

Jan.-Feb. 2012 Vol. 17 No. 1

# THE COMMUNICATOR



**Therefore put on the full  
armor of God so when  
the day of evil comes,  
you maybe able to stand  
your ground...  
Ephesians 6:13**

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**THE GENESEE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION:**  
HELPING CHURCHES REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL BY  
DEVELOPING CHURCHES AND LEADERS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



## MISSIONARY MEANDERINGS

As I write this it is the 11<sup>th</sup> day of 2012, and already much has happened that will affect my ministry in the coming year. As of January 1<sup>st</sup> I became a Church Planting Catalyst (CPC) with NAMB. That means that while I can still work with our existing churches in much the same way as I have for the last 13 years, NAMB now expects me to catalyze three new church starts this year. This means that I will be working with our existing churches and pastors to help you be involved by partnering with others to help start a new church this year. While few churches can start a new church on their own, every church can be involved in helping start a new church by partnering with other churches. These partnerships for church planting can be of any sort – from committing to pray for a new start, to supporting the new start with a mission team sent to assist the new church on a short term basis, to sending members of your church family who will commit to serving in the new start for up to a year. Partnering can also mean taking up an offering to help with a special project in the new church, or to committing to regular, ongoing financial support of the new church. I hope you can see that the ways you and your church can be involved in church planting are almost limitless when you partner with others. I hope you and your church will pray for God to guide us and make it clear where He wants us to join Him in starting new churches to reach the lost and unchurched in our associational area. Then, please let me know what God says to you, so I can partner with you and help others partner with you to expand God's kingdom.

While I'm on the subject of partnering, on January 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> the Executive Boards of the Bay Area Baptist Association (BABA) and the Genesee Baptist Association (GBA) each voted to enter into a partnership with one another. This means that I will now be serving as the DOM/CPC of both associations. The BABA has 14 churches and missions in nine counties, while the GBA has 31 churches and missions in two counties. Therefore I plan on spending roughly 1/3 of my time in the BABA, and the BABA will pay about 1/3 the cost of my financial support. Each association will remain autonomous except for the area of my ministry, but I hope to see us partner together in other ways in the future – such as for church planting.

With taking on the BABA, the GBA office will be open only Monday through Wednesday, 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM (these are Margaret's office hours). If it is necessary to meet you at the office at other times or days, arrangements can be made through the Associational office during regular business hours. During times in which the office is closed, I can be reached through calling my home or my cell phone.

In serving in the BABA as well as the GBA, I will be available to all the churches on a first come, first served basis – just like now. If you want to talk with me, meet with me, or have me come to a church meeting of some sort, just call and let me know – and if I am available, I will be present at the appointed time, in the appointed place.

The reason for this partnership between the two associations is twofold. First of all, NAMB no longer financially supports DOMs – only those whose focus is on church planting are supported by NAMB now. If an association desires to have a DOM, he must now be supported completely by the churches in the association, and partnering together makes this easier if that is the way an association chooses to go. Secondly, the new Baptist State Convention of Michigan (BSCM) strategy calls for associations to partner together in order to receive BSCM as well as NAMB financial support – if that is required or desired. So partnering as associations gives us some choices for the future we may not have otherwise.

I look forward to continuing to serve you in the coming year, as well as getting to know as serve other pastors and churches. Please keep me in your prayers, that God will continue to keep me safe on the roads, and that He will strengthen me and guide me in my ministry to the pastors and churches of the GBA and the BABA.



In Christ,

Jim



## Christian Education By Robert Wood

### Participation in Ministry Leads to Transformation in Lives

We increase the opportunities for lives to be transformed when we give people a chance to serve through Sunday School.

I first got involved in an adult Sunday School class when I was in college (years ago). Soon I was asked to serve as a care group leader. I was given a list of members and asked to keep in touch with them. It was my first opportunity to do ministry and it opened my eyes to the possibilities. The next year, I was asked to serve as an outreach / evangelism leader. For the first time in my life, I shared my faith with an unbeliever. Both of these ministries in an adult class provided an opportunity for me to try out ministry and see how God could use me.

Finally, I was asked to substitute teach. What a challenge. I can't believe how long I spent preparing that first lesson and how fast it went. But God blessed and I discovered more about how God had gifted me to serve. God used all of those experiences (and a deepening personal devotional life) to help me see that He was calling me into vocational ministry.

My point is that when we provide opportunities for people to serve in a Sunday School class, we give them a chance to try out ministry in a safe environment. We give them a chance to see how God has gifted them and discover how God is calling them to serve. If the ministry doesn't work for them, they can try out something else. (By the way, it works for student classes too.) For most people the service won't be vocational ministry, but God has called all of us to serve.

Our goal is life transformation, not communicating information. When we provide structure and opportunities for people to serve, God uses the service to transform their lives.

Do people have a chance to serve in your class? Can they try out ministry? Do you provide opportunities such as fellowship leaders, prayer leaders, care group leaders, outreach/evangelism leaders, or apprentice teachers? Give people a chance to serve and see their lives transformed.

