



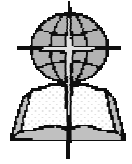
THE MESSENGER

January 21, 2010

4950 Old Collinsville Road, Swansea, IL 62226

www.meba.org

618-624-4444



SWIST CLASSES FOR SPRING 2010

The following three courses will be offered for the Spring 2010 semester. Enrollment is open to all interested students. (Must be at least 21 years of age and a Christian for at least one year). New Students \$125, returning students \$100.

CLP 1111 Ministry Foundations – (3 Hours)

Students will engage in assessment of their gifts and passions in ministry and will encounter some basic approaches to effective ministry such as strategic, financial and physical planning for ministry, communication and relational skills; and team and staff building. Instructor Sherman Smith, Tuesdays 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Gateway Baptist Association, 620 Engineer Road, Granite City, IL 62040

CLL 1113 Baptist History & Polity – (3 Hours)

This course covers the emergence of the Baptist Movement within the context of the English Reformation, Baptist emergence in the United States, and what and how Baptist doctrine and polity expresses itself in the functions and forms of churches, constitutions, associations, conventions and agencies. Instructor David Gray, Thursdays 6-9 p.m. at the MEBA Office, 4950 Old Collinsville Road, Swansea, IL 62226

CLP1411 Communicating the Gospel: Preaching and Teaching that Transforms - (3 Hours)

This course covers planning, preparation, and presentation skills in preaching and teaching with an emphasis on learning by doing. It also covers learning styles, how to preach and teach for transformation, and how to communicate to different age groups and cultures. Instructor Tommy Cupples, Tuesdays 6-9 p.m. at the MEBA office, 4950 Old Collinsville Road, Swansea, IL 62226

For more information call MEBA (618-624-4444) or GBA (618-931-6222) or Pastor Sherman Smith (618-345-0770 office), brsherm3@charter.net for class syllabus.



RA DERBY RACES

Thursday, February 11, 2010

Westview Baptist Church

2500 Sullivan Drive, Swansea, IL 62226

Registration 6:30 p.m. Races begin at 7:00 p.m.

All boys grades 1-6 are invited. For information please call Jerry Davis at (618) 593-3191 or jmdavis@rocketmail.com

VBS PASTORS/DIRECTORS CLINIC

Saturday, February 20

10:00 AM-noon

MEBA OFFICE

4950 Old Collinsville Road

Swansea, IL 62226

Please RSVP to 618-624-4444

DATED MATERIAL PLEASE DO NOT HOLD

The MEBA Messenger (UPS 581) is published monthly (on the third Thursday) by Metro-East Baptist Association, 4950 Old Collinsville Road, Swansea, IL 62226. PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID at Belleville, IL. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to "the MEBA Messenger" at 4950 Old Collinsville Road, Swansea, Illinois, 62226. Dennis Dawson, Editor, MEBA Council, Contributing Editor. USPS 581-320

METAMORPHOSIS

January 29-30, 2010
Living Faith Baptist Church, Sherman, IL

Metamorphosis is a conference designed especially for collegiate and NextGen women. This year's theme is based on Galatians 4:7, "And since you are His child, God has made you His heir." The Bible study leader will be Regina Gibson of Hendersonville, TN. Her life's passion revolves around Christ and the call He has placed on her life to teach God's Word to women in the Body of Christ. The worship leader will be Shelly Johnson, a Nashville based Christian artist, worship leader, and songwriter. Cost: \$25 includes coffee house on Friday, lunch on Saturday. For more information: metamorphosisconference.com or email serenabutler@IBSA.org.

CHURCH & PASTOR TAX SEMINAR

There will be a tax seminar on Feb 20th that will be very helpful to pastors, treasurers and church financial officers. Guest speaker will be PJ Patterson.

February 20, 2010
Baptist Building, 3085 Stevenson Drive, Springfield, IL 62703
9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Please plan to arrive and to register between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m. The seminar will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$20 and includes the tax book. Register by February 11 by email: debbiemuller@ibsa.org or by phone 217-391-3126.

