

Baptist Testimony

VOLUME 54 NUMBER 1 JANUARY 2008



The Word Has It

Ken Floyd
MARBC State Representative

“Strengthen me according to Your word,”

— Psalm 119:28

JANUARY’S WORD:

“Church”

“So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.”

— Acts 16:5

THE NEED FOR A PIONEERING VISION AND SPIRIT

Some three hundred and fifty years ago, a shipload of pioneers landed on the northeast coast of America. The first year, they established a town. The next year, they elected a town government. During the third year, the town government revealed plans to build a road five miles west into the wilderness.

Incredibly, in the fourth year, the people tried to impeach their government because they thought it to be a waste of public money to construct a road five miles westward into an unknown territory. United, they voiced the opinion, “Why go there?”

These people had once had no trouble envisioning their own travel across three-thousand miles of ocean or setting their minds on overcoming the great hardships they knew such a voyage and new life would entail. But in four short years, they

could not see five miles out of town! They had lost their pioneering spirit and their vision for what might be achieved.

Several decades ago, the men and women who pioneered the movement that became known as the Michigan Association of Regular Baptist Churches envisioned a future that involved the strategic partnership of church ministries in large cities, small towns, and rural communities through out the state. Common ground was found



“They glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men.” 2 Corinthians 9:13

through Christ’s gospel (*Romans 1:16*). A contagious spirit was cultivated through Christ’s Great Commission (*Matthew 28:18-20*) and its subsequent strategic application (*Acts 1:8*) in a variety of settings utilizing a diverse and dynamic group of people. What started with a small group of committed pioneers has been blessed by God almost seven decades later with a large army of settlers located in hundreds of locations across the State of Michigan.

Church partnership is a wonderful thing. When Christians and ministries partner together they experience more and achieve more than they ever could in isolation. Jesus shares a mandate with His church in *Acts 1:8* – “*you shall be*

witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” “**Judea**” for the churches in fellowship with the MARBC is the **State of Michigan**. We believe that it is critical for our churches to effectively reach and cultivate their “Judea.” This is accomplished in two important ways. First, the churches that are currently a part of the MARBC must be effectively strengthened and encouraged. Second, a strategic plan for church planting throughout Michigan must be designed and implemented.

Before new church plants can be widely propagated, current church plants, mission works, and established churches must be strengthened and united. This will be the focus of the MARBC fellowship over the next five years. The project title which encompasses this strategic plan is “**Church Partnering Relationships**” or **CPR**.

We are calling on this generation of church leaders and members of the Michigan Association of Regular Baptist churches to reflect the glory and grace of Jesus through practical expressions of unity, partnership, and enrichment.

Church Partnering Relationships (CPR) contain 3 basic qualities:

- ✓ **Caring:** a proactive vision towards mutual edification
- ✓ **Praying:** regular sharing of requests and initiatives that promote mutual prayer
- ✓ **Resourcing:** embracing the mission of practical encouragement by outsourcing materials and personnel

I encourage you to listen to the message that I shared at the MARBC Conference this past October. The message fleshes out the rationale of “CPR” and shares several practical examples of how it can be implemented. The message can be accessed, free of charge, at our website www.marbc.net.

We lose heart any time we allow a difficult situation and challenging obstacles to rob us of our God-given

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BAPTIST TESTIMONY
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Of Regular Baptist Churches
830 Russwood St., NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

MARBC NEWS & NOTES

GRAND RAPIDS, NORTH PARK BAPTIST CHURCH (JOE DANIELS) – North Park Baptist Church held a service of worship and commitment as they met on Sunday evening December 2, to install Pastor Joe Daniels as their new Lead Pastor. For the last 2 1/2 years Pastor Joe has served at North Park as Pastor of Outreach and Student Ministries. At the end of October 2006, former Senior Pastor Ken Floyd, concluded his ministry at the church to assume the MARBC State Representative role. As the search committee moved ahead on looking for a new leader, it became apparent that God already had him on staff at the church. This was affirmed by both the church board and a very strong vote of the congregation, leading to the calling of Pastor Joe. The service began with Associate



