

Baptist Testimony



The Word Has It

Ken Floyd
MARBC Executive Director

*"Strengthen me according
to Your word,"*

— Psalm 119:28

"Rejoice!"

This issue of the *Baptist Testimony* features our annual celebration of God's blessings upon the churches and ministries associated with the MARBC. It is always a joy to compile these special testimonies and ministry reports which reflect God's gracious care in our fellowship. The testimonies are a mere sampling of the reasons why we have much to rejoice about in our state.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 declares, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Giving thanks and expressing joy are not just the hallmarks of Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations. Rather, they are to be the everyday attitudes of believers in Jesus Christ as they walk in fellowship with Him.

A story from the history of the Great Lakes region describes how this attitude can be put into practice by those who sincerely follow Christ:

On September 8, 1860, a terrible storm swept over Lake Michigan and threatened to sink the passenger steamer "Lady Elgin." On shore, watching the tragedy unfold, were some students who had come from nearby Garrett Biblical Institute. As the ship began to break up, one of the students, Edward W. Spencer, noticed a woman clinging to a piece of wreckage. Unable just to stand by and watch her drown, Spencer threw off his coat, plunged into the raging surf, swam to the sinking vessel, and brought her safely to shore. Again and again he swam out and brought back someone, until his strength was gone and he collapsed on the beach from exhaustion. As a result of his efforts, 17 lives were saved, but it almost cost Spencer his life. He never fully regained his health.

After his death some years later, someone wrote his wife and asked if it were true that not one of those who had been rescued thanked her husband. Here is her reply: "The statement is true. Mr. Spencer never received any thanks from anybody he succeeded in saving, or any recognition from any one of them." Then, in an admirable spirit of magnanimity, she went on to blame the seeming lack of gratitude on the general confusion and exhaustion of the rescued as well as the rescuer. She closed the letter with these words: "My husband always took this view of the situation and never manifested any feeling of resentment, and I am sure he felt none. He did his best, with no thought of reward or appreciation."

(From "Sure as the Dawn, by Donald and Vesta Mansell, as quoted in WITandWISDOM™ Copyright © 1998-2001 by Richard G. Wimer)

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2011

TALENTS FOR CHRIST



The 2011 MARBC Talents for Christ competition will be held on Saturday, March 26, 2011 at West Cannon Baptist Church in Belmont (Grand Rapids area). Students may participate in either the Scholarship or Open Categories. Registration cost is \$25 per individual category and \$35 in the Open Categories. Those desiring to compete in the Scholarship Category should register at the National TFC website where other information and cost details are shared. You may go to www.garbc.org/tfc for more information, downloadable materials, and scholarship details. A link to this website is also available at www.marbc.net.

Registration deadline for the 2011 MARBC State Competition of Talents for Christ is March 1, 2011. Please make checks payable to Evangel Baptist Church and mail the registration to: Michigan TFC, Evangel Baptist Church, 16994 S. Telegraph Rd., Taylor, MI 48180.

MARB churches and young people are strongly encouraged to participate. The preparations for TFC will help develop godly discipline and character. The results of this preparation allow our youth to minister in meaningful ways in several settings. With the opportunities for scholarships from participating colleges in the Scholarship Division and scholarships for participating MARBC camps in the Open Division, there are also practical benefits for TFC participation.

For further information or questions regarding Talents for Christ, contact our Michigan coordinator, Pastor Ken Pyne - krpyne@usa.net; 734.946.5680.

While this lack of thankful response may surprise us, it is all too commonplace in today's world. Stop and recount how many times you have heard the phrase "thank you" shared in the past week. More convicting yet, recount how many times you have shared the phrase! Certainly this is one trait that Christians should be most noted for – the giving of thanks. The *Psalms* are filled with encouragements to give thanks to God. According to *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18* the will of God for Christians is to be thankful! And it is further qualified as "in everything!"

Those who know Christ have an infinite number of reasons to be thankful. Do we honor our Lord by reflecting that before others? Or, do we more often leave the impression that to be a follower of Christ is a heavy burden? *Hebrews 12:2-3* challenges Christians to "look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls." Following the example of our gracious Lord and Savior we can possess a joyful attitude as we respond to the situations and events of everyday living.

You have His Word on it! – (KEF)

68TH MARBC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

“Joyfully Refreshed!” was not only the theme of the 68th Annual MARBC Conference, it was the commentary of those who attended it! The conference was held at Evangel Baptist Church in Taylor, Michigan on October 25-26. The conference featured a good attendance from MARBC churches from several regions of the state and several guests from other states and non-affiliated Baptist churches. Over 30 displays, many of them first timers, provided information and resources to the conference attendees.



