



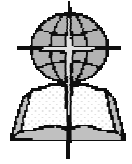
THE MESSENGER

February 18, 2010

4950 Old Collinsville Road, Swansea, IL 62226

www.meba.org

618-624-4444



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/invitation to attend your Easter worship service
 - 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.

CHURCH & PASTOR TAX SEMINAR

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

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. Info: debbiemuller@ibsa.org or 217-391-3126.

VBS PASTORS/DIRECTORS CLINIC

Saturday, February 20
10:00 AM-noon
MEBA OFFICE
4950 Old Collinsville Road, Swansea, 62226
Guest Clinicians:
Jack Lucas and Deborah Steubinger
Please RSVP to 618-624-4444

DATED MATERIAL PLEASE DO NOT HOLD

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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.fbcofallon.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.

TRIVIA NIGHT AND SILENT AUCTION

Saturday, February 27
7-10 p.m.

The Christian Activity Center's 6th Annual Trivia Night will be held at St. Michael's Church in Waterloo, IL.

Info: Brad and Laurie Watkins 618-539-6100 or 618-401-0846

GOING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

A Conference of Challenge and Spiritual Growth
Featuring Dr. Richard Blackaby, author of *Unlimiting God*

First Baptist Church
626 W. Bottom Avenue, Columbia, IL 62236
Sunday, Feb. 28, 8:00 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
Monday, Mar. 1, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Mar. 2, 6:30 p.m.

All are invited to attend this conference.
For more information, call 618-281-5605

FOUR GREAT VBS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

February 20, 9:00-noon Pastors/Directors
MEBA Conference Room

Mar 6, 8:30-1:30-Logan Street Baptist Church,
601 S. 21st, Mt Vernon 62864

Apr 24, 9:00-noon VBS Teachers
MEBA Conference Room

Apr 25, 3:00-6:30 p.m.-Directors/Teachers
First Baptist Church, 1111 E. Hwy 50, O'Fallon 62269

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR MEBA CHURCHES SEEKING PASTORS

Caseyville, First
Lighthouse Community
Westview



Maplewood Park
Valmeyer

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

Shiloh, IL
May 1
Faith Family Church

Contact:
Relevant Practical Ministry for Men
P.O. Box 8171
Springfield, IL 62791
217-622-4069

Or visit the Website:
www.RPMFM.org



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 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

IBSA GOLF SCRAMBLE

Monday and Tuesday, May 10-11, 2010
Oak Terrace Golf Resort, 100 Beyers Lake, Pana, IL 62557

One day of golf with cart = \$30
One day of golf with cart and banquet = \$45
Two days of golf with cart and banquet = \$75

Register by May 3rd for a \$10 discount on the two day price! Register on line at IBSA.org and click on IBSA Golf Scramble in Quick Links. Prizes: Individual and Team, plus a \$1000 hole-in-one prize from Oak Terrace! All IBSA pastors, church staff members, ADOMS, deacons, church ministry leaders and wives are welcome. Arrangements have been made for wives not golfing to spend time at the spa and receive a 10% discount on all services.

Monday - 18 holes with a 1 p.m. shotgun start, followed by a delicious banquet and a dynamic guest speaker at the resort.
Tuesday -18 holes with an 8 a.m. shotgun start. Celebration Community Church, one mile from Oak Terrace, will provide a free luncheon.

Stay at the resort for \$47.50 double occupancy or \$95.00 single occupancy. This price includes a full breakfast buffet. Book yours now before April 10 directly with the resort by calling 1-800-577-7598. Just say you will be there for the IBSA golf outing! You may also register by calling 217-391-3133 or mailing Sylvan at sylvanknobloch@ibsa.org, or Debbie Muller at debbiemuller@ibsa.org.



DENNIS' DELIBERATIONS

Prayer is a relationship: not just any relationship, but our relationship with the Father. Our relationship with the Father will not grow if we do not continually communicate. We need to pray without pause. Consider the following:

- Give thanks: Of course it's important to share our needs—all of them—with our Heavenly Father. But if you focus first on saying thanks, it will change your life. Having a crummy week? Even better! I have heard (and experienced it) that voicing gratitude is often known to bring people out of a funk.
- Team up: Sometimes it is easy to lose focus when you are praying alone. Join a few trusted friends, even for 20 minutes each week. It is extremely rewarding to collectively share your praises, hopes, and concerns with God.
- Set a time and a place: Find a special place where it is just you and God, and make it a regular thing. If you are forgetful, put it on your daily calendar or PDA. Have a friend keep you accountable.
- Use resources: Are you too busy to pray? Think again. If you need some extra motivation for making prayer a consistent part of your life, check out Greg Frizzell's *How to Develop a Powerful Prayer Life* or Bill Hybel's *Too Busy Not to Pray*. These or other prayer resources can light the fire in your prayer life.
- Practice prayer walking: This is a simple, yet impacting way to claim your community, your school, or wherever you are for Christ.

Want to see a difference in your life, your church, your Metro-East Baptist Association? Pray without pause. (by the way, at least twenty-eight MEBA churches will be prayer walking their communities in March...join them in prayer—see the difference!)

