



# The Baptist Observer Magazine

BECKY SEPTOSKI, EDITOR • VOL. 10 NO. 2 • MARCH/APRIL, 2011

HIGHLIGHTING THE MINISTRIES OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES IN INDIANA & KENTUCKY

## 2011 - YEAR OF DISCIPLESHIP

As we continue to focus upon DISCIPLESHIP this year, let's review some of the themes that Jeff Jones lifted up during the "Traveling Together" event in Terre Haute on February 19, 2011. First of all, it is important to remember the culture in which we are living. It is a secular culture, and one can no longer assume that persons have any religious background. This secular culture affects everyone to one degree or another through various avenues such as TV, movies, music and other media. I share this to remind us that what we are experiencing in our church is the same thing that is happening in every church today.

We all face similar challenges. The place to begin growth is within our own lives and churches. **How can I be a better disciple of Jesus Christ? How can our church do a better job of discipling one another?** At the Discipleship Event, we focused upon three areas of our life in Christ.

To be a disciple of Jesus Christ is to be growing in our relationship to Jesus. To grow we need to continue to deepen our relationship with Jesus. Every relationship that is growing is **deepening**. Deepening our relationship with Jesus requires us to spend time with Him. Time spent reading the stories of Jesus (Bible). Time spent talking and listening to Jesus (prayer). Time thinking about how Jesus wants us to live (discernment). We can do these things on our own, but they are greatly enhanced when we do them with other disciples. In that way, we encourage and support one another. We hold one another accountable for our growth.

To be a disciple of Jesus Christ is to be growing in our abilities and knowledge. This **equipping** happens



**Jim Walter, Northwest Area Resource Minister**

as we live our lives following Jesus. We all have more potential than we realize. We all have more gifts/talents/skills than we realize. To be a disciple of Jesus is to become what Jesus has called us to be. Equipping may take the form of more knowledge of the Bible as we study. It may take the form of discovering more about our spiritual gifts. Equipping may take the form of practicing a particular spiritual discipline. It might even take the form of learning a new skill.

To be a disciple of Jesus Christ is to be growing in our ministry. Jesus said, "the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve". A disciple of Jesus is growing in **ministering** in the name of Jesus. Ministering takes place both within and outside of the church. We might minister by being a teacher or leader. We might minister by using our gifts in service in the community. We might minister by doing short term mission work. A growing disciple is growing in areas of ministering.

This **deepening, equipping and ministering** are all going on at the same time. When we deepen our relationship with Jesus, he leads us into more ministries and more ministries may help us realize our need for more equipping. And on it goes for as long as we live. We never graduate from the school of being a disciple of Jesus. We are on a life-long journey. And what an amazing journey it is! To learn more about how your church can become a disciple-forming congregation contact jimwalter@abc-indiana.org.

## Mission Team Travels to Chile



A mission encounter team of 16 men and women from 10 IN/KY churches recently visited our missionaries Dwight and Barbara Bolick in Chile. The group first visited Cerro Verde, Concepcion and Coronel which are areas damaged by last year's earthquake and tsunami. They learned that funds from One Great Hour of Sharing are assisting and complimenting, not duplicating what the government is doing. The group witnessed first hand the ministry of local churches among the displaced families in their own areas. Other Baptist churches are developing a new sense of volunteerism and

service as they send teams to help in the devastated areas as well.

The second half of the encounter was split between Temuco, home of the Bolicks, and the Mapuche area where they focus their ongoing ministry to the indigenous people. The group assisted with summer gatherings of the local Girls Clubs begun by Barb Bolick and the local churches.

The team returned from the encounter touched by the ministry and commitment of the Bolicks, proud of the use being made of world relief funds, and cherishing new friendships made with fellow Baptists in Chile.

## Missionary Networks Connect You Directly with Missionaries

Taku and Katie Longkumer are newly endorsed International Ministries development workers for Northeast India. They will be our partners with the Council of Baptist Churches in Northeast India. Taku and Katie will provide training and counseling to prepare indigenous missionaries for cross-cultural ministry to reach the rest of Northeast India as well as the people of Southeast Asia.

The Longkumers are seeking churches and individuals to partner with them as part of their missionary network to provide the prayer and financial support necessary to place them in the field this fall. They will be

in Indiana during the first two weeks of May and would love to come and share with you. They are available for Sunday services, mid-week services or Bible studies, mission dinners/programs or small group meetings. Katie is available as a speaker at ABW mother-daughter banquets or other gatherings.