Pastor Joe and Wendy Daniels family

Pastor Tom Rohrer calling the congregation to worship. The charge to the church was made by Rev. Bill Crowder, Director of Church Ministries and Publications at R.B.C. Ministries. The charge to the candidate was made by Rev. Barry Grahl, grandfather of the candidate. Pastor Joe followed with his heartfelt response in words of love and commitment to the congregation God has called him to shepherd. The congregation was lead by Deacon Chairman Larry High in reading a covenant of commitment to lovingly honor,

follow, and serve along side of their new Pastor. Three of the deacons led in prayer over the candidate as pastors and deacons laid hands on Pastor Joe to dedicate his ministry to the Lord. The service was closed in prayer by Rev. Bob Allen, father in-law of the candidate. A great time of fellowship followed in the church fellowship hall.



Pastor Barry Grahl speaks at Daniels' installation

MARNE,



Pastor Jeff Gunderman, Berlin Baptist

BERLIN BAPTIST CHURCH (JEFF GUNDERMAN)

– For much of the fall season, Pastor Jeff Gunderman led the Berlin Baptist Church family in a Biblical study of the church's core values statement. On Sunday, November 18, a special service of commitment was held in order for the church to affirm the church's mission statement, "Berlin Baptist Church seeks to glorify God, share Jesus Christ, equip disciples, love and serve others," as well as the Berlin Baptist Church Core Values Statement. Each of the nine core values was posted on a banner that is displayed prominently in the worship center. Rev. Ken Floyd (MARBC) was invited to preach a message of challenge and commitment during the special service. After the message, the congregation wholeheartedly responded to Pastor Gunderman's invitation to join him in signing a special copy of the Core Values Statement. This signed document will be prominently displayed in the church building.



Berlin Baptist signing of the Church Covenant

PLAINWELL, ORANGEVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH (DAN BOWMAN)

– Orangeville Baptist welcomed Mike and LeAnn Fritz to their pastoral staff in December. Mike will serve as Associate Pastor of Youth and Christian Education. The Fritzs return to their home church after receiving education at Baptist Bible College and Seminary in Clarks Summit, PA.

SMARBC CHRISTMAS DINNER FELLOWSHIP

– Pastoral couples from churches of the Southern MARBC fellowship gathered at the Christian Family Centre in Adrian on December 3 for a delicious dinner, wonderful fellowship, and a worshipful program. Pastor Nathan Pierpont, worship pastor at Northeastern Baptist Church in Kalamazoo, shared a concert of Christmas music and special devotional regarding the impact of the first advent and the expectation of the second advent.



Pastor Nathan Pierpont ministers at Christmas banquet

STANTON, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH (RYAN WHITE)

– The congregation of First Baptist Church held a special service of celebration on Sunday, December 2, to install Rev. Ryan White as their new pastor. Pastor White and his wife, Keri, and their



Pastor Ryan and Keri White family

family come to Stanton following a ministry as youth pastor at First Baptist Church in Hastings. Rev. Ken Floyd presented the charge to the church and Rev. Tom Hammond gave the charge to the



Pastor Tom Hammond

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BAPTIST TESTIMONY

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Council of Fifteen - MARBC

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THE WORD HAS IT *(continued)*

vision. As a result, we fail to see the opportunities of tomorrow, to see the people who can still be reached with Christ's gospel, to achieve great ministry through a valuable partnership, and to see our Christ commanded mission accomplished. I say to you, my fellow servants, that the most ingenious and well-drafted strategy will not be accomplished unless you and I are willing to accept the challenge that corresponds to the plan. Every objective will have an obstacle; every endeavor a corresponding enemy; and every goal will have its imposing goliath.

