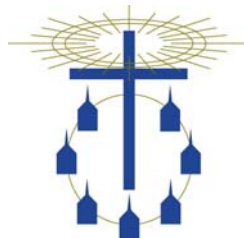


MSWSBA MESSENGER

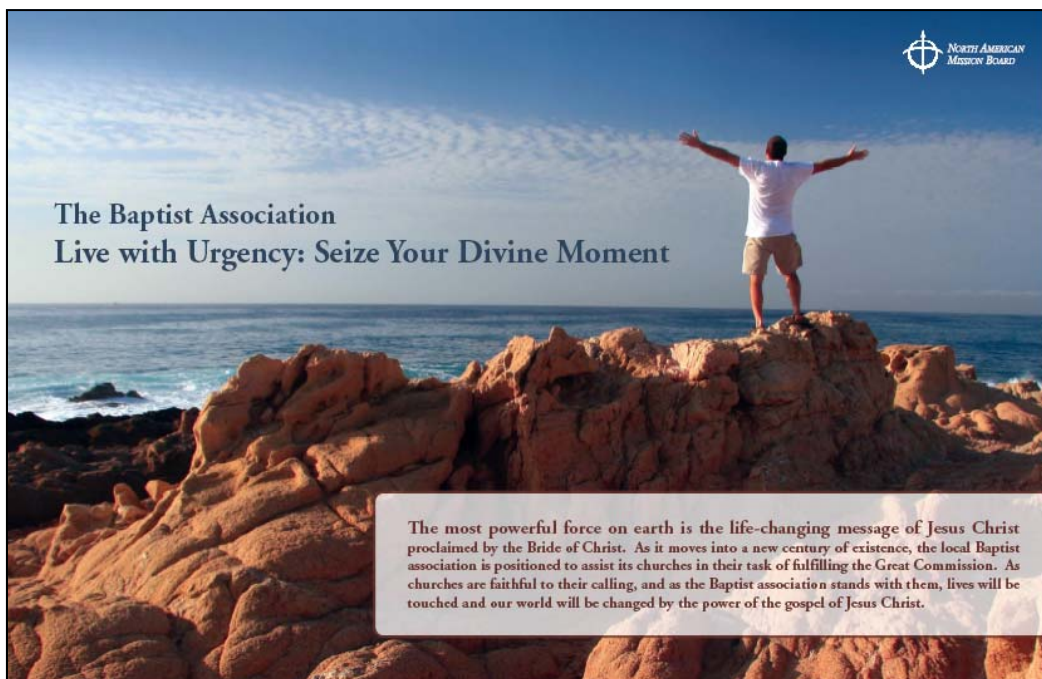


Volume 23, Issue 5

May 2008

Focus on: **Association**
Missions

Website: www.mswsba.org



The Baptist Association
 Live with Urgency: Seize Your Divine Moment

The most powerful force on earth is the life-changing message of Jesus Christ proclaimed by the Bride of Christ. As it moves into a new century of existence, the local Baptist association is positioned to assist its churches in their task of fulfilling the Great Commission. As churches are faithful to their calling, and as the Baptist association stands with them, lives will be touched and our world will be changed by the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Association Emphasis Week — May 18-24, 2008

The Baptist Association—Live With Urgency: Seize Your Divine Moment is the theme for the SBC 2008 Association Emphasis Week.

"Having celebrated the 300-year anniversary of the Baptist association in America in 2007, the association must now seize its divine moments in 2008. **Divine moments require urgency of actions.** Let's not miss them!

"Throughout the past 300 years in the Baptist association, one common thread has always existed: assisting the local church in its task to fulfill the Great Commission.

"The Baptist association stands now at a key moment in its history as it moves with urgency to assist local churches in

fulfilling this great task."

May 18-24, 2008 is **Association Emphasis Week**, in the SBC. Please pray for a renewed passion—an "urgency of action"—that will drive us to "seize divine moments" created for us by the LORD to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and show His love.

The most powerful force on earth is the life-changing message of Jesus Christ proclaimed by the Bride of Christ. As it moves into a new century of existence, the local Baptist association is positioned to assist churches in their task of fulfilling the Great Commission. As churches are faithful to their calling, and as the Baptist association stands with them, **lives will be touched and our world will be changed by the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.**

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Inside this issue:

Assn. Emphasis Week	1
Assn. Mission Offering	2
Missions & Evangelism	3
Calendar of Events	4
Pulpit & Music Supply	4
Church News	5
"Is Your Axe Sharpe?"	6

What's Happening

- Senior Adult Sunday — May 4, 2008.
- Christian Home Week emphasis — May 4-10, 2008.
- Pastors' Luncheon — May 13, 2008.
- Association Emphasis Week, "AMO" — May 19-24, 2008.