Ken Floyd speaks in the first session

The first conference session on Monday morning featured Executive Director Ken Floyd's message from Matthew 20:17-26, “Ministry Served Jesus’ Style.” Ken focused upon how the Enemy of the

Church will attempt to get Christians to fight spiritual battles with carnal weapons (“weapons of mass distraction.”) Jesus’ model of ministry requires spiritual focus while utilizing spiritual weapons for spiritual battles.

Dr. Stephen Davey, Senior Pastor of Colonial Baptist Church in Cary, North Carolina, and President of the Shepherd’s Seminary, shared in the main conference

sessions. Dr. Davey’s messages highlighted the life and ministry challenges of the prophet Jonah. Each message focused upon the issues relating to Jonah’s attempt to flee God’s call and how God subsequently worked in Jonah’s heart and situation.



Stephen Davey spoke about ministry lessons from the life of Jonah



Ken Pyne and the Evangel Baptist choir

The Monday evening session was led by Dr. Ken Pyne, Worship Pastor at Evangel. Several members of Evangel ministered in the service, including the Evangel choir and special vocalists. Mark Cizauskas,



Special music was a blessing

Executive Pastor of West Cannon Baptist Church in Belmont and MARBC Council of 15 member, coordinated the worship and led the other general sessions.



Nathan Pierpont



Greg Carlson

Several workshop tracts were also included in the conference. Dr. Davey shared a workshop related to effective preparation of those considering church membership. Participants of this workshop received a free copy of the notebook, “Greenhouse,” from Colonial Baptist Church. This notebook is used in



Stephen Davey



Don Jackson



David Culver



Carolyn Culver

the church’s new members’ class. Don Jackson, Vision for Youth ministries, led three sessions dealing with leadership principles in ministry. Dr. David Culver, President of Evangelical Baptist Missions, led workshops relating to men’s discipleship ministry and pastoral sabbaticals. Mrs. Carolyn Culver (EBM) led three ladies sessions which focused upon how to delight in God even when the ministry may be challenging. She also shared a special session regarding how to teach children to value ministry involvement as a result of the attitude of their parents.

Deanna Miller, missionary with Child Evangelism Fellowship of Greater Detroit, was a wonderful leader of the children’s sessions during the conference. Children were blessed by Deanna’s Biblical teaching and her creative craft sessions.



Deanna Miller teaches during a children’s session

During the Tuesday morning MARBC business session, reports were presented relating to the MARBC budget, the Executive Director’s report, and MARBC Talents for Christ. Rev. Del Sanders represented the Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Group and reflected on the special partnership that Brotherhood has shared with the MARBC.

The election of new MARBC Council of 15 members was also held during the Tuesday morning session. Bill Blount, Jr. (Hesperia Baptist, Hesperia), Doug Crawford (West Cannon Baptist, Belmont), and Jerry Diserens (Evangel Baptist, Taylor) were elected to 3-year terms. The new Council of 15 Executive Committee for the coming year was also announced: Chairman, Jim Howard; Vice-Chairman, George Coon;

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BAPTIST TESTIMONY

Official Organ of the Michigan Association of Regular Baptist Churches

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JOYFULLY REFRESHED (continued)
68TH MARBC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Secretary, Aaron Hadley; and Treasurer, Doug Crawford. We are grateful for those who serve with the Council of 15 in helping to give direction to the ministries of the MARBC and counsel to the Executive Director.



The new MARBC Council of 15

Special appreciation was expressed for Mark Cizauskas for his special ministry as C-15 treasurer during his two terms on the council. Additional thanks were given to Mrs. Karen Avey who serves as the MARBC bookkeeper.



Mark Cizauskas

A luncheon welcoming new MARBC pastors and wives was hosted by the Council of 15 and Ken and Sharon Floyd on Tuesday. Over 50 attended the luncheon and enjoyed hearing testimonies from the group. A delicious meal was prepared by Evangel members.

We are grateful to the members and staff at Evangel Baptist Church for their humble servant hearts and attention to detail. Senior Pastor Ken Pierpont and his pastoral staff did an excellent job of coordinating this special ministry. Associate Pastor Jerry Diserens provided gracious and detailed leadership in coordinating the conference details. Associate Pastor Ken Pyne prepared a wonderful worship service for the Monday evening session and ministered behind the scenes during the entire conference. We want to give special thanks to the Evangel Baptist ladies who helped serve the entire conference at the registration tables. You were a great blessing to our conference attendees and provided efficient service. We are grateful to the Evangel office staff for their flexibility and joyful spirit in caring for special needs as they arose.