Will we allow these challenges to intimidate us into immobility? Or, by God's grace, will we join together to accomplish the great and mighty things that He has promised will take place when we acknowledge Christ's Headship and the privilege of partnering together to accomplish His mandate? May we join together in the days ahead asking God to renew our vision and to embolden our courage for His glory!

The "Christ, the Son of the living God" said, "I will build My church and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:16, 18)

You have His Word on it! (KEF)

(This is the first of three articles regarding the MARBC's new initiative called "CPR" – Church Partnering Relationships. A brochure detailing this ministry is available to download at www.marbc.net.)

MARBC NEWS & NOTES *(continued)*

pastor. Mr. Dave Durning, father of Keri White, shared the scripture reading. Deacon John Shick represented the search committee in sharing the background of the search process. At the conclusion of the service, the church leaders laid hands upon Pastor White as the deacons led in a prayer of dedication. A special fellowship was held following the service in the White's honor.

MARBC CONFERENCE MESSAGES AVAILABLE:

Messages by Dr. Renald Showers and Ken Floyd are available free for listening or downloading at www.marbc.net.

WITH THE LORD

*"Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of His saints."*

– Psalm 116:15

Dr. Wendell Kempton, who served as President of the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism from 1971-2001, died at home in Lititz, PA, on Sunday, January 6, 2008, following a brief battle with cancer. A memorial service was held in Lancaster, PA, on January 11.

While attending Moody, Dr. Kempton met fellow student Karolyn Rose Koerber. They married in 1956 and had three children (Mark, Stan, and Wendy). In 1980, Karolyn suddenly went home to be with the Lord. In 1982, Dr. Kempton married Ruth Royer, who also had three children (Jennifer, Amy, and Tim) and whose first husband, Lee "Rock" Royer, a football coach and evangelist, had died suddenly nearly a decade earlier in an airplane accident. Dr. Kempton is survived by his wife, Ruth Royer Kempton, and their six married children.

Dr. Kempton received degrees from Moody Bible Institute, Baptist Bible Seminary, and Dallas Theological Seminary. He also received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Grand Rapids Baptist Seminary.

Dr. Kempton's ministry was worldwide, impacting lives not only through his three decades as ABWE President and his continued representation of the mission as President Emeritus following his retirement in 2001, but also through his many years of service at Baptist Bible College of Pennsylvania and his ministry to professional sports organizations. This included speaking to various professional sports teams, speaking at three Super Bowls and a World Series. Mike Schmidt, Hall of Fame third baseman for the Philadelphia Phillies, began a Bible study with Kempton in 1978 and trusted Christ later that year. One of Dr. Kempton's final speaking engagements was a November 2007 sports outreach to the Dominican Republic with SCORE International. He also held weekly neighborhood outreach Bible studies. He served on the boards of several well-known organizations, including a nationally-known insurance company, Baptist Bible College of Pennsylvania, and Word of Life.

Memorial gifts may be sent to ABWE, PO Box 8585, Harrisburg, PA 17105 and designated to the "Wendell Kempton Memorial Fund." Gifts may also be made online at abwe.org. Cards & letters may be sent to ABWE or to their home address: Mrs. Wendell Kempton and Family, 602 Northfield Road, Lititz, PA 17543



Dr. Wendell
Kempton

MARBC EVENTS TO PLACE ON YOUR 2008 CALENDAR

March 1, 2008

EMARBC Men Modeling
the Master Conference

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Flint
Answers in Genesis, creation ministry team

March 7-8, 2008

GRARBC Annual Church
Ministries Conference

Calvary Baptist Church,
Grand Rapids

"Masterfully Motivated"

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Ken Floyd
MARBC State Representative



Saturday, April 19, 2008

MARBC Talents for Christ Competition

South Baptist Church, Flint

Ken Pyne, Director

Early registration deadline: February 15



May 1-3, 2008

Annual MARBC Men's Retreat

Lake Ann Baptist Camp

"Being Men of Valor: How to Develop the
Character of a Conqueror"

Keynote Speaker:

Rev. Bill Jenkin

President, Continental
Baptist Mission

No price increase
for 2008!!!



