



The Baptist Observer Magazine

BECKY SEPTOSKI, EDITOR • VOL. 10 NO. 1 • JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 2011

HIGHLIGHTING THE MINISTRIES OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES IN INDIANA & KENTUCKY

Turbulence! ABY 2011 Convention

Over 400 junior and senior high youth and their leaders from the Indiana-Kentucky and Greater Indianapolis Regions gathered to worship, engage in mission and learn how to confront the turbulence in their lives. The gathering took place at Kokomo High School on November 12, 13 and 14. The theme "Turbulence" was based on James 1:1-6: "Consider it pure joy, my friends, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks



wisdom, ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because anyone who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind."

The youth put their energies into mission, collecting donations totaling \$2,530.17 for Coordinated Assistance Ministries Inc., a ministry to the homeless in



Kokomo. Youth and their leaders attended workshops and engaged in meaningful sharing.

Energetic worship, led by 1000 Generations, and personal testimonies from individuals who have had turbulence in their lives and have experienced God's working through that turbulence gave special meaning to the worship.



Picture Top Left: The drama team portrays the theme in a series of thoughtful and entertaining skits.

Picture Bottom Left: 1000 Generations leads the youth during Worship.



Picture Top Right: Worship was quite engaging!

Picture Bottom Right: Youth wrote the situations in their lives causing turbulence on the body of the plane.

The dance team from Gary FBC added to the worship experience!

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."

2011 The Year of Discipleship

By: Jim Walter, NW Area Resource Minister

Our Region has designated 2011 as the "Year of Discipleship". We want to encourage and enable congregations to focus upon how they are doing in the area of making disciples of Jesus Christ. During 2010, we highlighted baptisms by our churches. Baptism is just the beginning of disciple making. This year, our Region will provide events, workshops and resources for churches to help those newly baptized as well as older members to become living disciples for Jesus Christ. After all, the true mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:19-20).

The kickoff event for this emphasis will be held at Terre Haute FBC on Saturday, February 19, 2011 (download registration materials from the website). Dr. Jeff Jones will be the leader for the event. Dr. Jones has spent his entire ministry working with churches, writing books and consulting in the area of disciple-making churches. This promises to be a great event for every congregation that desires to be a disciple-making church. Bring your entire Christian Education team to this event. It will be interactive and

provide the basis for the entire year of discipleship.

Sometimes in the church, we have allowed being a disciple and being a church member to mean the same thing. The New Testament never speaks about church membership. Rather, in New Testament accounts, persons are encouraged to become followers of Jesus. A disciple of Jesus Christ is one who lives his or her life as Jesus taught. In John 15:7-17, Jesus says that a disciple is obedient to his teachings, glorifies God, bears fruit, lives with joy and loves others as Christ loves them. That is a tall order! Yet, if this is how Jesus defines a disciple, how can we do less?

During this "Year of Discipleship", we will be talking and teaching about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus in the world today. We will also learn how to become a disciple-forming congregation. In addition, we will look at the role of a disciple-forming pastor. How can we do ministry within our churches in such a way that persons will become and grow as disciples of Jesus Christ?

I hope your congregation will be a part of this exciting adventure as we learn how to grow as disciples of Jesus in this year-long emphasis.

Happy New Year!

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



Isaiah 43:19 reminds us that God continues to do new things. God is always bringing a new freshness to our lives. On the first Sunday of Advent, a person said to me "Happy New Year!" He was absolutely right in that Advent is the start of a new year on the Christian calendar. With the beginning of January, our secular calendar also tells us that we are in a new year...already! Indeed, newness is all around us.

In our Region, it is easy to sense that God is truly doing new things. While it will take some time, our new Region Board is beginning to organize itself around the guidelines contained in our new structure. We expect that very soon our executive minister search committee will begin its important work. We have a new programmatic emphasis for 2011 in that the importance of Discipleship will be highlighted throughout the year, beginning with a Region wide event on February 19.

All of this and much more will be built on the foundation that God has led others to be put before us. So, we will not forget the ministries and leadership of people like Dallas West, Gene Ton, and, most recently, Larry Mason who have gone before us and have left us a rich legacy of faithfulness and accomplishment. At the same time, while we celebrate the

blessings of the past, we live in the present and we look forward to the future.