MSWSBA is affiliated with both the Missouri Baptist Convention and also the Southern Baptist Convention.



Our Churches & Pastors

- Alexandria** — Rev. Randy J. Ewart
Church: 660-754-5036
Home: 660-754-1628
- Canton** — Rev. Brian Stone
Church: 573-288-5583
Home: 573-248-3396
- Dover** — Dr. Paul Mills, Interim
Home: 573-248-1068
- Durham** — Rev. Bill Romans
Church: 573-47803435
Home: 573-478-3627
- Edina** — Rev. Kevin McChesney
Church: 660-397-2641
Home: 660-397-4134
- Ewing** — Rev. Tim Smith
Church: 573-209-4022
Home: 573-209-3300
- Hurdland** — Rev. Robert Shobe
Church: 660-423-5307
Home: 660-423-5300
- Kahoka** -Dr. Lonnie Nelson Interim
Church: 660-727-3545
Home: 573-406-0648
- Knox City** — Rev. Doug Wilson
Church: 660-434-5340
Home: 660-434-5248
- La Belle** — Bro. Doug Mahsman
Church: 660-462-3426
Home: 573-248-3745
- La Grange** — Rev. Jim Reynolds
Church: 573-655-4692
- Lewistown** — Bro. Matt Simer
Church: 573-497-2403
Home: 573-215-1823
- Liberty** — Rev. Dwight Snead
Home: 660-727-2637
- Mount Olivet** — Bro. Jesse Rogers
Church: 573-494-1221
Home: 660-733-5643
- Mount Salem** — Rev. Allen Davidson
Home: 660-397-3332
- Providence** — Without a Pastor
Church: 573-853-4465
- South Union** —
Rev. Jay Stinson, Interim
Home: 573-248-3732
- South Wyaconda** —
Rev. Mark Chinnis
Home: 573-288-3486
- Southern Baptist Fellowship**
Rev. Dan Steinbeck
Church: 660-754-6825
Home: 573-288-3043
- Ten Mile** —
Rev. Russell Brownell
Home: 573-478-3474
- Wyaconda** —
Rev. David Howald
Home: 660-397-3549

Executive Board Authorizes “Association Mission Offering”

The MSWSBA Executive Board, at its April 17, 2008 quarterly meeting, authorized an **“MSW Association Mission Offering (AMO)”** which would assist in the funding of direct, tangible associational missions and ministries, involving affiliated churches and their members.

Much like current Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO) for International Missions, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO) for North American Missions, and the Rheubin L. South Missouri Mission Offering (MMO), the **“Association Mission Offering” (AMO)** would provide an opportunity for churches and individuals to contribute directly to impact kingdom growth through locally organized missions.

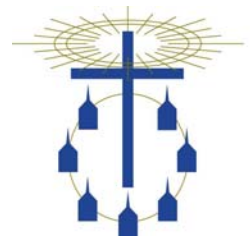
Quoting MSWSBA DOM, Randy Ewart, speaking at the April 2008 Executive Board meeting, “Right now, we are intentionally spending some of the modest cash reserves that God has graciously provided the past couple of years. If we continue this pattern, we could eventually ‘hit a brick wall,’ so to speak. At that point it would be a sad moment if we must cut some of the missions or ministries in which we are presently involved. That would not be a happy time for any of us, if we are forced to make those types of decisions.”

Examples of the types of mission and ministry efforts in which AMO funds would be used, are as follows: **Providing for ongoing operational expenses of Disaster Relief units; Summer Missionaries to assist churches with VBS, mission events, and association camps; and Direct/Tangible Mission or Evangelism efforts, i.e., mission trips, mission VBS, Bibles, evangelistic films, area crusades, witnessing tracts, and the like.** It would not be used for general administrative expenses of the association.

The AMO provides an opportunity for individuals to receive a blessing from Almighty God by being involved in supporting local missions. This is literally, our churches being “on mission” together in their “Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the Ends of the Earth” in accordance with Acts 1:8.