If you would like to schedule Taku and/or Katie, contact them directly at Katielkr@yahoo.com or by calling (309) 361-4414. For more information go to [www.internationalministries.org/missionaries/373](http://www.internationalministries.org/missionaries/373).

## ABC-IN/KY Vision Statement

**"As the hands and feet of Christ, *compelled* by his love, we will *do whatever it takes* to reach the lost and serve our communities and churches."**



**Dr. Don Scott**  
Interim Executive Minister  
donscott@abc-indiana.org

## It's Good to Give Thanks!

One of the things our Region leadership may not do often enough or well enough is say "thank you." So I want to use this space to do just that. Here are 10 things for which I'm thankful ...

Thank you for your prayer and expressions of support for our Region staff.

Thank you for your 2010 financial support for our Region. While United Mission continued to drop, our Region Mission Offering and Specifics (IN-KY Ministries)

showed a healthy increase over 2009.

Thank you for reporting your church's 2010 baptisms. The latest number I saw was 909 baptisms, nearly a 50% increase over the reported number for 2009.

Thank you, in advance, for submitting your annual "Clerk Report." This is extremely helpful to us.

Thank you for your participation in 2011 Region activities and ministries with this year's emphasis of "Discipleship."

Thank you to those who recently traveled to and ministered in Chile and to those who serve on Missionary Partnership Teams and Missionary Partnership Networks.

Thank you to our Region Board and the executive minister search committee for their time and hard work.

Thank you to committed and faithful pastors for the difference your ministry makes in your congregation, community, and in our Region.

Thank you for encouraging children, youth and adults to be involved in Christian camping this summer...great opportunities at Indian Creek, Tippy, and Southeastern!

Thank you for living in such a way that your life becomes a Christian witness.

These are a few Region related things for which I am thankful. What would you add to the list?

## Leadership Development

Your church will soon be receiving the Clerk Reports for 2010. The information your church submits on this report is important for many reasons, and I encourage every church to fill out and return your report as soon as possible. But, I am convinced that there is one piece of information that is very important to you and your congregation that is not included on that report. How many of the people attending your churches are being developed as leaders?

I am convinced that everything rises and falls on leadership. If we want to see our churches healthier and enjoying active, vital ministry, it will be the leaders in the churches that make that happen. One of the most important tasks of pastoral and lay leadership is to identify persons in their churches that show leadership potential. Once these persons are identified, it then becomes important to challenge them to develop that potential and offer ways for that development to occur.

Years ago, I was asked by the church we attended if I would become a deacon. I served as a deacon in that church for a couple of years when the pastor asked if I had ever thought God might be calling me into the ministry. I admitted I had entertained those thoughts in the past, but had never acted on them. It wasn't until I was challenged to consider such a calling that I realized that God had called me to pastoral ministry. Since then, I have wondered if I would have ever responded to that call on my life if someone I respected had not challenged me and assured me he believed he saw ministry and leadership gifts in me. How many potential leaders are sitting in our churches today waiting for someone to challenge them to do more than they are currently doing?

In nearly every workshop I lead, a pastor of a smaller church will voice concern that there are no leaders in his or her church, or the complaint will be that there are only two or three people who are willing to provide leadership. My response to these



**Dennis Bickers, Southeast Area Resource Minister**

pastors is to work with the ones you have. Rejoice if you can identify one or two potential leaders in your church. Find ways to help them develop the gifts God has given them. As they begin to assume leadership positions in your church, you may find there are one or two others who have leadership potential, and you can begin to work with them. Soon you can have a pipeline of leaders being developed who can begin new ministries, provide new leadership to existing ministries and increase the impact your church makes on its community.

It's also important to remember the ongoing development of your current leadership. Growing churches are led by growing leaders. Leaders want opportunities to grow, and it's important to provide them those opportunities.

Remember that the Church Leadership Institute (CLI) can be an important tool in developing leaders in your church. CLI offers a wide range of classes that focus on the spiritual development of leaders and provides training in practical ministry skills, as well as, sound theological training. Through CLI, your Region can come alongside your church to provide training for your current and future leaders. Check out the information about CLI on the Region website or contact Jennifer Greene at the Region office (317)-635-3552 X221 for more details about this program.





# ABW NEWS and NOTES

## Ministry in Your Church and Community

By: Roxie Hobbs

"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with action and in truth."