Messages from the conference's main sessions and workshops are posted on the MARBC website. Special ministry reports and MARBC initiatives will be featured in the next issue of the Baptist Testimony. You may access these and other materials that were distributed at the conference at www.marbc.net.

We encourage you to make plans to attend next year's conference which will be held at Northeastern Baptist Church in Kalamazoo on Monday and Tuesday, October 24-25, 2011.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

VALENTINE'S WEEKEND COUPLES RETREAT –

“Extreme Makeover – Marriage Edition (Marriage by God's Design)” is a special couples retreat sponsored by the Southern MARBC Regional Fellowship. It will be held on February 11-12, 2011 at the Youth Haven Ranch ministry center in Rives Junction, located between Lansing and Jackson, Michigan. The retreat will begin at 6 p.m. on Friday, February 11 and concludes on Saturday, February 12 at 5 p.m. Meals include Friday dinner and Saturday breakfast and lunch.



The cost of the retreat is \$97.12 per couple, which is based upon *Psalm 97:12, “Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.”* A pre-registration fee of \$50.00 is due by February 1, with the balance due at the retreat. A gift book is included in the retreat fee.

The retreat speakers will be MARBC Executive Director Rev. Ken Floyd and his wife, Sharon. The Floyds have enjoyed sharing at several marriage retreats and combine practical Bible teaching with real life stories to help couples embrace God's design for marriage.

Downloadable brochures and information regarding this wonderful way for couples to celebrate Valentine's weekend are available at www.marbc.net.

For more information and to register for the retreat, please contact retreat coordinator Pastor Tim Rowland, Lansing Avenue Baptist Church (517.783.3676; email – labcjackson@juno.com) ASAP!

CHURCH ORGAN NEEDED –

First Baptist Church in Cass City is looking into the availability of a Hammond Organ Model C-3 or B-3; C-2 or B-2, Rt 2 or 3; Hammond Tone Cabinet PR-40 or QR-40; Hammond Tone Cabinet 21 H or 122. Please contact Pastor David Hill at 810.441.2251 or email at dghill@tir.com.

(continued on next page)



MARBC NEWS & NOTES

BELDING, GREEN CORNERS BAPTIST CHURCH (PAUL LESLIE, PASTOR)

— Green Corners Baptist Church called a new youth pastor from among its members last February. Pastor Paul Leslie approached Scott Hoskins with the possibility of taking the position of youth pastor. After prayerful consideration Scott accepted. Scott and his wife, Karisia, are graduates of Word of Life Bible Institute. Scott has worked in youth ministry in churches in Pennsylvania, Florida, and the Philippines. Karisia has worked in camp ministries and open air evangelism in Mexico. Scott and Karisia worked as missionaries in Bosnia from 2005-7. They began attending Green Corners in 2008 and started working with a small youth group there in 2009. Scott and Karisia have three children, Logan, Xandee, and Elisa. They have been a source of great blessing since accepting the youth ministry position.

*Scott and
Karisia
Hoskins
and
family*



LANSING, BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH –

Berean Baptist Church held a special farewell service on behalf of Pastor Brad and Becky Rickard on Sunday, August 29. The Rickards, who served at Berean for 6 years, have moved to Columbus, Ohio, where Brad is now the senior pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church. Immanuel was formerly pastured by Bill Abernathy, who now serves at Berean Baptist Church in Portage, Michigan.

EMAIL ADDRESS – Do we have your accurate e-mail address? Many people and organizations change their email addresses from time to time. Does the MARBC have your current address? Why not be sure by sending us an email and including your updated contact information? Send your information to either marbcsharon@aol.com or marbcken@aol.com.

PORTLAND, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH (BRUCE SABADOS, PASTOR) –

On Sunday, September 26th, First Baptist Church of Portland had a full day of celebration. The morning began with an installation service for Pastor Bruce Sabados, most recently the interim pastor at Leonard Heights Baptist Church in Grand Rapids and chaplain at Beacon Hill (formerly Michigan Christian Home). Pastor Jim Howard (a former pastor) gave a charge to the candidate, followed by the deacons praying over Pastor Sabados. Also, Pastor Don Chapel (another former pastor) gave a charge to the church and the church family celebrated with a potluck dinner. The church also welcomed Pastor Bruce and Sharon Sabados with a food shower at the parsonage.

In the afternoon service, the church celebrated the auditorium renovation, which took place in April and May of 2010. Pastor Tad Jameson gave a dedication message and prayer. Associate Pastor Andy Brubaker honored Pastor Tad for his leadership as the interim pastor for the past 15 months. Pastor Sabados closed the service with a vision for the future.



