

North Star Update

A PUBLICATION OF THE MINNESOTA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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Volume III, Issue 7

October 1, 2009

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Calendar

October 5: MBA Executive Committee meets at Community Baptist in New Prague

2010

February 19-20: State Men's Fellowship at First Baptist, Baxter

March 19-20: State Ladies Retreat, Grace Baptist, Owatonna

June 25-26: MBA Annual Meeting, Coon Rapids Baptist, Coon Rapids

"Exalting the Lord Together"

By: Rev. Gerald Stephens, Pastor, Community Baptist, New Prague

As I begin the God-given responsibility of serving as the President of the Minnesota Baptist Association of churches and ministering to my brothers and sisters in Christ I am humbly reminded of my life time verse:

1 Peter 3:15 – *"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:"*

In this verse God has constantly reminded me that my primary goal in life as a child of

God is to "sanctify" the Lord with my life. This means that I must turn everything in my life over to my Savior and live only to please and glorify Him. In my physical body, by myself, that is an impossible task but with the help and strength of the Lord it is entirely possible.

If we as a fellowship of Bible believing churches will focus on glorifying God by preaching the Word, strengthening the saints, and winning the lost we will be able to fully trust God to supply our needs during these difficult times.

The Bible clearly states that

in the last days many will turn away from God's Word to satisfy their selfish desires. Again, as the verse states, we must display a hope and confidence in Christ that will cause unbelievers as well as straying Christians to recognize our faith and strength in the Lord and give us a great opportunity to share with them what Christ has done for us.

We must maintain an attitude of "meekness and fear" –

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Appointed Committees for MBA 2009-2010

Resolutions Committee

Pastor Todd Williamson, Chair
Pastor Rob Adams
Pastor Dennis Eng
Pastor Joe Haynes
Mr. Grayson Nantkes
Dr. Kevin Bauder
Pastor Mark Fish
Pastor Michael Verway

Nominating Committee

Pastor Mark Fish, Chair
Pastor V. Richard Jensen
Dr. Ben Peterson
Rev. David White
Rev. James Snow
Pastor Gerald Stephens
Pastor Cary Flinck
Pastor Matt Morrell

New Options for the Update

With this issue the NSU offers a new option in its delivery system. The hard copies will continue coming in their current numbers until it is determined what each church needs. In addition to the hard copy, the churches are receiving a full color press quality PDF copy.

With this PDF copy a church can deliver the NSU to

readers by email, or it may be printed by the church for its own hard copies. It may be useful to deliver the NSU by email to everyone who attends your church regularly. This can be accomplished by attaching the document to an email. Final analysis of these new distribution options could show areas where significant savings can be

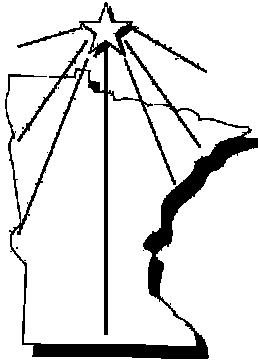
realized.

Please keep in touch with the editor as you utilize the new options presented. It is still our desire that our publication be the best it can be. Your feedback will be indispensable in determining the value of this new option.

One more thing: keep the articles coming.

Fellowship Foundations

By: Rev. Robert J. Fuller, Sr. Interim State Missionary



GOD HAS A PLAN!
YOU AND I ARE A PART OF
HIS PLAN! GOD IS WORK-
ING HIS PLAN!!

We do not recite these absolutes daily, but they are comforting when circumstances demand that we remember them in some fashion. In 1 Thessalonians 4:13 as Paul was teaching on another subject, he gave what I believe can be applied to any of our circumstances, "...that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope." HOPE implies victory for His child over any circumstance.

As Rhoda and I minister and visit among churches we hear of concerns that pastors and congregations are facing. What else we do find, however, is that with these concerns there is the application of HOPE – God's victory is assured.

Since our last Report, we have been privileged to take part in the following ministries:

August 16 – I was invited to preach in the Sunday evening service Granite City Baptist in St. Cloud, Pastor Dennis Campbell (Mary). Pastor Campbell was ministering elsewhere. I

took the opportunity to present a report on the MBA. We so much enjoy the fellowship of the church family there

August 23 – Pastor David Rogers (Suzanne) invited me to supply the pulpit while he completed some vacation which involved establishing one of their daughters in College.

I was privileged to teach Sunday School, preach morning and evening services, and as well to present the work of the Minnesota Baptist Association.

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First Calvary Fall Meetings

Led by Evangelist Ben Everson, the Bible Revival Team held a week of special meetings at First Calvary Baptist Church in Inver Grove Heights featuring the dynamic preaching of Evangelist Ben Everson and the music of the Bible Revival Team. Bible Revival has toured the nation since 1995, and is becoming well-known throughout the country as a multi-faceted ministry of help and challenge to the local church. The preaching and teaching from God's Word was clear and enjoyable, and answered questions from real life situations.