1 John 3:18 NIV

Think about the ministries in our churches. Are we still doing the same ministries and programs in our churches as we've always done? Are we willing to change? If those ministries and programs are not working, how about asking God to use us in a different area? Maybe even an area that is out of our comfort zone. That's when we

really have to depend on God to get the job done. He's the one who does it anyway.

What changes have taken place in your church or community recently? How are those needs being met? Maybe God has a new ministry for you.

With Jesus, we are constantly growing and changing and so are the methods we use to bring people to the Lord. How will we meet those needs? Only God knows. He will give us what we need when we need it if we are open to Him and obey Him.

Are we waiting for God to call us to something big? What is big? If we do the smallest thing in God's will, it's big!

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

Col. 3:17 NIV

## White Cross Update

By: Libby Wilcox

Many thanks are offered to all those who are working so hard to fill the White Cross Request. Chris Marziale, IM White Cross Coordinator, wants all to know how much the monetary gifts and handwork requests are appreciated. There is still a lot of work to be done, so be sure to include everyone in your congregation as

we continue the work of rolling bandages and putting health kits together along with responding to the other requests. We can meet the needs with God's help! Also, remember to fill out the proper forms and get them sent in on time. For help and any questions, contact White Cross Chairman, Libby Wilcox at wilcoxfamily3@comcast.net.

## AB Girls Joy Jamboree

It is time to start planning and thinking about the AB Girls JOY Jamboree being held on May 6-7 at Columbus FBC for all girls in 3rd-5th grade. Registrations can be obtained by emailing [abgirls@ymail.com](mailto:abgirls@ymail.com) or [music1jk@ymail.com](mailto:music1jk@ymail.com), or downloading from <http://abc-indiana.org>. Registrations are \$20 per person, and due by March 12th. For any questions or news just check out the Facebook page entitled Abgirls Joy Indiana. It would be wonderful to have the AB Girls of Faith come

and serve at this year's Jamboree. There are scholarships available and possible late registrations can be accepted by calling or emailing Tracy at the above emails or calling 812.793.3033. For ideas on how to help your AB girls grow, please visit <http://www.abwministries.org/resources>. Plan now to register for this exciting event coming in May!



## AB Girls Gathering - June 3-5 Come Discover Diamonds in Distress

When a diamond is first found, it really looks like a

common, dark, rough, old stone.

As the cutting and polishing begins, a diamond takes on a new appearance and increases in its value. Only after undergoing much pressure and constant shaping does it begin to sparkle and shine.

Sometimes, there are pressures and pain in life that serve to refine one's character. Just as a diamond becomes beautiful and priceless to many, God wants us to become His precious and shining treasures.

## Summer Conference 2011

By: Robin Nolin

As the Lord said through Jeremiah, "Can I not do with you as this potter does? Like the clay in the hand of the potter, so you are in my hand."

In planning for the ABW Summer Conference, the committee looks to the Lord to arrange the weekend that He desires. It is shaping up to be one of heart tugging stories from missionaries, challenging Bible studies, music to lift the heart, and laughter - so much laughter!

How will the Lord remold you as the weekend unfolds? Give you a new best friend? Issue a challenge to take to your women's group? Introduce a missionary to become a part of your daily prayer list? Will a refreshed and renewed momma return to her family? You will never know what the Lord has in store for you unless you are there!

Our Master Potter will be busy at Franklin College June 3-5, 2011. Watch for information on [www.abc-indiana.org](http://www.abc-indiana.org). Plan to attend. Make plans now for the Lord to reshape you a little, or maybe a lot!

# SOUTHEAST AREA

## “The Gifts of Christmas”



On December 11, 2010, Columbus FBC shared “The Gifts of Christmas” with 150 people from the church and community. The “Gift of Christmas” was a dessert night followed by a bell choir concert led by director, Joyce Crowder.

Prior to the evening, table hosts

and hostesses were chosen. Members of the church gathered on Wednesday nights to create decorations for the tables. The hosts and hostesses invited members as well as those in the community to the event.

It was a wonderful evening enjoyed by all.

## Sardinia BC Celebrated 175th Anniversary in 2010

The beginnings of Sardinia Baptist Church stretch back in to history beyond its founding in February of 1835. Families from colonies that formed the United States of America moved into the new frontier area of newly organized Indiana. They brought with them their faith and made it a priority to plant new churches as the communities began to form.