I believe that 2011 will be a rich year for our Region. Often, an "interim period" is thought of as a holding pattern until the *real* pastor or, in our case, executive minister arrives. My sense is that a "holding pattern" is not desired and will not be helpful to our Region. I can assure you that the Region Board and our Region Staff are deeply committed to discerning the new things that God has in mind for us and to moving forward in service and mission.

Thank you for joining with us in this adventure of faith and ministry as together we embrace what God has in store for us in the coming months. Serving with you in a partnership sealed by God's love continues to be a wonderful privilege for me.

Happy New Year!



"Hiding From Someone"

By: Shawn Zambrows, Pastor BSF at Purdue

It was just a nice little party with regular kids and their moms. Games were played, crafts made, and faces painted. More sweets were eaten than anyone should, but it was a party, so that's okay! It was during the very brief orientation before the party that the realization was made that there was something different about these "regular" kids and moms.

"Everyone here is hiding from someone," those in attendance were told. This "Fall Festival" held on November 13, 2010 took place at the Julian Center, a shelter for victims of domestic violence. It was hosted by students from the Baptist Student Foundation at Purdue and Oasis

Baptist Student Ministry at Ball State. Sarah Harding, Mission Team Co-leader at Purdue's Found (from the Lewis Creek Baptist Church), applied for and received a grant from the Dean of Student's office at Purdue to pay for the party which enabled each child to receive a "goodie bag" filled

with things like socks, gloves and personal hygiene items.

The kids and the moms seemed to enjoy the party. It is the hope of the BSF and OBSM that a fun diversion was provided from some of the troubles that these children and their moms are experiencing in life. The laughter and smiles shared by the kids and their moms made a lasting impression on every one of those in attendance.



Summer Conference June 3-5, 2011

By: Nancy Bond & Becky Pohle

Although the snow may be flying now, the ABW Conference Committee is hard at work planning the 75th "Diamond" ABW Summer Conference. The conference will be held on June 3-5, 2011 at Franklin College. The conference has changed over the years, but one aspect remains constant, the importance of time spent together.

An emphasis on mission will bring no less than 6 opportunities for your participation: EMCC with Tysha Sellars, IM with Katie Longkumer, MAF with Valli Howard, Barb Bolick on skype with a report from our own mission team to Chili, and a White Cross project.

Plan to decorate your dorm room door. There will be Game Night on Friday and a Variety Show on Saturday. Make plans to bring your most glittery wardrobe to wear at the Glitz Gala being held on Saturday evening.

Workshops will inspire creativity. The Bible study will be led by Ella Toole. Homrette Washington will share incomparable music. Worship will conclude the Sunday morning time together.

Start making plans now for a group from your church to attend the ABW Summer Conference on June 3-5. Encourage all the girls and women in your church to attend. Deepening relationships with one another and Christ will strengthen us to continue to serve.

White Cross

By: Libby Wilcox, Chariman

Please let me introduce myself. My name is Libby Wilcox and I am the 2011 Indiana White Cross Chairman for the ABWM. My husband, Howard and I have been married for 32 years. We have one daughter who is 23 years old. I am a member of Avoca BC and enjoy working in the church kitchen. I have been active in White Cross for many years and enjoy serving with ABWM. I have also served on the Summer Conference Committee at different times. The job of White Cross Chairman will be a challenge at times, so please keep myself and all the other ABWM officers in your prayers. I look forward to serving with you.

State Project Updates

By: Janice Mott

Gracias, Gracias, Gracias! Many thanks for giving to the 2010 ABW State Project. The goal of \$30,000.00 was surpassed. The money donated will go a long way in helping the Bolick's to purchase a much needed vehicle. The AB Women who were part of the 2010 Chile mission encounter team are available to share their stories with your church. Contact Janice Mott at 812-882-6047 for names and information. Janice received many blessings this year serving as the state project chairman. Rosalyce Grubbs will be serving as the chairman for 2011. The Edna Martin Christian Center (EMCC) will be the 2011 State Project. EMCC has moved into a new facility with a variety of needs to be met, so ABW is not designating the 2011 project for a specific need. The funds will be used where they are needed most. The goal for the 2011 State Project is \$25,000. Whatever amount is given by the AB Women will be matched by United Way. What an opportunity to reach out in the name of Jesus!