BAPTIST FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The Baptist Foundation of Illinois is accepting scholarship applications for the 2010-2011 school year. Applicants must:

1. Be a member in good standing of an IBSA affiliated church
2. Be a full-time student attending an accredited school
3. Submit an application and supporting documents

The deadline for submitting an application and supporting documents is February 26, 2010. For info call the Foundation office 217-391-3123 or email donnadegroot@ibsa.org or go online to www.ibsa.org/ministries/baptistfoundation/

FOCUS ON MARRIAGE

There will be a Focus on Marriage simulcast hosted by First Baptist Church, O'Fallon on Saturday, February 27 from 8:30-3:30. Focus on Marriage--Celebrating God's Design for Commitment. Speakers include Gary Thomas, author of Sacred Marriage; Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott, of RealRelationships.com; Kirk & Chelsea Cameron, lead actor in Fireproof; Dr. Gary Chapman, author of the Five Love Languages; Francis Chan, author of Crazy Love; and Stephen Kendrick, co--author of The Love Dare. Cost is \$10 per ticket or \$30 for 4 tickets. Tickets are available at First Baptist Bookstore or online at:

www.fbcfallon.org
or by calling 618-632-6223
More info can be found at:
www.FocusonMarriage.com

If you have any questions, please call Tonya & John Shorter at 618-628-1466 or 514-9650, or contact the church and speak with Jamie or Suzanne at 632-6223.

2010 VBS CLINIC (IBSA)

March 6 ~ 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Small lunch provided
Logan Street Baptist
601 S. 21st., Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
Contact Cathy Waters: cathywaters@ibsa.org
217-786-2600 ext 124

METRO-EAST TEENMOPS

Metro-East TeenMops are held at Bethel Baptist Church in Troy. They meet the 2nd & 4th Monday of the month. Check-in and meals begin at 5:45 p.m. Childcare is provided for any infants/preschoolers with a meal for any that eat table food already. The evening's activities end at 8:00 p.m. Transportation can be arranged. Becki Mertz can be contacted with questions at 618-558-3727. Volunteers are needed to make each meeting run smoothly.

2010 IRON SHARPENS IRON

Iron Sharpens Iron is a one day men's conference designed to build into and equip you, your men, and your leaders. The conferences are for men of all ages: Emerging men (13-19), Pioneering men (20-29), Full Throttle Men (30-55) and Seasoned men (55+). The format is specifically geared to equip men for godly living and spiritual leadership. Two local conferences are scheduled:

Springfield, IL
March 13
First United Methodist Church
Contact:

Relevant Practical Ministry for Men
P.O. Box 8171
Springfield, IL 62791
217-622-4069
Or visit the Website:
www.RPMFM.org

Shiloh, IL
May 1
Faith Family Church



BUILDING POWERFUL MINISTRY TEAMS

April 30-May 1
Metro-East Baptist Association
4950 Old Collinsville Road, Swansea 62226

This training event, through IBSA, is not designed for a single pastor or staff member, but for a church to send its church staff, leadership team, deacon body, or entire department to work together, learning the principles and practices needed to build a powerful ministry team.

Cost of the event is \$20 per attendee, which includes an individuals workbook, continental breakfast, lunch, and snacks. Each event is scheduled for 2 1/2 hours on Friday evening and 6 1/2 hours on Saturday. For information, contact Pat Pajak at 217-786-2600 ext 129 or patpajak@ibsa.org

PLEASE PRAY FOR MEBA CHURCHES SEEKING PASTORS

Caseyville, First
Lighthouse Community
Westview



Maplewood Park
Valmeyer



DENNIS' DELIBERATIONS

We are hearing a lot lately about the Great Commission. The Great Commission Resurgence, Great Commission growth, Great Commission disciples, and so on. Not a new concept, you say? Could God be telling us perhaps that we need to return to the basics in a fresh new way? Consider the following key ingredients to Great

Commission living:

- **Focus:** Many times I see different groups within a church planning their own agenda rather than every group working on a broader strategy that is church-wide. Churches cannot do everything. The church must discover what is most important in joining God in what He is doing. Focus is a church-wide vision of what God wants to do.
- **Spiritual Connection:** Churches may sometimes do their thinking and planning without consulting God. Some churches may be exercising their own agenda rather than seeking God for His agenda. Seeking God is paramount in achieving the Great Commission. God should be consulted for every decision.
- **Return to Holiness:** Prayer? Yes! Evangelism? For sure! But we must also seek personal cleansing and revival. God wants to pour out His Spirit among His people. Spiritual awakening? Without a doubt!