William and Achsah Stribling, John and Elizabeth Chambers, John and Eliza Graham, James and Mary Blankenship, Mary Chambers and Catherine Eli were the founding members of what was first named Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church.

These ten people drew up the articles of Faith and a church Constitution. In 1837, a small area of the wilderness was cleared to build a log church house. In 1860, the oldest section of the current building was constructed of brick. Other remodeling and an educational wing have since been added.

During the past twelve months, the now named Sardinia BC has been celebrating the 175 anniversary of its founding. The kick off rally was held on February 21, 2010, 175 years to the

day of the founding. Guest speaker for the morning was Rev. Steve Malone.

Other activities were held throughout the year such as, an old fashioned ice cream social, a Memorial service for deceased members, and an Old Fashioned Bible School.

In November of each year since 1963, Harvest Day has been celebrated with an afternoon service and a special Harvest offering to express gratitude to God for the many blessings of the past year. Rev. John McKeown, who had served as the pastor from 1972-1975, was the guest speaker this year.

In December, an “Old Fashioned Christmas” was celebrated with a Christmas eve service led by pastor Rev. Tom Rust. On Sunday morning, December 26, an old fashioned themed service was held.

The pot-bellied stoves, hitching posts, and hand-pump water well are all items of the past. Life moves at a much faster pace. Mail moves at the click of a button. One thing remains constant though - God is still alive and working in the lives of His people, including those at Sardinia BC. We give Him all the glory.

## Columbus FBC Women Hold Retreat



Lois Griffith, Retreat Leader

On the weekend of January 21-23, 2011, 56 women from Columbus FBC and other churches gathered at Clifty Falls St. Park Inn for their third annual retreat with Lois Griffith as the retreat leader. The theme of the retreat centered on two New

Testament characters, Mary and Martha. Throughout the weekend, Griffith spoke about being like Mary and Martha. Griffith cited examples of other Marys in the Bible who ministered to Jesus. At the close of the retreat, Griffith sent those in attendance home with the message that the women mentioned in the Bible “did what they could!”

There were a variety of activities as well as a special treat on Sunday morning. A choir from Louisville, KY was holding a retreat across the hall and they sang for the group.

Everyone enjoyed the weekend and the surroundings were beautiful.

## Aurora FBC Celebrates Opening of New Sanctuary

On Sunday, November 21, 2010, the sanctuary was opened with 214 in attendance. It was a very special service designated to thanking and praising God for the beautiful sanctuary. Pastor Bill Secret gave a powerful message titled, “Christ is Exalted”. What a wonderful service to praise the One who is worthy to be exalted and praised!

The official celebration titled “The Believer’s Dream Celebration” was held on Sunday, February 20, 2011, with an Open House from 1:30-5:00. The program consisted of local vocalists and musicians, church history, former Pastors and tours of the facilities.

## Nine Baptized at Aurora FBC

On December 5, 2010, Aurora FBC held their first baptisms in the new sanctuary. Nine people were baptized, including a brother and sister, two brothers, a father and son, and the son of Pastor Bill Secret. What a day of celebration!

To complete the experience of a Believers’ Baptism, a special Communion Service was held. Those baptized and their families were able to share the Lord’s Supper together first, followed by the congregation. They were able to experience both of these ordinances which exemplify obedience to our Lord’s commands.

Another baptism was held Sunday, December 26, 2010 with a younger sister from the prior group being baptized. God continues to bless, as a third baptism is presently being planned.



# WEST CENTRAL AREA

## Bethel BC Building Project Moves Ahead As Planned



The Fellowship Hall addition to Bethel BC (Owen County) is moving ahead as planned. In September of 2010, Bethel BC received approval from the State and County government to implement a building project that includes new rooms for Sunday School and Summer Bible School; additional bathroom facilities; and a multi-purpose room.

Rain, sleet, snow and other elements did not slow down the volunteers that have worked through all of this in preparation of a Spring 2011 completion date.

The entire congregation is involved in the building project through prayer and volunteer services.

Bethel BC was established in January 1822. The church has been updated throughout the years to add a basement, a new section for classrooms and a nursery. This is the first major addition since 1958.

Rev. Maurice C. Wright is the minister at Bethel BC at this time and has been there since the 175th anniversary celebration in 1997. Bethel will celebrate its 190th anniversary in January of 2012.