The AMO will coincide with the SBC sponsored **“Association Emphasis week, scheduled for May 19-25, 2008.** A week of prayer will begin on May 19th, culminating with a special day of receiving the AMO on May 25th. Gifts intended for AMO will, however, be received any time during the year. Promotional materials are being prepared and will be forwarded to our churches as soon as they can be prepared and mailed. A bulletin insert, promotional posters, prayer guides, and offering envelopes are anticipated. *Contact the DOM with any questions.*

Pastors, WMU and Brotherhood members are urged to promote the AMO. Please pray that God will speak to the hearts of His people in our churches to prayerfully support local missions and ministries through our **MSW Association Mission Offering.**



MSWSBA Churches
Linked Together to
Communicate Christ to
the World!



"Be My Witnesses in Jerusalem, in Judea and Samaria, and to the Ends of the Earth" (Acts 1:8)

Mission Opportunities Are Just Around the Corner . . . !

Have you marked your calendars yet? Missions opportunities are coming!

The Lewis County Fair Ministry will be July 8-12. There is still room for you to volunteer! We need people to volunteer to work during the daytime. We need music between 6-8 pm. Come with a desire to share Jesus with the people who will come to the fair. And pass the word -- the Jackson Weightlifting Club will be there on Saturday. Invite a friend to come with you as they will present a gospel message while showing their feats of strength.

Then mark your September calendars. The Knox County Corn Fest will be September 6-7. And the Clark County Old Settlers Day will be September 27. These 2 events have a parade as well as the music in the park.

So, plan to come help. Remember, these are times when you can follow through on the Great Commission by reaching out to those in your community.

Isn't God good!

Violet Brownell, Missions Team Leader

The Most Important Thing! — MSWSBA Evangelism Conference

The 2008 MSWSBA Evangelism Conference was held with FBC Hurdland on Saturday, April 5, 2008. The chosen theme was, **"The Most Important Thing!"** as attendees were challenged by guest speaker, Dr. Gary Taylor, Evangelism Specialist with the Missouri Baptist Convention.



Following a time of worship and rejoicing in the singing of older hymns, Dr. Taylor shared about the opportunities and needs for ALL believers to be sharing their personal testimony of Jesus Christ. Dr. Taylor then led a practical session in preparing testimonies, using a simple outline — "My Life Before I Met Jesus; How I Came to Meet Jesus; and My Life Since I Met Jesus."

Bro. David Ellis, Technology Specialist with the MBC, was also on hand to demonstrate how Believers could then upload their testimonies on the web site maintained by the Oklahoma Baptist Convention. Ironically, their URL address is **www.mostimportantthing.org** for those interested in uploading their testimony or reading testimonies of others. Internet surfers can view a sample testimony on this site by typing the name, "Jesse Rogers," in the search box when they arrive at the home page of this web site.

A heartfelt thanks goes out to everyone who worked to make this conference a huge success, especially Dr. Gary Taylor, Bro. David Ellis, Rev. Robert Shobe, and the brethren of FBC Hurdland. The church was an outstanding host, and the "fried chicken" potluck luncheon attributed well to this fact.

Additionally, materials such as "JESUS Name Project" signs, and a variety of outreach Bibles (Firemen, Police, Cowboys, Truck Drivers, etc.) are available through the Association office

The Association looks forward to working with churches in regard to this culturally relevant witnessing opportunity. If anyone would need assistance in uploading their testimony, or would like further information, please contact Jesse Rogers, Evangelism Team Leader, or Randy Ewart, Director of Missions, by calling **573-248-5561**. <><

MSWSBA Calendar of Events



MAY 2008 —

- 4 **Senior Adult Sunday** – an SBC Emphasis
- 4 **Christian Home Week** – an SBC Emphasis
- 5 Camp Team Mtg. – 7 pm at Lewistown
- 8 Disaster Relief Team Mtg. - 7 pm at Lewistown
- 11 **MOTHER'S DAY**
- 13 Hymn Sing – 7 pm at FBC Hurdland
- 13 Pastors' Luncheon — 11:30 am at Pizza Haus in Edina
- 19-24 **Baptist Association Emphasis Week** – an SBC Emphasis; **Week of Prayer for our "Association Mission Offering"**
- 21 Highland Baccalaureate -- TBA
- 25 **Day of Prayer for World Evangelization** – an SBC Emphasis
- 26 **MEMORIAL DAY** – Office CLOSED

- 27-29 Summer Missionary Orientation – at HLG

JUNE 2008 —

- 2 Camp Team Mtg. – 7 pm at Lewistown
- 8-9 SBC Pastors' Conference – Indianapolis
- 10-11 SBC Annual Mtg. – Indianapolis
- 10 Hymn Sing – 7 pm at FBC Edina
- 12 Disaster Relief Team Mtg. – 7 pm at Lewistown
- 15 **Baptist Men's Day** – an SBC Emphasis
- 15 **FATHER'S DAY**
- 17 Missions Team Mtg. – 7 pm at Lewistown
- 22 **Adopt-an-Annuitant Sunday** – an SBC Emphasis
- 23 Camp Team Mtg. – 7 pm at Lewistown
- 27 Pastors' & Wives' Dinner—6:30 pm at FBC Lewistown

God Answers Needs of Local of Churches in quite an Unusual Manner . . . “NOT SO!”

