $ 466.67

Weaver Creek $ 25.00

**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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**Union Baptist Association**

**P.O. Box 29**

**Metropolis, IL 62960**

*Return Service Requested*

**MARCH 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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