## God is Moving at Amo FBC!

God is moving at Amo FBC! The family of God at First Baptist celebrated the decision of Deacon, Calvin Worrall, to seek deeper discipleship through Church Leadership Institute (CLI) training at Franklin College. CLI is a specialty program focused on equipping believers to be stronger witnesses and leaders for Kingdom work. Pastor Shelly A. Zook led a service of dedication to acknowledge this milestone in the Worrall family, as well as, the history of the church as Calvin embarks upon this journey. Calvin & Christina Worrall were prayed for, and encouraged by their Pastor and the congregation. The congregation also pledged to pray for and support the family as Calvin participates in CLI. Congratulations Calvin!



## Amo FBC Contributes to Community and Beyond

During 2010, Amo FBC received many boxes of travel size personal hygiene items which included shampoo, conditioner, sewing kit, body lotion, lip balm, shaving kit, flip flops, shower caps, deodorant, and refreshing facial spray. The homeless in Indianapolis, Sheltering Wings in Danville, Amo Mustard Seed

Food Pantry, State Baptist church camps, baby baskets (personal items for the new mom!), and military personnel have all been recipients of these items. Praise is given to God for these gifts that have been shared by Amo FBC with so many ministries!

# NORTHEAST AREA

## Rushville FBC Serves Local Food Pantry

The community food pantry in Rushville challenged the congregation of Rushville FBC to collect 400 boxes of cereal (or money to purchase cereal) because of the increased need due to the school Christmas break. The project was led by Jane Sparks. Each week in December, the congregation was challenged with a skit or short

message concerning the importance of breakfast. The children decorated the Christmas tree in the foyer with small cereal boxes received during the children's message. By the end of the month, God had blessed the community pantry with much more than the original goal.

## 73rd Annual ABM-IN/KY-GI Men's Spring Conference & Worship Weekend

May 20-21, 2011

Camp Tippecanoe

6EMS Lane T52 A North Webster, IN

[www.camptippy.org](http://www.camptippy.org)

**THEME: The Call to be "The Uncommon Man"**

**Conference Leader: Rev. Jon Carlstrom**

**WORK PROJECT - Friday at 10:00 am**

For more information contact: Don Hardesty

(812) 376-7339 or email [don\\_janie@att.net](mailto:don_janie@att.net)

**GOLF OUTING - Friday at 10:00 am**

For reservations contact Ken Miller

(812) 379-4382 or email [ken55miller@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ken55miller@sbcglobal.net)

The conference begins with registration at 5:00PM on Friday, followed by a wiener roast at 6:30PM and the first session at 7:30PM. Bring bedding and towels.

Registration forms and more details are available on the website at: [abc-indiana.org](http://abc-indiana.org)

## KEEPING UP WITH SENIOR ADULTS!

### The Hills of Brown and All Around!



*THE HILLS OF BROWN AND ALL AROUND* was the theme for the October 7, 2010, Senior Adult Day hosted at the Unity Baptist Church. Guylia Bunge, chair of the SENIOR ADULT DAY committee and member of Unity Baptist, invited the six churches of the Mt. Zion Association in the

West Central area – Country Gospel Music, Little Union, New Prospect, New Unionville, Project X, and Unity – to join in coordinating and implementing this history making event, a Senior Adult Day hosted by an association of churches.

Great music, inspiring messages, and good food were enjoyed by nearly 300 who gathered from the regional churches of the ABC of IN-KY and the ABCGI. Music selections,

devotions, and prayers were provided by the hosting churches. Harvey E. Ranard, Commander with Chaplain Corps United States Navy Retired, was the keynote speaker presenting “Taking Care of Our Own.” Featured music was provided by the Country Gospel Music Church, directed by Romilda Hamontre, along with the Good Time Gals and Guys (formerly of The Pine Box Theatre).

*Pictures from left to right:*

*Top left: History Making sign - “We’ve Never Done It This Way Before”*



*Bottom Left: Harvey Ranard, Commander, Chaplain Corps US Navy Retired, and Pastor at Unity BC*

*Bottom Right: Those standing are being honored for service in the military*

## Honoring Guylia Bunge for 17 Years of Service

Guylia Bunge, chair of the Senior Adult Day regional ministries, announced her resignation that began with plans to fill a two-year vacancy. Guylia writes, “The July 22, 1993 Senior Adult Day program at McDoel Baptist Church states high noon grace was given by Guylia Bunge...! It was an historic day for me – little did I know I would still be involved some 17 years later as we celebrated a real historic Senior Adult Day on October 7, 2010! What a GRAND DAY! What an exciting ride it has been! I do wonder whatever happened to that “Term Expiring in 1995? ... I have had the opportunity to meet and fellowship with wonderful folks all along the way. ... I am thankful the Lord guided me to this place of ministry.”

