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**Compassion**

***“Moved to Move”***

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

OCTOBER IS

**Pastor Birthdays**

**September 5 – Glenn Coram, Immanuel**

**September 12 – David Atwell, Worship Leader, Waldo**

**September 17 – Jimmy Wilson, Oak Grove**

**Pastors’ Wives Birthdays**

**September 13 – Anita Wright, Joppa Missionary**

**September 19 – Sandy Hollis, Vienna 1st**

**September 27 – Katrina Snell, Dixon Springs**

**Pastors’ Church Anniversaries**

**2011 – Ben Hottel, Hillerman Missionary**

**2002 – Cliff Easter, Youth Pastor, Metropolis 1st**

***Welcome New Pastor***

*We would like to welcome Dr. Stephen Williams and his wife, Janine, to our association. Dr. Williams is the former Dean of College of the Bible at Mid-Continent University and he will now be the pastor of Simpson Baptist Church.*

 As your Director of Missions, one of my responsibilities is to help churches become and remain healthy. As I think about the qualities of a healthy church, several important functions come to mind. I have listed them below.

The church bases its teachings on the Bible. A strong Biblical foundation is the beginning point of any church. So many times we lose our focus of what the church’s purpose is and that is to have a solid biblical teaching.

The church is a praying church. It is possible to say that we are a praying church, and yet spend very little time in corporate prayer. I believe the church sets the atmosphere of prayer in each of its members’ lives. Maybe some of our churches need to improve upon their example to their members.

The church is driven by a Great Commission focus. This focus removes the inward focus and helps us to stay focused on reaching out beyond ourselves.

The church is reaching non-believers and is not just “swapping sheep” while saying they are growing. Church growth comes through conversions of non-believers coming to know the Lord in their hearts and lives.

The church thinks both locally and globally. Once again, this keeps the focus off of ourselves. Today the world is coming to our doorsteps. Are we, as a church, reaching out locally to all of the ethnic groups who are now in our area.

The church has strategic plans for future growth. Every church should have a goal or vision, plus a strategy in mind on how they want to reach that vision.

Finally, the church has to have leaders who are committed to the ministry of the church. Poor and unfocused leadership is by far the most common problem in unhealthy churches.

 I hope that listing a few of these important functions will help you to see where you are as a member of the church and also to see how your church is doing. My prayer is that we will not be a part of the problem in our churches, but that we will be a part of the solution to a healthy church. As a member of Christ’s church, we are to do our best and be our best in fulfilling the purpose and role of the church.

Serving the Lord Together,

Terry Mathis

**Volume 1, #40**

***Church Contributions for Budget***

***(rec’d & deposited in July)***

Brookport First $ 509.94

County Line $ 200.00

Cypress First $ 47.00

Dixon Springs $ 214.00

Hillerman Missionary $ 596.30

Immanuel $ 260.21

Joppa Missionary $ 0.00

Karnak First $ 519.79

Life Church Eastland $ 200.00

Metropolis First $ 2,350.26

Mt. Zion $ 393.83

New Beginnings $ 0.00

New Hope $ 2,403.86 New Salem $ 0.00

Oak Grove $ 40.95

Seven Mile $ 0.00

Simpson $ 208.00

Vienna First $ 433.34

Waldo $ 466.67

Weaver Creek $ 25.00

**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**

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**Metropolis, IL 62960**

*Return Service Requested*

**SEPTEMBER 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*

**Non-Profit Organization**

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