God is indeed blessing MSWSBA in somewhat of an unusual way — but no, that is not quite right. ***Our Father's abundant blessings are not really unusual at all!***

For some time, MSWSBA has experienced a rather short supply of individuals with which Pastors could call upon for "Pulpit Supply". Also, churches have often sought instrumentalists or worship leaders to assist them for special services or due to unavoidable absences. God has been working through His people to address this need and several individuals are answering His call in this area.

Area Pulpit Supply:

Rev. David Feldkamp at 217-816-9744;
Rev. Richard Handyside at 660-754-6225;
Rev. Gerald Harrison at 573-853-4537;
Bro. Benny Jarvis at 573-288-5711;



Bro. Roger Job at 573-494-3519;
Rev. Jim Palmer at 660-341-5235;
Bro. Fred Rowe at 660-397-4171;
Bro. Caleb Smith at 573-209-3300;
Bro. Jordan Whitaker at ; or
call the Assoc. Office at 573-215-3328 for assistance (mobile tel. **573-248-5561**; home tel. 660-754-1628).

HLG College Pulpit Supply:

Beth Taylor, HLG Christian Studies Div., at 573-221-3675, ext. 340.

Pianist Supply:

Mia Hargrove (FBC Kahoka) at 660-866-2391 or 660-341-1667.

Worship Leader Supply:

Names to be added later.

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News From Our Churches . . .

- † **Alexandria** — Held Spring Revival Services April 27-30 with **Dr. M. E. (Gene) Spurgeon** as the guest speaker. A wonderful spirit of revival was experienced in the church, with an average of 49+ in attendance each evening. There was a high attendance on Monday evening, with about 55 persons attending. There were 2 re-commitments, 5 responding to "go the extra mile" in Christian service, 1 public repentance, and 1 requesting prayer regarding reconciliation in a personal relationship. Many visitors were present.



Connie Handyside and Loretta Nye attended the W.M.U. Annual Mtg. in Raytown earlier this month. Also, Connie Handyside and Katie Ewart attended the G.A. Retreat at Camp Inlow, Apr. 11-12th. Plans are underway for VBS — "Outrigger Island."

- † **Edina** — Please pray for their new pastor, **Rev. Kevin McChesney**, wife Rachelle and three children: , as they begin their new ministry with the church, as well as for the church.
- † **Ewing** — Six girls, accompanied by Mary Evans and Jessica Glover, attended the GA Retreat held at Camp Inlow on April 11-12th. Karyn Reichert was the guest missionary at this event.

There were over 90 in attendance at the Mother-Daughter Banquet held at the church on Saturday, April 12th. The guest speaker was Pamela Sonnenmoser, who spoke on "Shoes of Faith" and "Accessorizing Your Faith".

The Children's Sunday School Dept. took the church bus to the Quincy YMCA on Sunday afternoon, April 20. They enjoyed swimming and activities at the Y, then returned for the evening service where the children sang and participated in Children's Church.

A Youth Lock-In for grades 7-12 was held at the church on Sat. April 18th. A time of wor-

ship, fun, games, and food was enjoyed by all.

Awana Awards will be given on April 30th, the last night for Awana this year. Parents are encouraged to attend. The speaker will be Awana missionary, Mr. Schoonover, and refreshments will be served afterwards.

- † **Hurdland** — Were pleased to host the Association WMU Meeting at the church on Thursday, April 24 at 10:00 a.m. There was a meal following the meeting and special music provided by Susie Shobe.

The children will be making May Baskets for residents of the Knox County Nursing Home and RCF this month. The baskets will include an assortment of goodies and will be hand delivered by the children.

Vacation Bible School will be held June 6-7, and 13-14th. This year's theme is "Outrigger Island." Teachers are excited and working hard to prepare for this year's VBS.

Wednesday, April 30, will be RA's & GA's Awards night. The RA's and GA's will be on break for the summer and will resume in the fall.

