



Bradley Baptist Beacon

February *and* March 2008



WELCOME TO BBA **FRANCES IRIZARRY** **Ethnic Ministries Director**

Through the cooperative effort of our local churches, Frances Irizarry has joined the Bradley Baptist Association as Director of Ethnic Ministries. She shares with us the same awesome responsibility to make Christ known to a lost world. She has a heart for reaching the people and is sometimes called a "Hispanic Lottie Moon." She is available to our local churches to identify needs and establish opportunities to minister. We welcome Miss Irizarry to work along side our churches to evangelize, disciple and minister to our ethnic communities.

DEACON RETREAT with JIM HENRY **Friday, February 1 and Saturday February 2** **@ Wallace Memorial Church in Knoxville, TN**



- ◆ Jim Henry is the former Senior Minister of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Florida
- ◆ Jim has served two terms as past President of the Southern Baptist Convention
- ◆ He is author of "Deacons: Growing in Character and Commitment"

*"Pastors, round up your deacons
and join me for what I believe will
be two great days of training." Phil*

FREE SPAGHETTI DINNER & STUDENT LABOR AUCTION

JANUARY 26—5:30 PM

Baptist Collegiate Ministry Building

All funds go to Summer Missions — Contact Denise Roebuck for more info @ 284-6183

JUDEA

DISASTER RELIEF



BBA DISASTER RELIEF VOLUNTEERS RESPOND TO ICE/SNOW STORMS IN OKLAHOMA—LEADING SEVERAL TO CHRIST



With all the damage caused in the Midwest from the ice and snow storms in December, 14 volunteers from 8 BBA churches along with 3 volunteers from 2 Polk County Baptist Association churches responded to Collinsworth, OK. The team served as a chainsaw crew completing 21 job sites,



handing out Bibles and witnessing to approximately 30 individuals of which 7 made professions of faith. John Davis (Clingan Ridge Baptist) and Lou Sadowski (Waterville Baptist) did an excellent job leading the team. The team made a significant spiritual impact on the community around Collinsworth and have been asked to return.

SAMARIA: NEW YORK

WHAT DOES GIFT WRAPPING, THE RONALD McDONALD HOUSE, FIRE STATIONS, AND A LIVE NATIVITY SCENE ALL HAVE IN COMMON?



Brittnee Slaughter—Union & Karen Galloway- North Cleveland

All of these represent ministry that took place in New York City by 29 volunteers from 7 BBA churches this past Christmas. Using the tool of Servant Evangelism, our team was able to share Christ and plant seeds with hundreds of New Yorkers through free gift wrapping next to Macy's. The team delivered home baked Tennessee goodies and sang Christmas carols at a Live Nativity Scene close to Time Square. Mission team members helped sponsor a Christmas Party at Ronald McDonald House, sharing God's love with children suffering with cancer or other life threatening illnesses, and their families. Bill Kelley (Valley View Baptist) and Tim Hughes (Westwood Baptist) completed several construction projects at the 411 Church plant during the week. The mission trip brought a great climax to the 3-year partnership we have had with the 411 Church in New York City.



Joseph Kelley—Waterville Baptist

SALVADOR MISSION TRIP - JULY 19—26, 2008

Phil Taylor will be the Ministry Coordinator, along with other International World Changers participants, as they show God's love to Brazilian kids in the mega-city of Salvador. This would be a great ministry opportunity for youth and adult participants as they will be visiting the children in their schools to tell and show God's way through skits, puppets, singing, VBS, crafts, distribution of literature, films and tapes.

For more information, contact BBA at 476-5493



LOST BOYS OF SUDAN

Orphaned by war, John Bul Atem, 26 years of age and from the Dinka Tribe, now lives in Cleveland to work and attend school. He is currently staying in the home of Jeff Davis. He is in need of a job, housing and financial aid. He is available to speak at churches to tell of his journey.

Contact Jeff Davis at 476-4921 for more info.

JERUSALEM



SERVANT EVANGELISM CAN REVOLUTIONIZE YOUR CHURCH

One of the greatest tools we have to reach people for Christ in our own backyard (our Jerusalem) is servant evangelism. More and more churches are starting to use this incredible tool in their communities and are seeing some fantastic things happen. Liberty Baptist Church in Hampton, VA had 43 professions of faith the first 2 weeks of application. After 16 months of doing Servant Evangelism, Southwest Baptist Church in DeSoto, TX increased in Sunday School from 320 to 600 and added 280 members (half through baptism). So what is Servant Evangelism? In a nutshell, servant evangelism involves intentionally sharing Christ by modeling biblical servanthood. It is the most simple, most transferable, and yes, most fun approach for moving believers closer to a biblical lifestyle marked by consistent witnessing. Servant Evangelism is a combination of simple acts of kindness and intentional personal evangelism. In many cases, such acts of kindness open the door for the greatest act of kindness a Christian can give: the Gospel. Much of what I do as a NAMB Missionary flows out of Servant Evangelism such as Ocoee Outreach, Block Parties, Disaster Relief, Project Helping Hands, ESL Ministry and Late Night Basketball—it is the heart beat of our mission work. This article is part one of a 3 part series I will be sharing with you over the course of the next few months to help you and your church understand what servant evangelism is all about and how your church can use this incredible tool in our community.