"Mission Possible"

By: Janet Moore

Haiti's earthquake was approximately a year ago. ABC missionaries are hard-at-work continuing to bring hope and healing to the confusion and devastation they see in people's lives as a result of the earthquake. The AB Women's Ministries national president, Barbara Anderson, met at length with ABC missionary to Haiti, Kihomi Ngwemi, and spoke of the situation there, especially as it pertains to the women. The ABWM has received a request to raise \$30,000 by February 14, 2011 for health education and cholera prevention in Haiti. Barbara asks that the "Mission Possible!" challenge be accepted to provide this assistance to the Women's Association of the Haitian Baptist Convention. For more information about difficulties for women in Haiti, please go to the new podcast series, "In Their Shoes: Walking with Women Worldwide" at <http://www.intheirshoespodcast.org> and hear an interview with Kihomi Ngwemi. How can the women of Indiana do their share to help our sisters in Haiti? As coordinator of the Midwestern Section, I am proposing that we invite as many of our churches as possible to select a Sunday in January and take a special offering by asking each person in attendance to give \$1.00. I will be asking the Midwestern Region Presidents to promote this project in this manner. As we have just celebrated the season of our Savior's birth, let us continue to share His love in as many special ways as possible.

Scholarship Fund

By: Mary Lou Rude, Chairman

As chairman for the ABW Scholarship Fund, I want to update you on scholarship fund information.

A. Applications are available from your association President and Scholarship chairman. All applications, reference letters, and transcripts must be mailed to me and postmarked by February 15th.

B. The amount of each scholarship is \$500.00. The number of scholarships given depends on the balance of the scholarship fund as of March 31st.

C. The scholarship students' addresses at college were given out at Fall Conferences. Copies of those addresses are available from association presidents. Correspondence with each newly assigned student should be taking place. If more information is needed, contact your president or scholarship chairman or myself.

D. If a contribution hasn't been made to the scholarship fund for this year, consider doing a one-time fundraiser through your women's group or church. All monies should be sent to the state treasurer, Jo Besser, prior to the deadline of March 31, 2011.

Many thanks are offered to those who continue to contribute to and support the Scholarship Fund. It means very much to the recipients. My contact information is: Mary Lou Rude, P.O. Box 213, Camden, 46917, phone: (h) 574-686-2041 or (c) 765-210-7476.

Ministers' Spouses Retreat

By: Carol McVay

All ministers' spouses are invited to get away for the weekend of April 8, 9, 10, 2011. The retreat will be held at Indian Creek Baptist Youth Camp near Bedford. It will be a weekend of refreshing and spiritual renewal, with the opportunity to meet new and old friends. There will be workshops, free time and fellowship with other ministers' spouses. There will be time to enjoy the camp

with nature walks, talk with others, as well as other activities. The retreat provides a time to come home rejuvenated and spiritually uplifted. Registration forms are available online and in the ABC-IN/KY monthly Unified Mailing. Registration forms can also be obtained from Carol McVay. You may reach her at (812) 897-4251 or camcvay@hotmail.com.

**Save the Date - June 3-5, 2011
ABW Summer Conference**

New Unionville BC Welcomes Les Rovenstine as Pastor



Les & Peg Rovenstine

In August of 2010, New Unionville BC extended a pastoral call to Les Rovenstine. He was awarded a bachelor of science degree in 1988 from Bartlesville Wesleyan College, Bartlesville, OK, with a major in theology and a minor in youth ministry. Although most of his ministry has been in the state of Illinois, he most recently served six years as associate pastor of the Bloomington Free Methodist Church.

Les and his wife, Peg, met in college. According to Les, Peg is his best friend and a wonderful partner in ministry. They have 3 children and a grandchild born in September of 2010.

Harold Carter Retires From McDoel BC

McDoel BC joined with friends and family to celebrate the retirement of Harold and Emogene Carter on October 23, 2010. A luncheon was hosted by the church boards.

The celebration continued in the sanctuary with the chancel choir singing one of Harold's favorite choir anthems, "River in Judea." His bass voice will be missed in the choir! Melinda Johnson-Barnes sang "Ride on King Jesus."

Dr. Donald Scott thanked Harold for his service of over fifty years to American Baptists in churches in southeastern IN. Carter received recognition awards and a plaque from the mayor of Bloomington. Deacon Dan Ray and Charity McGannon, a former camper at Southeastern Camp where Harold was director, shared their appreciation of Harold and Emogene during their ministry at McDoel.