I am praying that 2010 will be the greatest ever for the great congregations that make up the Metro-East Baptist Associations. May we be Great Commission indeed!

Dennis E. Dawson, Executive Director

2010 ACTS 1:8 MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

- Christian Activity Center (East St. Louis)
- Ministry to refugees in Metro-East
- World Changers (Metro-East and beyond)
- Mississippi River Ministries
- South Jersey
- Toronto (multiple international people groups)
- Uganda (especially need medical personnel)
- Other opportunities forthcoming...

Contact Dennis Dawson for details at 618-624-4444 or ddawson@meba.org.

BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, January 25, 3:00-7:00 p.m.
Winstanley Baptist Church
9471 W. Hwy 161, Fairview Hts, IL 62208

For more information call the church at 397-2010 or Linda McGee at eemcgee@aol.com

YOUTH MISSIONS

The youth at First Baptist Church of O'Fallon will be participating in Discipleship Now. On Saturday, February 6, 2009, they want to go out into the community and do about 25 projects. If there is a church that has a need for something to be done such as painting, cleaning, taking care of senior citizen needs, or whatever, they want to help. Supplies need to be provided by the church. The youth would be supervised by youth from First Baptist, O'Fallon as well as any adults you might want to have at your church. Call Lisa Crocker at 624-8306 or Maggie Leininger at 632-5565.

ATTENTION PASTORS: MEBA GATHERING ONE HR WORKSHOPS

February 11, 2010
10:00 AM & 7:00 PM

MEBA OFFICE
4950 Old Collinsville Road, Swansea, IL

Details to come via email

TRIVIA NIGHT AND SILENT AUCTION

Saturday, February 27

The Christian Activity Center's 6th Annual Trivia Night will be held at St. Michael's Church in Waterloo, IL. The CAC is asking you to contribute an auction item to help raise funds for children in East St. Louis. Auction Item Ideas: Cooking spices/baskets/books, picture frames, fishing equipment, hunting equipment, golfing equipment, BBQ set, gardening items, scrapbooking items, chocolate lovers basket, coffee lovers basket, pet items, sporting event tickets, CD or DVD collections.

The items are needed by February 20. For information contact Brad and Laurie Watkins 618-539-6100 or 618-401-0846.

ACROSS METRO-EAST 2010

Just imagine, every church caring, every believer sharing and every person in the Metro-East hearing the gospel! Across Metro-East emphasis encourages churches of all shapes and sizes to be intentional in sharing the Good News of Christ in their communities.

- Prayerwalk your community
- Place a plastic door hanger on each door which contains a gospel presentation and an invitation from your church to attend your Easter worship celebration
- Prepare your church family and facility for company
- Plan and carry-out a 5 week follow up with guests

Now is the best time to begin planning for this church-wide evangelism outreach.

CHURCH TIMELINE

1. Praying - March 1-19 - Get Ready
2. Engaging - March 20 - Prayerwalking
3. Sowing - March 27 - Distributing "Find It Here" Gospel Tracts and Church Invitation Door to Door
4. Harvesting - April 4 - Easter Sunday
5. Assimilating - April 11-May 2 - Follow-Up

Please call Dennis Dawson if you have questions, 618-624-4444.

Faithful Deliverance - The church is need of 2 pulpit chairs. Please contact Pastor William Nichols at (618) 580-0974.

Sterling - The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Goal was \$1000, and \$1279.05 was received.

There will be an installation service for Pastor John Dawson on February 28 at 2:30 p.m.

Valmeyer, First— Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal was \$1200, total amount received \$1290.

The church is in need of baptismal robes, one adult, one youth, and one children's sizes. Also, there is a need for a wheelchair. Call Carole at 618-604-5379.