2007 Project Helping Hands adopted over 300 families that needed a helping hand during the holidays. Thanksgiving food, Christmas food, and Christmas gifts were given by 30 Bradley Baptist churches, and 20 businesses, organizations and individuals. Because more than 60 volunteers from our local churches and our partnering organizations worked together, we were able to share Christ and see 20 decisions made for Christ and 12 professions of faith. Among our great partnerships is our local schools. Black Fox Elementary and Stuart Elementary schools held food drives for Thanksgiving. North Lee and Blythe Bower Elementary schools coordinated food drives to deliver just in time for Christmas. Other partnering organizations included the Cleveland City Police 'Shop with a Cop', The Cleveland Medical Group Managers, and the Newcomers Club of Cleveland who raised \$1,500 to help several families.



Mr. Jason Humberd's 4th grade class won 1st place in the Black Fox PHH food drive donating a total of 2,338 items

HOLD THE DATE!

YEC 2008

FEB 29—MAR 1

YEC is a premiere youth conference that has stood the test of time. After attending YEC just once, you can't help but become a raving fan. Ask a student at your church who has gone. YEC worship is authentic, awesome and almost indescribable. YEC worship is Real! It will be at the municipal Auditorium in Nashville and the Association will be taking a bus, and reserving a block of rooms. The cost is approximately \$50 per person and covers the event, room and transportation. **Sign up Now!**

ROYAL AMBASSADOR

Royal Ambassador Hayride

Charles Hysinger, RA Director, and RA youth display toboggans and gloves they brought to the hayride to be donated to the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home.



JAIL MINISTRY

A special thank you to all the churches for the help you gave. We were able again this year to provide Christmas Cards and new socks to inmates. Thank you for your prayers.

Lynn Dykes

Now taking applications for "Gospel School of the Bible" . . .

Contact Dudley Nichols @ 472-7606

PASTOR'S APPRECIATION BANQUET



**Pastor Victor Hayes
& Michigan Avenue**

*“for the joy of the
Lord is our
strength”
Nehemiah 8:10*



**Pastor Phil Griffin
& Grace Point**

JOY was the theme of our annual Pastor and Staff Banquet held at Walker Valley High School cafeteria on December 6th—a night to appreciate the pastors, their spouses and church staff for the year of service so faithfully given. Approximately 340 guests were in attendance, representing 35 of our local churches and several retired pastors.



**Tim, Mary Alice and
Gabriel Lovelace**

We were hilariously entertained and blessed by Tim and Mary Alice Lovelace, with a special guest appearance by their daughter, Gabriel. Many did not know you can sing “I’ll Fly Away” forward and also backward. Thank you, Tim!

There are a few DVD’s and CD’s “Comedy of Tim Lovelace” that can be purchased at the BBA for \$20.00.



**Our Chef,
BOBBY DYE**

Thanks to Bobby Dye and his crew of volunteers for their devotion given each year to this banquet. This year, we enjoyed a delicious prime rib dinner. It takes a lot of time and ability to cook 340 prime rib steaks in a timely manner.



**The YOUTH
did a great job!**

Servers were volunteer youth from our local churches, and did a wonderful job attending the tables.



**THANKS to
Bobby's Volunteers**

OTHER PASTORS ENJOYING THE BANQUET



**Pastor Truitt Cockrell
& Matt Rush**



**Pastor Darrell Grady
& Wendy**

The banquet could not have been successful without the many other volunteers from our local churches—the Banquet Team who organized the banquet, led by Julie Jones; the ladies that decorated the beautiful tables; the men that set up the tables and cleaned up after the banquet; and, the many businesses that donated door prizes. Thanks to each of you!

“Thanks to all the Pastors and staff that participated in the love offering taken at the Christmas banquet. It is very much appreciated.”

Frances Irizarry



The Church of the Future

On a youth choir tour in 1974, I saw what I thought the church of the future would look like, an ultra-modernistic sanctuary, and I haven't seen another one since.

What will the church of the future look like? I am not talking about buildings and architecture. I am talking about the living, breathing, dynamic Church of Jesus Christ. We affirm what the Bible says about the church—that Jesus established it and that “the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.” It is His Church and His Church is not composed of four walls and a roof. Neither is it composed of boards and committees, programs and activities, though that is what most of us think since these have defined “church” in our day. In reality, the Church consists of those who have responded to Christ’s call to salvation, the call to be reconcilers, light, and blessing to others as they labor to fulfill the mission of the Lord.