McDoel BC is privileged to benefit from the Carter's nineteen years of caring leadership, outreach, children's programs, continuation of VBS, and nursing home ministries. Many thanks are offered to Harold and Emogene for their time, talent and love for McDoel BC. They will make their home in Madison, IN., continuing to serve and care for their community.

Waynetown BC Participates in "Operation Christmas"

On the evening of November 14, 2010, members of Waynetown BC met to wrap shoe boxes for "Operation Christmas." This event was the culmination of several months spent collecting items brought in by individuals of the church. Waynetown BC has participated in this event for many years. This year, the goal of filling 100 boxes was met! Carrie Runyan and the children's church have organized the event for the past few years. Approximately 35 people attended from the ages of 2-90! All enjoyed a night of serving and fellowship.



News From Martinsville FBC

The youth and leaders attending Awana on October 31st came dressed as their favorite Bible Characters.

Each year the congregation chooses a person that they feel has shown great service spirit and award them the Wilson Smith Jr. Award. This award is in remembrance of Pastor Wilson Smith and his service



Youth & Leaders Dressed as Bible Characters

Shelburn FBC Burns Mortgage After Only 5 Years!



The congregation, family, and friends of the Shelburn FBC recently celebrated an awesome milestone in the history of the church. On Sunday, October 24, 2010, they burned the mortgage on the facility built in August of 2005.

The festivities began on Saturday, October 23, 2010, with a hog roast and lots of other good food, clowns, games for the whole family. A special revival service was held that evening with

guest speaker, Pastor Ron Riggs. The excitement continued the next day during the morning worship service followed by a church-wide dinner. A brief service was held in the sanctuary. Then, Pastor Rob Schlatter led the crowd outside into the warm fall weather to burn a copy of the mortgage and launch a multitude of balloons into the afternoon sky to commemorate the event.

Shelburn FBC gives thanks to God for blessing them with this wonderful tool for ministry, and they look forward to serving Him for many years to come.

"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen."

Ephesians 3:20,21



to his church and community. This year's award was presented to Marilyn James who has been playing the church organ for over 50 years.

Left: Marilyn James Receives Wilson Smith Jr. Award

Below: Dean Jones Shares His Musical Talents

Homecoming was celebrated on November 14th with over 100 attending the morning services and pitch-in dinner. Dean Jones shared his musical talents during both the service and after dinner.

He plays fantastic music with cow bells. Along with his music, he has a wonderful testimony.



TRIAL AREA

Ellettsville BC Holds Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Ellettsville FBC celebrated its annual Thanksgiving dinner on November 15, 2010. The delicious meal consisted of turkey, ham, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy along with many side dishes and desserts. The meal was attended by more than one hundred people. A puppet show was enjoyed in the sanctuary after the meal. The show kicked off the new fall season for the puppeteers. Another presentation was held on December 15, 2010, following the community-wide dinner of soup and sandwiches.



Brazil FBC Reaches Out During Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving Day 2010 was the 25th year that Brazil FBC has hosted a Thanksgiving Day Dinner for the community. The desire of Brazil FBC has always been to provide a traditional Thanksgiving meal for those who would otherwise be alone or without a meal on this day. Guests were encouraged to have dinner at the church, with take-outs and home deliveries provided as well. Much coordination, along with the

preparations, serving, deliveries, and clean up were joyously provided for 170 meals that were served. A large number of church members and friends gave up their own family dinners to help on Thanksgiving Day. For some members and the dinner guests, this has become their tradition. The remaining food was delivered to the House of Hope ministry.

Amo FBC Hosts First Craft Fair & Chili Dinner



Neck Warmers, Lap Blankets, Casserole Warmers, Decorative Pens, Christmas Decorations, Baked Goods and many other craft items were for sale at the Amo FBC first Craft Fair and Chili Dinner held on November 20, 2010. Delicious chili, hot dogs, and hot and cold beverages were available for purchase. Proceeds from the craft fair

went to Amo Mustard Seed Food Pantry. God blessed Amo FBC with an outpouring of donations of time, craft items, food items and monetary donations. Seven hundred and sixty dollars was given to the food pantry. All that Amo FBC accomplishes is done in God's name and He is given the glory!