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.

ATTENTION PASTORS: ONE HR WORKSHOPS

March 11, 2010

10:00 AM & 7:00 PM

MEBA Conference Room
4950 Old Collinsville Road, Swansea, IL
Details to come via email



MISSIONS SPECTACULAR 2010

The largest one-day mission project for Illinois Baptists is coming again. For several years Illinois Baptists have joined together to participate in "Missions Spectacular," the largest one-day mission project of our ministry year.

Last year 350 missionaries from 31 Illinois Baptist Churches came together in Metro East St. Louis, Springfield and Rockford to participate in various projects. Through these efforts in our Judean mission field countless people were touched with the gospel and twenty-nine made professions of faith in Christ. We are in the planning stages for this year's event and to help get a grasp on what God wants us to do this year; I researched the word "spectacular" which describes this activity and discovered a challenge for all Illinois Baptists in its definition. In order for something to be spectacular, it must be remarkably large or visually impactful. The thought of five hundred missionaries from Illinois Baptist churches ministering in three areas of our state is remarkably large. The sight of these missionaries all dressed in bright "Missions Spectacular" t-shirts as they minister is visually stunning. Our one-day mission project truly can be spectacular if your church chooses to be involved this year. Projects include construction teams, sports camps, poverty ministries, senior adult ministries, kids clubs and prayer walking.

The cost of the event is \$20 per missionary (\$50 per family). The cost includes your t-shirt and Saturday meals, and helps provide some of the project materials.

You may register online at IBSA.org or you may contact the MEBA office at 624-4444 for the registration forms. The deadline to register is May 1.

Help us make Missions Spectacular!

For more information please contact Marsha Johnson (217) 391-3138 or e-mail: MarshaJohnson@IBSA.org.

Mark Emerson
Missions Awareness Director, IBSA
MarkEmerson@IBSA.org
(217) 391-3136 or (217) 685-1112

Calvary, Sparta - The church's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Goal was \$2500, amount received was \$3509.18.

Valmeyer, First - The church is in need of some baptismal robes, one adult, one youth, and one children's size. There is also a need for a wheelchair. Call Carole at 618-604-5379.

Lord's Supper Tapestry is available for any church that would like to have it. Can be picked up at the MEBA office.



1. Pray that the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the Haitian people will be met in a timely way by all appropriate means.
2. Pray for the government of Haiti as it works with international relief organizations to restore basic services to its people.
3. Pray for the thousands of volunteers who are serving in Haiti as the hands and feet of Christ. Pray that their stamina will be unflagging, and that their compassionate service will point to the saving power and presence of Jesus Christ.
4. Pray for the physical and spiritual well-being of the Baptist detainees in Haiti.
5. Pray that the Lord will surround the families and churches of the Haiti detainees with His tender mercies and sustain them with His arms of compassion.
6. Pray that the U. S. Department of State will use all diplomatic means available to advocate for the humane treatment of its citizens and will work tirelessly to secure a timely resolution to this unfortunate situation.
7. Pray that donors will not be discouraged from contributing to the ongoing relief needs of this devastated country.
8. Pray that the situation in Haiti will heighten the awareness of all volunteer groups of the need for adequate training, orientation, and preparation prior to embarking on ministry trips at home or abroad.
9. Pray that doors of opportunity remain open for our trained Disaster Relief volunteers to assist those placed in need whenever and wherever a natural disaster may occur.
10. Pray that the disaster in Haiti will serve as a catalyst for a new generation of volunteers to enlist for training through SBC Disaster Relief for effective deployment and service for both present and future needs.



TEAM IMPACT

First Baptist Church
1111 E. Hwy. 50
O'Fallon, IL 62269

March 10-14 at 7:00 p.m. each night
Cost: FREE

One of the most electrifying performances of strength, force and power human eyes have ever seen. Team Impact is a group of world-class athletes, including champion power-lifters, previous WWE wrestlers, and former NFL players. With demonstrations of astounding feats of strength-such as shattering five feet of concrete with one blow from their massive arms and snapping baseball bats in half with their bare hands-Team Impact members are sure to capture the attention of both the young and old; all to share an inspiring message of hope.

Contact 618-632-6223 or www.fbcfallon.org/teamimpact

MINISTERS' WIVES RETREAT

April 9-10

Calvary Baptist Church, Hillsboro

Fee: \$45, includes hotel reservation, conference, and meals.
Registration required.

Info: alidavis@mchsi.com or 217-649-1699

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 6 - Greg Doussard | 17 - Gregory Cole* |
| 10 - Maggie Leininger | 22 - Dennis Dawson |
| 12 - Joseph Tracy, Jr. | 26 - Mike Lawrence |
| 14 - Vern Baird* | 26 - Steve Waters |
| 14 - Rory Brooks | 29 - Skip Leininger |



* Retired

FINANCIAL REPORT MEBA BUDGET ACCOUNT January 31, 2010

Income from the Churches	\$	12,991.93
Other Income		229.39
Total Income for 1/2010		13,221.32
Less Expenditures for 1/2010	\$	18,862.19