### Did You Know...

While we read in Genesis that God rested on the 7th day, a growing number of ministers are finding out that there is more work—and stress—than ever before, and fewer opportunities to unwind. The result has been a myriad of health problems among clergy—from a lack of exercise, poor eating habits, more hypertension, a rise in obesity, problems of depression and substance abuse, higher rates of arthritis and asthma, and all of the ills of modern life that pastors spend so much time trying to help their congregants tackle.

What are some of the reasons for this decrease in health?

- Some experts say the situation may be aggravated by the recession, with donations down and more financial challenges for pastors on the job.
- Clergy routinely work 60-hour weeks and often have just one day off—and not the day everyone else is off. That makes it hard to develop friendships and creates a lot of loneliness
- Pastors are expected to be available at all times. They are too easily overtaken by the urgency of other people's needs.
- The root of the stress is that, for a minister, work centers around so many different relationships and the demand that he be all things to all people.
- Pastors start thinking that things like their church will be their legacy instead of their families, which knocks them out of balance and “whacks” their own relationships with Christ

As cell phones and social media expose ministers to new dimensions of stress, and as health care costs soar, some of the country's largest denominations have begun wellness campaigns for their spiritual leaders. At the center of nearly all of these programs is **rest**.

*From August 2010 Pastor's Weekly Briefing (Focus on the Family)*



**GBA Winter Youth Camp  
At Bambi Lake  
January 27-29, 2012**

**Worship Band: Shain Burlison  
Camp Pastor: Mike Keahbone**

Registration was at GBA on Monday January 16, 2012. There is still time for late registrations. The cost this year will be \$75.00. \$49.00 will be due at time of registration and the balance will be due at Bambi lake. (\$26.00)

In addition to the events at Bambi lake, this year we are offering an off campus outing to a **ski hill**. This would be an extra cost of \$16.00 which will be due at the ski rental. This includes skis, lift and time spent on hills. If your group decides to make this an outing and you leave part of your group at Bambi you must have a chaperone at both locations.

Information has been mailed to each church.



Genesee Baptist Association  
Seminary Extension

No classes are scheduled at this time, but Dr. Sample is always willing to consider having one if there is an interest.

For further information, please call Dr. Richard Sample at (810) 767-1878

**Winter Men's Retreats**

Bambi Lake Retreat and Conference Center

**February 3-5, 2012**

**Speaker:** Murrill Boinott, evangelist— Greenville SC

**Retreat Pastor:** Eli Garza, First Spanish, Detroit

**Musicians:** Stronghold

**March 2-3, 2012**

**Speaker:** Dr. Dean Doster, Evangelist— Nashville TN

**Retreat Pastor:** Ronald Arthur, Springhill Baptist

**Musicians:** 3rd Edition Praise Band

Registration fee is \$20.00 plus room and meals

Make Registrations with Bambi Lake, PO Box 487, Roscommon MI 48653 or call 989-0275-5844

**Immeasurable**

A Winter Missions Retreat for Women  
February 17-19, 2012  
Bambi Lake Retreat & Conference Center

**Featuring:** Ginger Smith, Executive Director of the Mission Center of Houston, Texas

**Worship:** Led by Legacy

**Small Group Conferences/Projects include:** Child Safe Zone Hotel Project; Human Exploitation Interactive Walk-through Display; Minister's Wives Track; More Beautiful than Diamonds Boutique; Mission Projects, Make it, Take it; and more

**Each participant** will receive a tote bag filled with missions resources and other goodies. \$20 Deposit Fee due by February 6.

Interpretation provided for those with hearing loss.

**Contact** 810-714-1907 or cindy@bscm.org

**New Office Days**

Our GBA office will now be open Monday—Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. –3:30 p.m. The office will be closed on Thursday and Friday. If you need to get a hold of Jim or Margaret call  
Jim's cell: 810-240-0994  
or Margaret's cell 252-7606.

**Free**

**Outreach has some nice toys for anyone that could use them in their nursery. You can call Pastor Jim at 423-1320, or call the church 736-5836. Toys include stuffed animals, toys, etc.**



**HERE'S WHAT IS  
HAPPENING  
Among Our Churches**

**Christ Community Church** will be disbanding at the end of January. Several families had left the church and they are not able to carry on the work with those that remain. Please be in prayer for pastors Malcolm Brown and Tim Goodrich, both of whom will have to relocate.

**First, Clio** is sponsoring a new work. **"The Exchange"** officially began January 1, 2012. The pastor is Joseph Swords of Clio. At the present time Joe is meeting with a group of people in homes. Be in prayer for this new work.

**First, Flushing** purchased a new van. They will utilize this van at their release time with the elementary public schools. Once a month they pick up children at 4 schools with their vans and bus. About 80 children attend regularly and they are given a Bible lesson, songs and a game. Several prayed to receive Christ as Savior at their last release time. This has been an ongoing ministry of the church since 1999. **First Flushing** has also had several baptisms in the last few months.