*First Baptist
Pastors Bruce
Sabados and
Andy
Brubaker*



*Pastors at Portland installation service:
Jim Howard, Don Chapel,
Bruce Sabados, Tad Jameson,
and Andy Brubaker*

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES (continued)

BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE OFFERS EARLY REGISTRATION DISCOUNT FOR 2ND ANNUAL MICHIGAN GOLF CLASSIC –

The Second Annual Michigan BBC President's Golf Classic event will be Monday, September 12, 2011. The event will be held at Thousand Oaks Golf Club in Grand Rapids.

Golfers may register individually or as a foursome. Golfing and sponsorship information is online at www.bbc.edu/michigangolf. For questions, call 800.451.8668 or email golfclassic@bbc.edu. Get registration and other details at www.bbc.edu/michigangolf. Golfers registering and submitting payment by January 31 will receive a \$25 discount.

The Michigan event features special speaker Frank Tanana, a Detroit native whose major league baseball career spanned 21 seasons. A Christian who enjoys sharing his faith and experiences, Tanana's eight seasons with the Tigers included pitching Detroit to a 1-0, division-clinching win over the Toronto Blue Jays on the last day of the 1987 season.

Golfers connect with local business sponsors to raise funds for student scholarships. The events are special opportunities for friends of BBC&S to be involved in the work of equipping students for global Christian leadership.

Thousand Oaks is one of Michigan's many premier golf destinations. It has been rated one of the 25 best golf courses in Michigan by Golf Digest. It is located minutes from downtown Grand Rapids and also features the Thousand Oaks Golf Academy, which offers private golf instruction with two full times PGA Master and Senior Professional golf instructors.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. Lunch will be served at 11 a.m. The shotgun start will be at noon. An awards dinner and prize drawings will be at 5 p.m.

Baptist Bible College & Seminary offers an outstanding Christian education through on-campus, online, and other distance learning options. Students go beyond the ordinary, learning to learn and serve with excellence as they gain critical leadership and life skills. To learn more, go to www.bbc.edu or call 570.586.2400.

(continued on next page)

SPECIAL “SECURITY ISSUES IN THE CHURCH” SEMINAR –

The Michigan State Police Training Academy is presenting a one-day seminar on “Security Issues for Places of Worship.” The seminar will be held on Monday, December 6, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will be held at the Michigan State Police Training Academy, 7426 N. Canal Rd., Lansing.

The following topics will be covered: physical campus security issues / proactive steps to children’s ministry protection / how to do a criminal history background for non-profits / policies, procedures, and legal aspects / identifying and handling suspicious or dangerous people / critical incident readiness for places of worship.

The cost for the seminar is \$40.00 and includes lunch and all materials. For more information, contact Mrs. Francine Mitchell at 517.322.5906. Space is limited so please register early. The registration deadline is December 1.

We once again extend our appreciation to Mark Blocher, Calvary Baptist Church in Grand Rapids, for sharing this information regarding the seminar. Mark serves as a Michigan State Police Chaplain. You may contact Mark for a PDF flyer that includes a registration form: mblocher@cbcgr.org.

WITH THE LORD

MAXINE MARGESSON. Dr. Maxine Margesson, (77) went to be with her Lord on October 7, 2010. She and her husband, retired MARBC pastor Burland Margesson, were married for 54 years. Maxine previously served as the Chairman for the Department of Education at Cornerstone University, as well as Chairman for the Department of Education at Piedmont Bible College, Winston Salem, NC. She also served as Principal at Grand Rapids Baptist Academy. She is survived by her husband, two children, and seven grandchildren. A memorial service was held at First Baptist Church of Lowell on October 10 with Pastor David Sims officiating.

CHURCH PARTNERING RELATIONSHIPS (CPR)



UPPER PENINSULA – Calvary Baptist Church in Greenville sent a team of lady college students to two churches in the Upper Peninsula to assist in MARBC CPR projects in early August. Teams assisted in a soccer camp for Cornerstone Baptist Church in Shingleton each morning. Then, each evening they led a basketball camp at First Baptist Church in Newberry.



Shingleton soccer camper

The team spent time on Sunday at First Baptist in Newberry worshipping and getting ready for the upcoming basketball camp. Then on Monday morning and each subsequent morning the ladies traveled for one hour to Shingleton to assist Cornerstone Baptist Church in leading a soccer camp for ages 5-13. Following the soccer demonstrations the team would share a Bible lesson. God mightily used the time spent with the folks in Shingleton. Three children who attended the soccer camp and one of their mothers came to faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior. Pastor George Dwelley is continuing to follow up on the relationships and contacts made from the soccer camp.