Terre Haute FBC Holds "Fill-The-Basket" Sunday

During the last months of 2010, members of Terre Haute FBC were seeing this appeal from their Trustees:

"Where two or more are gathered in His name". First Baptist Church of Terre Haute is that special place where you and other members of this congregation gather for worship, communion, Bible study, fellowship, various ministry programs, and to feed your spiritual soul. What would our church be without our facility? And it is our church facility – God's House – in need of a few major capital expenditures.

On Sunday, November 21st, we will be conducting a special offering we are calling "Fill-The-Basket" Sunday. Why? To raise funds in the total amount of \$100,000.00 for three important capital projects: A new church bus; roof, window & soffit repairs; and to pay off the loan for the parking lot paving project. Our goal is to return to a debt-free financial position. As our Trustees have stated: "Every dollar we can free-up from debt can be used for more important things" and "Every dollar we spend on debt is a dollar wasted." Our [Senior Adult] Sunday School class has started this special fundraising process, but we need your help. Together we can continue the Legacy of First Baptist Church.

Well, the results are in...

The "Fill the Basket Offering" total was \$106,819.14. Needless to say, the congregation was, and is, very excited and blessed. In this time of economic uncertainty, God continues to bless and provide beyond our expectations.

We pray this spirit of generosity spreads throughout our Region, our state and our nation as we all seek to fulfill God's call to faithful stewardship.

Freedom BC Celebrates 175 Years

Pioneer families began entering Montgomery County Indiana in 1821, and in 1835, thirteen open-minded New Testament believers dared to challenge the anti-missionary views so prevalent in early Baptist churches. In this instance, the pastor and twelve others chose to leave Union Baptist Church in the pursuit of freedom—freedom to form Freedom Baptist Church located southwest of Crawfordsville, and north of the platted site of Waveland. December 26, 1835 marked their beginning as a church committed to The Great Commission. In the years that followed, numerous missionary minded churches emerged and the Freedom Baptist Association was born.

Celebrating 175 years of God's faithfulness, the following events were planned and enjoyed. A country morning festival was held, featuring the music and witness of Kenny Evans of Pigeon Forge, TN. The spirit-filled morning and an overflowing crowd was a great kick-off.

An "Old Fashioned" Sunday was held in August of 2010 with Pastor Jim Ranard and wife Linda arriving in their horse drawn buggy accompanied by others riding horseback. The youth presented a skit demonstrating games children would have played. Don Phillips of Bedford was the morning speaker.

Homecoming was held on October 3, 2010 with morning speaker Phil Hodgkin of Richmond. He recalled it was here in his home church that he was ordained fifty-five years ago to the day. Speaking in the afternoon session were Jim Walter, Jean Garrett and Jim Ranard.

A grand climax to the day was the Baptism of a father and two teenagers.

**Observer Deadline for Submitting Articles for March/April Issue
FEBRUARY 1, 2011**

SOUTHEAST AREA

Aurora FBC Ordains New Deacons

On October 31, 2010, the Aurora FBC ordained three new deacons. The new deacons are seated left to right: Marty Pohle, Evelyn Kittle, and Terry Doerr. Standing behind them is Pastor Bill Secrest and Rev. Becky Pohle. These three women have provided much leadership to the church, to the ABW, and to the region for a number of years, and the church is excited about the additional leadership they will bring to the church in their new roles.



Staff Appreciation Sunday Held at Columbus FBC



On Sunday October 31, 2010, FBC Columbus honored the entire staff with a Staff Appreciation Sunday. Each staff member was introduced and their length of ministry and position in the church was shared with the congregation. The staff was honored with a reception. The congregation was able to spend time getting better acquainted with those of the staff who are less visible.

Les Roberson Travels to Haiti on Mission Trip

In November of 2010, Les Roberson of Fort Wayne BC embarked on a mission trip to Haiti to help American Baptist missionaries, Kihomi and Nzunga, install water purification systems. He returned home inspired by the deep faith and high church attendance of the Haitian people, and hopeful about the impact of his work. He successfully installed water treatment tanks at the Haitian Baptist Convention seminary, hospital, orphanage, and primary and secondary schools. He also instructed the people on proper use of the systems, which serve a total population of 5,000 people. Les reported that seeing how important this safe water is to the students at one particular school brought him to tears. Many thanks to Les for his dedication to the Lord and the mission in Haiti.