2 nights, 6 meals \$105 / 1 night, 5 meals
\$77 / Friday only, 3 meals \$41.

\$40 non-refundable registration fee

Pastors receive a 50% discount

with an overnight stay

Brochures and registration will be
available soon by mail, fax, and online
at www.lakeanncamp.com

June 24-27, 2008

National GARBC Conference

"The Glory of the Cross"

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

September 28, 2008

MARBC Annual Day of Prayer

October 27-28, 2008

66th Annual

MARBC Conference

First Baptist Church,
Rochester, Michigan

Dr. Jim Jeffery

President, Baptist Bible College,
Graduate School, and Seminary



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KEN'S ROAD REPORT

- Jan 9 North Park Baptist Church, Grand Rapids, Friends Club devotions
- Jan 13 South Baptist Church, Flint
- Jan 14 Bethel Baptist Church, South Haven, consultation
- Jan 15 Council of 15 meeting, West Cannon, Belmont
- Jan 19 Closed Door Ministries board meeting, Grand Rapids
- Jan 20 Evangel Baptist Church, Taylor
- Jan 21-24 Baptist Bible College & Seminary Trustee Board meetings, PA
- Jan 27 OPEN
- Feb 3 OPEN
- Feb 9 North Park Baptist Church, speak at men's prayer breakfast
- Feb 10 Hesperia Baptist Church, Hesperia
- Feb 17 First Baptist Church, Rochester
- Feb 24 Vacation

Special note: Several dates are still available on Ken's speaking calendar for 2008.

Please send all support checks, correspondence, church bulletins, newsletters and requests for speaking engagements to:

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JANUARY 2008

ANNIVERSARY ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 1 - Pastor & Mrs. Joe Balbach, Berean Baptist, Grand Rapids
- 2 - Rev. & Mrs. Charles Hewlett, Hillside Baptist, Big Rapids
- 3 - Rev. & Mrs. Richard Liverance, Kentwood Bapt., Kentwood

*May your marriage and ministry be
marked by God's guidance and blessing!*



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SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

SPECIAL PASTORS AND WIVES

DISCOUNT: the Best Western Scenic Hill Resort in Beulah, Michigan, is once again this year offering a special getaway for pastors and wives of the MARBC at their hotel. The special rate is \$50 per night, plus tax, and includes a full hot breakfast. This rate is available through May 23 (based on availability). They also offer a discount of 20% off all Spa services. Contact Dave Easter, 1.800.439.7080, for more information and reservations.

Need Time to Plan & Pray?!

As a pastor we know it is difficult to carve out the time you need to plan and pray, let alone find a place without distractions. We know how beneficial it is to your ministry when it happens.

The Springs would like to offer you an invitation to come stay for free any time you need.

Just call and let us know when you're ready.
Contact Dan at 989-426-7604 or
Derreck at 989-709-1800



NEED TIME TO PLAN AND PRAY?

CABIN AVAILABLE: Pastor Greg Carlson, First Baptist Church, Allegan, shares this special opportunity: Our like new cabin in the Eastern Upper Peninsula is available for only the cost of utilities from January through the second week of May, 2008. We would like someone in vocational Christian service to be able to use the cabin for that time. The cabin is fully furnished and has 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Photos and complete description are available at www.WolfeBayRetreat.com. Contact (269) 673-5289 or gcarlson6@juno.com.

MARBC MESSENGER - The Messenger is a regular email communication from the MARBC office to our pastors and churches. Several MARBC Messengers are sent out each month from the MARBC office. If you have not received MARBC emails recently, be sure to contact marbcken@aol.com or marbcsharon@aol.com to be placed on the email list. Thank you!

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