Newberry basketball clinic

Following the morning soccer camp the team drove an hour back to Newberry in order to assist First Baptist Church’s Pastor



Calvary Baptist of Greenville CPR ministry team

Andrew Manwarren in running a basketball camp for kids 5-13 years of age. They helped run drills, set up, and referee games. There was a great time of interacting with the kids and also building relationships among the ministry team.



The CPR ministry team found the UP very ‘bearable’

The evenings following the camps were spent by the team either relaxing at the hotel or taking in the sights of the beautiful UP. The team got to visit Tahquamenon Falls and the bear reserve in Newberry. Associate Pastor Ben Vaught shares, “We praise the Lord for how He used these ladies for the glory of His name and also the wonderful memories that He allowed us to create. We are so thankful for CPR because, as a result, Calvary Baptist Church of Greenville now has a wonderful relationship with two churches that we were able to assist.”

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ANNIVERSARY ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

November

- 4 - Pastor & Mrs. Don Chapin, South Bapt., Flint – 10 years!
- 7 - Pastor & Mrs. Tom Bauder, Calvary Bapt., Wakefield
- 11 - Pastor & Mrs. Phil Maxwell, First Bapt., St. Louis – 15 years!
- 12 - Pastor & Mrs. Lewis Hague, Blessed Hope Bapt., Escanaba
- 16 - Pastor & Mrs. Jerry Larkin, Burt Bapt., Montrose
- 20 - Ken and Sharon Floyd, MARBC, Grand Rapids
- 26 - Pastor & Mrs. Jason LaFlamme, Munising Bapt., Munising
- 27 - Pastor & Mrs. Jeff Helbert, City View Church, Grand Rapids
- 27 - Pastor & Mrs. Mike Stark, Curtis Bapt. Curtis

December

- 10 - Pastor & Mrs. Chris Weeks, Kent City Bapt., Kent City
- 16 - Pastor & Mrs. Rich Griffith, Parma Bapt., Parma
- 17 - Pastor & Mrs. Jory Trim, Trinity Bapt., Grand Rapids – 5 years!
- 18 - Pastor & Mrs. Thomas Stout, Volinia Bapt., Decatur
- 18 - Pastor & Mrs. Al Wouters, Kentwood Bapt., Kentwood
- 22 - Pastor & Mrs. Douglas Crawford, West Cannon Bapt., Belmont
- 22 - Pastor & Mrs. Jerry Bishop, L'Anse Bapt., L'Anse – 20 years!
- 23 - Pastor & Ms. Paul Osborn, First Bapt., Hastings
- 27 - Pastor & Mrs. Ted Jolls, Limestone Bapt., Limestone
- 27 - Pastor & Mrs. Marc Herron, First Bapt., Caro
- 27 - Pastor & Mrs. Steve Summerfield, First Bapt., Fremont
- 28 - Pastor & Mrs. George Dwelley, Cornerstone Bapt., Shingleton
- 29 - Pastor & Mrs. Josh Gates, First Bapt., Fenton
- 30 - Pastor & Mrs. Jim Ankerberg, Ensley Bapt., Sand Lake

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

KEN'S ROAD REPORT

- Nov. 8-26 MARBC Office closed for vacation
- Dec. 3 UP pastors and wives Christmas dinner, L'Anse
- Dec. 4-5 Ministry in the UP
- Dec. 6 SMARBC Christmas dinner, First Baptist Church, Brooklyn
- Dec. 7 Ministry in Jackson, MI
- Dec. 8 GRARBC Breakpoint meeting, Forest Hills Baptist Church, Grand Rapids
- Dec. 12 OPEN**
- Dec. 24 - MARBC Office closed, may you
Jan. 4 have a blessed Christmas season!

Contact Ken if you would like him to speak or minister in your church in 2011.

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

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Phone: (616)364-5688

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www.MARBC.net

A Special Year End Greeting FROM THE FLOYDS

We pray for the encouragement and strengthening of the churches and friends of the MARBC as the 2010 years comes to a close. While these days in Michigan certainly bring their share of challenges and changes, God's grace is still amazing and its supply is abundant. With that in mind, please join us in giving thanks to God for the "exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:7). During the Christmas season, let us further rejoice in "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich!" (2 Corinthians 8:9). We give thanks to God for you and appreciate your prayer and financial support. We pray that 2011 will bring abundant spiritual fruit produced in the lives of each person and church in our MARBC family.



Partnering with you and praying for you, Ken and Sharon Floyd

Ken and Sharon Floyd with their grandson, Connor.

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