The Bible Revival Team presented the 1-hour "Revival America!" multimedia music program which traces the hand of God in revival on the United States since the beginning. The program featured a large screen and dramatic elements as well as music new and old, and carried a stirring message for believers today.

The people of First Calvary thank the Lord for sending His servants their way. Their



humble spirits confirmed what came from their mouths in sermon and song. This was their first week-long meeting in Minnesota. More on the team is available at www.biblerevival.com

Hymn Books Available from Grace Baptist, Waseca

Grace Baptist of Waseca has some "Living Hymns" hymnbooks to give away. Of the 56 books, 35 are in good

condition and 21 are in fair to poor condition. If your church is interested in acquiring these hymnals, please contact Dr.

Clarke Poorman, pastor of Grace Baptist Church at (507) 835-2213, or by email at clarke-poorman@gmail.com.

MBA Family Camp 2009 Report

Our MBA Family Camp, held August 3 - 7 on Woman Lake, was a great week. Eighty-seven people registered. And we praise the Lord that that camp had more family units this year.

Evangelist Paul Crow preached morning and evening. His messages were an encouragement to families. He also brought an outstanding message on Baptist history. What a wonderful heritage we have!

Pastor Todd Williamson did a great job with youth recreational activities for everyone. Mrs. Kitty Verley led the choir very capably.

Pastor Dave Rogers led singing with his wife Suzanne at the piano. We were blessed with lots of good special music, as well. Mrs. Gail Nordmark taught kids in grades one through six during all the adult sessions. The kids brought us a special presentation on Thursday evening - singing and Bible memory.

Mrs. Pam Dvorak headed the nursery, assisted by many volunteers.

A variety of afternoon activities were available - on the grounds and in the area - Mini Golf, Golf, Turtle Race, Family Canoeing.

There were several challenging workshops on Missions, Reaching the Next Generation, and Soul Winning. The sessions were led by Pastors Doug Roman, Clarke Poorman, and Dennis Campbell.

It's a blessing to have a bookstore run by Mr. and Mrs. Lyle and Nancy Palm of St. Francis. They stocked many good and helpful items for those attending.

The dates for next year's Family Camp are August 2 - 6. Please put it on your calendar now so you will have it in your busy schedule.

Spring Valley Celebrates a New Building

Nearly one year after the groundbreaking service, First Baptist Church, Spring Valley, celebrated its first service in their new facilities. The congregation had been meeting at the local ambulance center and everyone was quite excited to, once again, have a church home. Long-time member,

Erma Werth, commented, "It feels like coming home again." While there is much excitement over the building, the congregation was challenged through songs and scripture that our aim is glorify God and the work He has done and can do. Pastor Joe Haynes reminded the congregation of the importance of wor-

ship. Worship as a first response of God working in the lives of Old Testament individuals was highlighted.

An open house/dedication weekend is being planned for November 7-8.

The building is located at: 701 Kasten Dr., Spring Valley, MN 55975.



"Exalting," continued from page 1

"meekness" in recognizing that our strength comes only through our obedience and love for Christ and "fear" in that we are accountable for our actions and will one day stand before

Jesus Christ who will examine not only our lives but our motives as well.

May God help us to encourage one another as we strive to overcome the trials of

this life to the glory and praise of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

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We're on the web!
<http://www.mbaoc.org>

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Fellowship Foundations, continued from page 2

Mrs. Rogers provided a wonderful lunch, with some other friends who had been invited.

August 30 – In order for Pastor Todd Williamson to attend the retirement celebration for his father, Dr. Brian Williamson, I was invited to teach Sunday School, preach the in the morning service, and enjoy the usual great carry-in lunch. After lunch, I preached the early evening service in the afternoon. Again, I was allowed

to present an update of the MBA.

September 6 – While Pastor Joe Haynes (Cathy) and family were in Illinois helping Brother Haynes' parents arranging a residential move, I was invited to preach at First Baptist, Spring Valley. Along with presenting the work of the MBA, I preached the morning service, and two nursing home services, one in Spring Valley and the other in Ostrander. The Church's new building con-

struction is almost complete, and occupancy will be allowed soon.

September 8 – As an *ex-officio* member of the MBA Executive Committee and Board of Trustees, I attended the full day meeting at Community Baptist Church, Pastor Gerald Stephens (Dana). Pastor Stephens is President of the Board.

If there is a way we can minister to your church, please contact me.

Information Update

New Address for Bible Baptist Church (formerly of Elk River)

Bible Baptist Church
15670 90th St. NE, Suite A
Otsego, MN 55330

New e-mail Address for Sand Creek Baptist Church, Jordan
sandcreekbaptist@comcast.net