NORTHEAST AREA

Steven Roper Called to Minister at Faith BC

After a 14 month dedicated search for a senior pastor, the Holy Spirit coupled the needs of Faith BC with the special gifts of Pastor Steven J. Roper.

Pastor Roper is married to his childhood sweetheart, Sheila, and they have two boys, Joshua (5) and Caleb (9). The family began their new adventure with Faith BC on August 1, 2010. It didn't take them long to become acclimated to northeast Fort Wayne, pinpointing the locations of needed facilities and services.

Pastor Steve has been well received by the congregation and has begun a second men's Bible study while endorsing and becoming a part of the existing program. On November 7 a formal installation service took place and was attended by relatives and friends from Marion. Rev. Phyllis Goodyear represented the ABC Region and led the Declaration of Installation. Pastor Roper's sister, Kelli, his uncle Rev. David

SOUTHWEST AREA

Edwardsport FBC Holds "Together We Can" - Run/Walk

On Saturday, October 23, 2010, Edwardsport FBC held their 1st Annual "Together We Can" 2-mile run/walk to raise awareness for the North Knox Social Ministries (NKSM) which is located in Bicknell, IN. The North Knox Social Ministries is a non-denominational organization that provides food to needy families and individuals as well as providing many other services such as clothing giveaways and utility assistance for residents of northern Knox County, IN.

The event was a great success with over 80 people registered for the event. One thousand five hundred dollars was raised for the NKSM.



Livonia BC to Host Bible Conference by Stan Slade, Global Consultant for IM

Livonia BC will be hosting a Bible Conference on January 7-8, 2011 presented by Dr. Stan Slade of Royersford, Pennsylvania. Dr. Slade has the remarkable ability to bring the bible to life and hold one's attention. The conference will begin on Friday evening, January 7 at 6:30 p.m. with a meal and

introduction to the bible study and missionary presentation. Saturday's conference will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and includes lunch. Dr. Stan Slade will bring the message on Sunday, January 9 at 11 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend the conference and Sunday worship service.

News From IBE



On Sunday, October 31, 2010, four people were baptized at Iglesia Bautista Emanuel. Much praise and thanks are given to God for His blessing and care.



On Saturday, November 20, 2010, the women of IBE held a spiritual retreat at Barbee Christian Camp. They were blessed through the workshops and fellowship.



Anderson, and his former pastor and mentor, Rev. Steve Boothe, were all participants.

A reception was held after the service and great fellowship was shared by all.

NORTHWEST AREA

NW Area Associate Pastor and Wife Made CLI a Time to Grow Together

Many people involved in ministry find the thought of committing even four Saturdays each quarter to education overwhelming. One couple got creative and inspired what CLI now calls the "Spouse Audit" Program.

Tim and Pam England of Calvary BC, Kokomo wanted to attend CLI classes together. Pam says, "I am so thankful for the time we shared in the classes at CLI. It was encouraging and informative to be a part of this learning ministry with my husband, Tim. We grew closer, because I was actively involved with Tim's classes. It was encouraging to me that CLI allowed me to do this without a second fee. I felt privileged and honored by their support for our marriage in this way." Tim adds, "I can't begin to express how much CLI has meant to me, and prepared me for my ministry as Pastor of Children and Young Families. The

instructors were awesome and very qualified academically and experienced in the subject that they taught. The atmosphere allowed us to build relationships with other students which continues even now as a network of support and encouragement. I walked away with resources for my ministry and my church as well. Since graduating, I have brought many lay leaders in our church back to CLI for relevant classes for committees that they serve on. Finally, CLI was a life changing experience that I would highly recommend to anyone."

For more information regarding CLI contact Jennifer Greene at 317-635-3552 X221 or jennifergreene@abc-indiana.org. It is an investment that you will never regret and an experience that you will never forget as you grow in Christ and build an educational foundation in ministry.

Miami BC Participates in Outreach Project

Twelve volunteers dedicated more than 40 hours each to the construction of a special outreach for Miami BC – a parade float! The 10th Annual Light Up Logansport parade was held the night after Thanksgiving with the only stipulation being that the displays had to consist of predominately lights.