In the past we took what we believed to be the Church and turned it into “our church,” complete with all the services, activities and membership requirements that we believed were necessary to be a “church,” adopting the corporate or educational model. Now we are experiencing difficulty getting people into this “church culture,” resulting in a significant percentage decline in baptisms, church participation, membership and contributions. All this is occurring in “church culture” while the broader culture professes a greater eagerness for spirituality. Somewhere there is a great disconnect. That is not to say the church has been totally ineffective, but rather is saying that we have reached a type of saturation point with our current church culture. Where does that leave us as we seek to chart a course for the future? Hear the words of God spoken through Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? KJV Isaiah. 43:19

What will the church of the future look like?

The church of the future will focus more on Jesus. People may be turned off to church, but they are not turned off to Jesus. **The church of the future will focus on connecting all people groups to Jesus.**

Like the Apostle Paul, whose burning passion was to “know Christ,” the church will lead people to Jesus, to live in relationship with Him, to KNOW Him. The church of the past has done an excellent job teaching ABOUT God, ABOUT Jesus. But, are they living in an intimate relationship with Him? What have we learned about relating to God, about loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength?

The church of the future will be missional—focused on connecting people with Christ and with **His mission.** It will focus more on connecting people with each other and with their culture/world than on gathering them from their world. The church will realize its job is to change the world from her front porch. It will be passionately involved in living out its mission.

The church of the future will reconnect or connect with its community. The focus will move from revitalizing churches to rebuilding communities. Gone is the luxury of the protective fortress. To survive, the church must move outside the walls and into the streets. “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...” John 1:14 KJV I love *The Message* paraphrase of John 1:14, “And the word became flesh and moved into the neighborhood.” Jesus connected with people wherever He went. The church of the future will focus on what it is doing as she goes into all the world.

The church of the future will connect with the world. Artificial boundaries of cities, states, neighborhoods and nations will fall as the church engages in its world mission. Creative relationships, partnerships and meaningful associations will develop between Christians on different continents, in different cities and between different denominations. The focus will be on the common good we can achieve by working together.

The church of the future will be a loving church, exemplifying in action the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. Beyond all else, it will be known for unconditional love for all people. After all, that is what characterized Jesus.

Do not hesitate to call on us to assist your **church for the future.**

Phil

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Phil Taylor—Director of Missions
Randy Bonner—Ministry Evangelism Director
Frances Irizarry—Ethnic Ministries Director
Denise Roebuck—Collegiate Ministries
Dimple Cox—Ministry Assistant
Loyce Farris—DOM Assistant

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



Vacation Bible School

Early Bird Clinic @ First Baptist Church Cleveland
January 17, 2008, 6:30 pm—8:00 pm
With Kathy D. Trundle, VBS Specialist

“Outrigger Island: Living God’s Unshakeable Truth”
and
“Club VBS: Cactus Canyon”



We invite all Pastors and VBS Directors to this Early Bird Clinic. Kathy will share information about both 2008 themes and any changes of the curriculum from previous years. Contact: Tara Waldrop 476-5526

CATALYST RESOURCES

Now Available For You To Borrow
at the Bradley Baptist Association

- ◇ 5 Copies of Small Group Catalyst Study “**COURAGEOUS IN CALLING**” - “*The perfect resource for your church staff, team or small group study*”

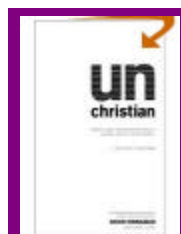


- ◇ 1 copy of “**BREAKING THE MISSIONAL CODE**” - “*Your Church Can Become a Missionary in Your Community*”

A COPY OF ALL THE SESSIONS ON CD & DVD

(1)Andy Stanley (2)Patrick Lencioni, (3)UnChristian Panel & Shane Claiborne (4)Francis Chan (5)Sunday Adelaja & Rick Warren (6)John C. Maxwell & Craig Groeschel (7)Tim Sanders & Dave Ramsey (8)Erwin McManus (9)Andy Stanly

- ◇ 4 copies of “**Un Christian**” - “*What a New Generation Really Thinks About Christianity...And Why It Matters*”



CALENDAR

January

- **19th** RA Banquet at North Cleveland Baptist Annex.
- **23rd** Monthly Pastors Luncheon
- **26th** Spaghetti Dinner @ BCM
- **31st** Conclave 2008 in Chattanooga

February

- **1st-2nd** Conclave 2008 in Chattanooga
- **1st-2nd** Deacons Retreat at Wallace Memorial Church in Knoxville
- **19th** - “Financial Issues Facing Churches & Ministers” Seminar 7-9 PM at Hamilton County Baptist Association 267-3794
- **29th** YEC—Nashville

Among Our Churches

Maple Street: Pastor Bryan Mowery has resigned.

1st Baptist Church Benton: Searching for an Interim Minister of Music. For more info call 338-2066

BBA has a Gestetner DSc38 color printer for sale for \$800.00—purchased new 2003.