Prayers and best wishes to



*Guylia Bunge honored at October 7 Senior Adult Day*

Guylia as she enjoys new adventures. Her gift for leadership, friendship, and wonderful sense of humor are treasures to be honored. She will be greatly missed!

## SPRING PROM FOR SENIOR KINGS AND QUEENS APRIL 7, 2011 Calvary BC, Kokomo

Calvary Baptist Church, Kokomo, will host the next Senior Adult Day event on Thursday, April 7, 2011. If you missed out on attending your senior prom, you are blessed with another opportunity to dress for a special day – prom attire of long dresses or dressy church-type dresses for the ladies/queens and suits/ties for the gentlemen/kings!

Dig through the closet for the outfit you wore to your church’s history-making event or a mother’s/grandmother’s dress you wore to a wedding; get out the sewing machine; or make a trip to the Goodwill Store! Be creative if you want to dress for the occasion – hats, gloves, umbrellas,

bowties, and canes.

Please remember that formal dress is optional – don’t let that keep you from enjoying the day! The theme is keeping with Calvary’s year-long Centennial celebrations – this Senior Adult Day event will honor all those Kings and Queens who have faithfully contributed to the long history of the AB Churches of the Indiana regions!

Save the date – plan to attend – you do not have to be a “senior adult” to attend these day-long gatherings. Everyone and anyone who enjoys good Christian fellowship is welcome!

## Camp and Winter Wonder?

By: Jordan and Mindy Morris, Indian Creek Baptist Camp



Do your kids ever talk about camp in the winter time? Do they wonder about retreats, reminisce about the fun they had the past summer, exclaim how they can't wait to attend camp again the upcoming summer? Do you wonder what could be done at camp in the winter time and what there is to be involved in?

Your answer can be found very simply in one of the pillars of our faith; prayer! There is much going on at camp in the winter months - from general maintenance and upkeep of the grounds to the major planning and organizing for the upcoming season. BE IN PRAYER about all these things. As newlyweds, Mindy and I need prayer as we work together in a ministry that we are both totally passionate about, while still growing in our

love and marriage. We need prayer in continuing to have retreats weekend after weekend, sharing the ICBC grounds and our love of Christ with many others. We need prayer as we plan and fill every camp with the directors and cabin leaders that God is leading here this summer. We need prayer that we will be good stewards of the funds we've been blessed with to acquire things the camp needs to improve and stay effective and efficient. The future campers need prayer that their hearts and minds will be prepared even now for their camp experience some six months away. BE IN PRAYER! We need it!

If, after your prayers, God continues to lead you to wonder what you can do, there are many opportunities to help. We are always in need of many things. Begin by checking our website for an updated "needs list" and see where you or your church family can help. Call or email about setting up a service time or a weekend retreat. We would even appreciate a call or note to just encourage us as well! We don't have to wonder what God will do at camp - He'll always provide, secure, and bless this place. God is good!

## The Door to Discipleship



A door is a simple thing. It is merely a frame with a moveable section by which an entrance way can be opened or closed. Whether they are plain or fancy, doors all serve the same purpose as an avenue of passage.

And yet, though the purpose is the same, passing through various doors can bring to mind a myriad of different feelings. For example, the sights, smells, noises and feeling of anticipation that greet me when I enter a restaurant are quite different from those when I opened the main door to the nursing home where my mother lived for many years. A student can open a classroom door with excitement or dread; the same goes for a worker, depending on whether that person loves or hates their job. Doors to my home, the theatre, a shopping mall, hospital, church sanctuary, book store, a funeral home, an ice cream parlor all conjure up different emotions within me depending on my past experience in that place, and therefore, my expectations of what may take place once I go through that doorway.

So what does passing through the door to discipleship feel like and where is it? Is it the door to a Sunday School classroom or to a room where a Bible study takes place? Is it the door to the fellowship hall where interaction with fellow Christians happens? Could it be the door to a

coffee shop where someone is mentored, or the door to our home where someone is welcomed? Because we learn to be disciples, not just from study, but also from watching other disciples, the door to discipleship can be anywhere. The feelings that go with people as they pass through that door can vary greatly from the person who has had a wonderful church experience, to the person who has not, to the person who has had no experience at all.