Donations of space and materials were provided by Randy Graves and Bill and Deb Shepler, as well as several other members of the church. The group, under the leadership of Sherrel Hudson, started

with a simple concept, that of the title of the choir's Christmas Cantata, "The Best Gift of All." "We thought this was a terrific way to reach out to our community and encourage those who are struggling during this time of economic problems, plus the sadness the holidays bring for many who are grieving," said Carol Sikler, member of the church and choir director. The choir participated by walking with the float carrying candles and wearing choir robes.

Missional Church Learning Experience Begins

Five congregations from the Northwest Area gathered in Kokomo to begin an exciting adventure. These five congregations formed the first Missional Church Learning Experience (MCLE) in our Region. MCLE is a cluster of churches that form a Learning Community to explore what God is saying to the Church today. How can we best fit in with God's mission in our rapidly changing culture? Each church involved in the Learning Community forms a Mission Team that receives training in basic missional church

principles, and practices those principles by designing and implementing a small community project.

The MCLE is led by Rev. Glynnis LaBarre, Transformation Strategist with American Baptist Home Mission Societies. The five congregations from Indiana are: Calvary BC, Kokomo; Judson BC, Kokomo; Mill Creek BC; South Bend FBC and the Baptist Student Foundation, Purdue. Look for further news of what will be happening in these churches.

Accomplishing Discipleship with Discipleship Partners

By: Ruth Proctor



I am a tea drinker. While I like the brand of tea I drink, the real reason I buy it has nothing to do with its taste or price or the type of tea it is. I buy it because each box comes with a prize.

For years, Red Rose tea from England, has offered premiums in its boxes. They are miniature porcelain figurines and are offered in themed collections. Of course, the idea is to collect every figurine in each series rather than end up with lots of duplicates. I would prefer not to admit how many I have.

When I am in the grocery ready to purchase a new box, I stand in the aisle, eyeing the boxes on the shelf. Sometimes, I will pick a box up, hold it for a few seconds, put it back down and pick up another one, trying to somehow sense which prize is inside. Other times, I just grab and go. At times, I am overjoyed when I open the box at home. Other times, I sigh with the realization that I already have at least one of this particular figurine and now have 100 cups of tea to drink before getting to experience the thrill and/or the anxiety of opening the next new box.

It is a new year and churches are planning ways to attract people to church. They are thinking of new ways to encourage discipleship within their congregation.

Trying to decide how to best

Cammie Sikler Travels to Mexico on Mission Trip

Cammie Sikler, daughter of Carol Sikler, spent two weeks this summer traveling to Mexico with Global Expeditions (GE). After a 14-hour bus ride from the headquarters in Texas to the Mexican border, she began her first mission experience outside of the United States. All of the missionaries had to disembark and walk across the border. Cammie also stepped across a line from one who receives ministry to one who is providing it, and as a result of this trip, her life will never be the same.

The missionaries went door-to-door and prayed with residents, held Vacation Bible School in a local church, and built three safe homes. The majority of people in the Matamoras area live in makeshift structures of cardboard, sheet metal, plastic, and wood. The GE team camped in tents at the home of a previous house recipient while they built three new homes.

accomplish this goal is a little like my trying to decide which tea box to select in the grocery store. The difference is that as Christians we already know what the prize is and that prize remains the same no matter which "box" we choose.

Congregations are not alone as they seek new ideas and ways to promote discipleship. A time of coming together for this very purpose will be held on February 19 in Terre Haute. I would strongly encourage congregations to attend this Traveling Together Discipleship Event. Discipleship Partners will be training for follow-up work with churches in the weeks after the event. It is the hope of the Discipleship Partners that this event will help take the guesswork out of the way discipleship is accomplished, so that congregations might be more effective.

Plan now to be a part of this very important day. I'll even supply the tea bags for the tea drinkers who attend. I have plenty!!

The teens also took up an offering from amongst them, purchased food in bulk and held a food distribution while they were there.



While in Mexico, God put a special little girl by the name of Naomi in Cammie's life. Cammie said, "I feel like God put her in my life for a reason, and I am very glad He did."

At the time of this writing, Cammie is looking forward to another mission trip to the western side of Mexico during the upcoming 2010 holiday season.

□



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

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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 5-11 | \$240 |
| 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!

2011 Senior Adult Activities - Mark Your Calendars Now!

April 7 - Senior Adult Day, Calvary Baptist Church - Kokomo
 September 8 - Retired Ministers and Spouses Reunion (*tentative date*)
 October 13 - Senior Adult Day, Seymour First Baptist church