- † **Lewistown** — Have been doing some serious remodeling and renovation to the educational unit, e.g., new ceilings, new classrooms and storage closets. ***Planning to re-roof the educational unit May 30-31st, but seeking assistance from men of our sister churches*** on those days to assist with removing old roofing and installing new shingles. Please contact Brenda Sharpe at [573-215-5703](tel:573-215-5703) if you can assist them.
- † **Mount Olivet** — The church has been very busy of late, being involved with the MSW Evangelism Conference held at FBC Hurland — "The Most Important Thing." The next evening the church hosted an association-sponsored "Wild Beast Feast" on Apr. 6th (about 75+ in attendance), featuring Billy Yargus, the 2008 NWTF Grand National Turkey Calling Champion as guest speaker. The church also hosted the association Hymn Sing on April 12th, with a good group attending this event as well. <><



"MSWSBA Churches Linked Together to Communicate Christ!"

Office Address:

Mt. Salem-Wyaconda Southern Baptist Association
300 South Elm Street
Post Office Box 247
Lewistown, Missouri 63452
Web site: www.mswsba.org

Office Phone: (573) 215-3328

Home Phone (660) 754-1628
Mobile Phone: (573) 248-5561
Email: mswdom@marktwain.net
Home: rewart@centurytel.net

MESSENGER Articles:

forgiven_preacher@yahoo.com

Office Hours:

Tuesdays 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Thursdays 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Fridays 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Hours may vary due to ministry needs on the mission field.

How to contact our Officers:

Moderator — Doug Wilson

Phone: (660) 434-5248 *
Email: dwilson@marktwain.net

Asst. Moderator — Robert Shobe

Phone: (660)-423-5300 *
Email: shobe@marktwain.net

Clerk — Violet Brownell

Phone: (573) 478-3474 *
Email: vbrownel@marktwain.net

Treasurer — Russell Brownell

Phone: (573) 478-3474 *
29044 State Hwy V
Maywood, Missouri 63454-1314
Email: rbrownel@marktwain.net

* **Note:** Telephone numbers marked with an asterisk are home numbers of the individual.

The MSWSBA MESSENGER is a ministry publication of the Mt. Salem—Wyaconda Southern Baptist Association, Inc. ***It is a 501(c)(3) organization in affiliation with the Missouri Baptist Convention.*** Randy J. Ewart, the Director of Missions, serves as the Editor.

IS YOUR AXE SHARP . . . ?

DOM Viewpoint

I just read an interesting article on Baptist Press (Apr. 30, 2008) about a Brother in Christ that has developed a ministry of "sharpening chainsaws" for various Disaster Relief efforts.



What was most interesting was the Scripture verse he had chosen to epitomize his God-led ministry, and I think it is very fitting for our Disaster Relief chainsaw sharpeners and mechanics – for that matter, it is fitting for all Christian brethren. The text is as follows:

Ecc 10:9b-10 -- ". . . the one who splits trees may be endangered by them. If the axe is dull, and one does not sharpen its edge, then one must exert more strength; however, the advantage of wisdom is that it brings success." (HCSB)

". . . he who splits logs may be endangered by them. If the axe is dull and he does not sharpen its edge, then he must exert more strength. Wisdom has the advantage of giving success." (NASB)

It is a well known fact, if tools are not used in the most prudent and efficient manner, the user will have a much more difficult time with the task that is before him—even to the extent that it's usage can become very dangerous. Spiritually speaking, we who are in Christ know that God is the source of ALL wisdom. His children should diligently seek His wisdom and guidance in all that we attempt in our service to Him, according to His calling. But also, we must constantly be "spiritually honed," i.e., sharpened in order to accomplish, in the most efficient manner, the objective that is before us. And yes, this "spiritual sharpening" will vastly improve our efforts, even to the point of improved safety, as compared to what we will accomplish when we are "spiritually dull."

In this "spiritually dulled" condition we are forced to depend totally on our own physical strength to accomplish the task, but will tire quickly, even halting our labor much too soon. If we would but harness the maximum potential of what the "master engineer" has intended for us, using a "sharp axe" (*or chainsaw*) -- literally becoming "spiritually sharpened" by the Holy Spirit -- we would accomplish unbelievable results.

Habakkuk 1:5 "Look . . . and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told" (NIV).

Pray that we will not "wear ourselves out, but rely on the wisdom and strength of God . . . to "sharpen" ourselves spiritually for the tasks that are before us. Then, let us praise the LORD for His absolute goodness, for glorious things will be accomplished according to His intended purpose and design. God bless.

Humbly in CHRIST's service,

Randy J. Ewart <><
MSWSBA Director of Missions