DISASTER RELIEF HAITI **Monday, January 18**

This is an update on our Southern Baptist Disaster Relief involvement in Haiti. The mounting problems with food, water, fuel, medical care and communications persist. Security is a big concern. Our NAMB DR assessment team is due to arrive in the Dominican Republic tonight to rendezvous with IMB personnel and go into Haiti tomorrow. Please keep this team in your prayers.

We are using one of our IBSA Disaster Relief semis to transport 20 tons of food to Miami for another Christian organization which has its own distribution system in place. I realize that there is no assurance that it will get beyond Miami any time in the near future, but they have a system in place to handle it. Pray for Myron Taylor as he leaves for Minnesota tomorrow to load up and drive to Miami. (Although we are doing this to assist a sister Christian organization, please remember that shipping food, clothing, etc. generally is not feasible. Please actively discourage churches from organizing food drives etc. for Haiti).

Three things you can do now:

- 1. PRAY** for those in Haiti who have been impacted by the earthquake, for the NAMB/BGR/DR assessment team, and for our military personnel and all those who are working to relieve the suffering, both in Haiti and here in the states.
- 2. GIVE** through BGR (www.gobgr.org), NAMB (www.namb.net) and the American Red Cross (<http://www.redcross.org/>) to assist with earthquake relief efforts.
- 3. PREPARE** (spiritual preparation, passports, immunizations, travel funds) to go to Haiti to assist with rebuild efforts when the time comes.

Rebuild teams are being enlisted to assist with the long-term rebuild effort in three or four weeks. If you are available to serve please notify me, telling me what dates you can be available. Volunteers will have to pass a preliminary screening and a security check. They must also have passports and immunizations. DPT, Tetanus and Typhoid would be essential for everyone. Cholera would be necessary if there is a cholera outbreak. Hepatitis inoculations will be necessary for health care workers and those in contact with blood and bodily fluids. Malaria medications will be necessary if they are working in an area where Malaria is a threat. Costs of passports, immunizations and travel are personal expense.

Jack Shelby, Disaster Relief Director, IBSA:
jmshelby1@yahoo.com
217. 299.3412 (cell)
217.391.3137 (office)

URGENT PRAYER REQUEST **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, COLUMBIA**

Please pray for Eden Peters, recently adopted daughter from China of Jonathan and Sheila Peters. Jonathan is pastor of FBC Columbia, Illinois. Eden had surgery to repair a minor heart defect in China. During what was presumed to be a routine test for follow-up, Eden was diagnosed with Pulmonary Vein Stenosis, a rare condition with an exceptionally high mortality rate. There are certain cases in which the disease stabilizes and the children survive. Please pray for God to be most glorified in Eden's healing, strength for the Peters family, and great kingdom impact for the ministry of FBC Columbia.

NETWORK of BAPTIST ASSOCIATIONS **PRAYER REQUEST PAGE**

The Network of Baptist Associations (NoBA) Prayer Request Page is now active. Find the link on the top navigation bar of the home page:

<http://NoBASbc.org>

Please share any prayer request that you would like for other associational leaders to pray about with you. Please remember to share praises and answers to prayer as well. This is a monitored page, so it may take 24 to 48 hours to post a request. If it is an urgent request, submit it, then send an e-mail to Spiritual Revitalization Team Leader, Larry Richmond:

larryrichmond@gatewaybaptistassoc.org

SPIRITWING

January 31 - 10:45 a.m.
Spring Valley Baptist Church
522 Maple Drive, Shiloh, IL 62269

SpiritWing has been Missouri Baptist University's premier contemporary Christian vocal performance group for two decades and remains unique in its sound, sincere in their approach, and maintain a strong spiritual appeal at all levels of church life. The ensemble features 11 MBU students whose Christian commitment and passion for the lost is a source of inspiration for anyone who hears them. They desire to touch lives for Christ and are servants first, singers second. All are invited to attend.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Richard Bell
- 2 - Dave Manley
- 10 - Steve Manley
- 25 - Sam Willis



FINANCIAL REPORT **MEBA BUDGET ACCOUNT** **December 31, 2009**

Income from the Churches	\$	24,786.49
Other Income		3,701.26
Total Income for 12/2009		28,487.75
Less Expenditures for 12/09	\$	16,339.59
Balance for 12/09	\$	12,148.16