**Harmony** had their own Harmonairs along with the Vaughn singers at their church on Sunday evening January 22. Also on the evening of January 29th they will be showing the movie "Courageous." All are welcome to attend. The service will be at 6:00 P.M.

**Lighthouse** had a retirement dinner for their Pastor **Del Granger** on January 8, 2012. Pastor Del pastored there for 13 years. Please be in prayer for **Lighthouse** as they seek a new pastor. Rick Bowen will be their interim transitional pastor while they seek God for their next pastor.

**North End** welcomes **Dr. Ted Stephens** and his wife **Caroline** to their church as pastor and wife. Dr. Ted was formerly on our State Staff. He began on January 1, 2012.

**Outreach** started a Saturday night, once a month singing in January. They are praising God that their Sunday morning attendance since September has increased by 22, so they are now averaging close to 70. A new Sunday School class has started as well for young couples, and they have 10 babies in the nursery each week.

**The Potters Wheel** is continuing to grow. They are anticipating going to two services by Easter.

**The Tree** is now meeting Sunday nights at New Haven

Bristol Rd sight. In January they had their second baptism.

**Victory** has decided to disband at the end of January. They will allow the Association to begin a new work there in the future.

**Westside** is starting new Discipleship studies on Wednesday evenings; around 50 people are signed up. They have also welcomed Minister of Music and Media, Matt Wagner, to their staff. At Christmas they ended up helping 106 families with Christmas presents.

The Pastor search committees of both **Eastgate** and **Galilean** are hard at work in the process of seeking a new pastor.

**Prayer Requests**

**Our Pastorless churches:** Eastgate, Galilean, Lighthouse, and Victory.

**New Works:** The Exchange, The Potters Wheel, The Tree.

**Pastor's seeking God's will in ministry:**

Rick Bowen, Del Granger, John Jenkins, Kevin Knox, Steve Windle, Malcolm Brown, Tim Goodrich.

**Location Direction:** Heritage, The Tree

*Happy Birthday*

**TO THESE PASTOR FAMILY MEMBERS**

**FEBRUARY**

- 11- John Grantham
- 12- Walt Rose
- 12- Heather Fenner
- 15- Bill Bramlet
- 19- Angel Garcia
- 19- Kyung Ho Cho

**MARCH**

- 2- Bridget Reid
- 9- Raymond Cocke
- 19- Larry Rednower
- 23- Eric Maynard
- 31- Parker Marcus

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GENESEE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION  
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NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Flint, MI  
Permit No. 170

Assoc. Missionary—James A. Marcus  
Ministry Assistant:  
Margaret Marcus

*This association is a family of churches. Your church is important to all the rest.*

## ASSOCIATION MISSIONS RECEIPTS from churches December 2011

CHURCH	Dec2011	YTD 2011	YTD 2010	CHURCH	Dec 2011	YTD 2011	YTD 2010
AINSWORTH	368.32	\$4,985.72	\$5,237.46	HERITAGE	\$706.00	\$9,771.00	\$8,776.00
BARING CROSS	00	826.23	1,985.51	LaFAMILIA MC3	242.00	3,267.00	3,174.00
BETHEL	72.00	984.00	1,051.00	LIGHTHOUSE	0.00	512.00	418.00
BRAY ROAD	0.00	0.00	0.00	LINCOLN PARK	15.36	113.00	286.17
CENTRAL	794.19	2,776.78	2,766.88	MOUNT CARMEL	0.00	0.00	400.00
CHRIST COMMUNITY	0.00	360.00	330.00	NEW HAVEN	0.00	100.00	997.30
CORUNNA ROAD	192.00	2,260.00	1,916.00	NORTH END	405.45	6,605.07	7,191.32
DAVISON MEADOWS	50.00	550.00	600.00	OUT REACH	40.00	591.00	720.85
EAGLE'S NEST	.00	250.00	250.00	THE POTTER'S WHEEL	.00	912.26	.00
EASTGATE	496.42	9,438.71	10,026.28	SHAWN	125.00	1,625.00	1,875.00
FAITH	0.00	500.00	0.00	THE TREE	0.00	200.00	.00
FELLOWSHIP	1,198.32	7,329.03	5,523.98	VICTORY	35.70	741.43	836.04
FIELDHOUSE	.00	100.00	.00	WESTSIDE	539.00	7,311.00	7,154.00
FIRST, CLIO	0.00	0.00	40.00	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 5,509.76</b>	<b>73,894.55</b>	<b>71,454.62</b>
FIRST, FLUSHING	0.00	360.00	720.00				
FIRST, SWARTZ CREEK	0.00	9,115.79	6,511.91				
GALILEAN	0.00	342.53	522.92				
HANMAUM INT'L	100.00	1,200.00	1,100.00				
HARMONY	130.00	767.00	1,044.00				
				<b>BUDGET REQUIREMENTS YEAR TO DATE</b>			<b>\$72,000.00</b>
				<b>BUDGET RECEIPTS YEAR TO DATE</b>			<b>73,894.55</b>
				<b>AMOUNT OVER BUDGET YEAR TO DATE</b>			<b>\$1,894.55</b>