Doors are simple, but very important things. It is hard to imagine our lives without the access they provide. The door to discipleship can be a little more complex because there are so many variables, but it is also of utmost importance in giving us the access we need to grow and live as Christ's disciples.

Discipleship Partners is an available resource to help open doors for the local church. You may contact Ruth Proctor at 260-493-1694 or at [proctor606@frontier.com](mailto:proctor606@frontier.com) for more information.

## 2011 Summer Camp Schedules

### Indian Creek Baptist Camp

Camp	Grade	Date	Cost
Young Adult	Ages 19-25	June 2-4	\$ 70
Backpacking A	10th & 11th	June 5-11	\$240
Teen	9th & 10th	June 5-11	\$225
Backpacking B	8th & 9th	June 12-18	\$240
Trailblazer	5th & 6th	June 12-18	\$225
Backpacking C	6th & 7th	June 19-23	\$240
Explorer	2nd & 3rd	June 19-21	\$100
Discovery A	3rd & 4th	June 22-25	\$125
Senior High	11th-'11 Grads	June 26-July 2	\$225
Special Persons	Age 14 & up	July 3-7	\$160
First Timers	K & 1st	July 8-9	\$ 65
Challenge	7th & 8th	July 10-16	\$225
Focus (formally known as MAD)	6th-9th	July 17-23	\$225
Discovery B	4th & 5th	July 24-28	\$155

### Tippecanoe Baptist Camp

Camp	Grade	Date	Cost
Explorer	2nd & 3rd	June 12-16	\$170
1st Timers	K & 1st	June 17-18	\$ 65
Trailblazer	5th & 6th	June 19-25	\$240
M.M.A.D.	7th-12th	June 26-July 2	\$240
Outdoor Adventure	7th & 8th	June 26-July 2	\$245
NEW: Leadership	7th-10th	July 5-9	\$245
Sr. High/Aqua Camp	9th-'11 Grads	July 10-16	\$245
Challenge	7th & 8th	July 17-23	\$240
Discovery	3rd & 4th	July 24-30	\$240
NEW: Golf	2nd-6th	July 31-August 6	\$275
NEW: College	College Students	August 5-7	\$100*

\*Any college student who volunteers at least one week during the summer gets a \$20 discount at College Camp!



Indiana Baptist Convention  
**AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES  
OF INDIANA AND KENTUCKY**  
1350 N. Delaware St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-2493

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**Dan Barringer, Southwest Area  
Resource Minister**

and invited many people to dine with him. Once the meal was ready, he sent his servant to those who had been invited to tell them, "Come; for all is now ready." Unfortunately, all of those invited offered excuses for not attending.

When the servant informed his master, the master became angry. These people had accepted his invitation, but now offered hollow excuses for not attending. The master then commanded his servant to travel the city streets and bring the poor, the disabled, the blind and the destitute to his supper.

When the servant returned following the second mission, he reported, "Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room." In other words, "...there are still empty seats."

The master then sent his servant on a third mission, this time into to "...the highways and hedges" with the instruction, "Go....and compel people to come in, that my house might be filled."

Well, the numbers from 147 churches reporting baptisms throughout 2010 are in and we have reason to celebrate! Our total number of "reported" baptisms is 934, just 76 short of the goal of "1010 in 2010". We will have a final number when Annual Church Reports are received.

In Luke 14:16-24, Jesus told the parable of a man who prepared a great feast



This parable has meaning that is not confusing. The master represents God. The great supper represents salvation and God's presence with the joy, peace and blessings that come with it. The servant represents you and me. As the servant was sent to invite all kinds of people for the great supper, so we are sent to invite people to share in a relationship with God. Our primary task is to ensure that individuals know they are wanted, welcome and worthy to sit at the Lord's table.

Many of our churches seem to settle for less than our Lord would, a full house. Sitting in a half empty worship center on Sunday morning seems to fully satisfy some folks. I have never felt that empty seats bring honor to God. Dusty, unused pews do little to recommend God to an indifferent, preoccupied world.

A full house, however tells a different story. If God's people would show up, our churches would fill up, and the world would sit up and take notice! According to this parable, the answer to filling the house is to keep going and going and going outside of ourselves. Delivering the invitational message through every ministry tool we can create with the conviction that all things are ready, every person is welcome, and all excuses are empty.