

“Get Out of the Cave” Men’s Retreat Planned

With the quarantines and restrictions this past year, men may have felt like they have been confined to a cave; but ECBA is offering an opportunity to “Get Out of the Cave” for a Men’s Retreat. The retreat is scheduled for Saturday, February 27th, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Old Town Hill Baptist Church, 3000 S Burlington Avenue, Muncie IN 47302. (Covid safety precautions will be followed.) The cost of this event is free but reservations are required to plan for food and social distancing. To make a reservation, please contact ECBA Administrative Assistant, Pat Storm, by calling or texting 765.623.3940 or emailing ecba@theecba.org.

ECBA Disaster Relief Coordinator and Men’s Ministry Leader, Joe Fox, initiated the idea for the retreat and was encouraged by the interest in it. Besides providing a good lunch and time for fellowship among the men in our churches, the retreat will also offer learning and encouragement through the speakers. Doug Jividen, Church Planting Catalyst-North Indiana

for NAMB, will begin the first session and speak on “Living by Faith.” Following lunch, Greg Haisley, Pastor at Integris

Community Church and 2021 ECBA Moderator, will share “The Power of Prayer” then Jim Shields, SCBI Team Leader for Highland Lakes Camp & Disaster Relief, will talk about “Serving, Even If It Hurts.” There will also be an opportunity for attendees to meet with the men in their church in small group sessions for reflection and planning. Plan now to attend this event.



Finding Ways to Help Others During a Pandemic

As this pandemic continues to restrict how our churches can minister, Old Town Hill Baptist Church in Muncie is finding ways to minister in spite of it. Their latest efforts have been to help those in need due to medical issues. When they are aware of a person or a family that has illness, the group reaches out and offers to provide meals for a couple of days to give them some respite. They make arrangements to deliver the food, place it near the door (while wearing masks), then call and let them know it is there. If they don’t feel well enough to eat it then, it can be refrigerated and eaten later. Those that are ill are added to their prayer list and, often, sent a card or a note letting them know that they are praying for them. Darla Fox, who is involved in this ministry, encourages those who are ill to please reach out and let others know so that they can help and pray. She said, “We need to be here for each other during these hard times and know that we are vessels of God here on the earth to help his children.”

Students “Deep Dive” into the Bible

Remedy City Pastor, Jeremiah Kinney, continues to minister to Ball State University students and this month they did a “deep dive” Bible study into James and Galatians. Although several BSU students returned to campus at the first of the month, classes did not begin until January 19. This gave them the opportunity to do a “deep dive” Bible study for 2 weeks, meeting on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. They covered James and Galatians in a lecture and discussion format and followed Covid meeting guidelines. One student, who was quarantined, also met with them via Zoom.

BSU student, Grant Byman, did the sign up and promotion for this study. He attends Remedy City while at school and is the son of Greg Byman, pastor of St. Joe Community Church in Fort Wayne. There was a \$5 registration fee, which was given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. They averaged 15 students in attendance and only about half of them attend Remedy City. Testimonies were shared and the discussion was good. They are hoping to do another “deep dive” study in the spring.

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Dr. Ron Ross

The Katecheo

The Apostle Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians, written around A.D. 53, contains thirteen paragraphs. Recently, this writer noticed something different in paragraph five (which is 2.13-14). In this paragraph Paul uses four prepositions defining "being chosen from the beginning." Let's note these four important truths:

FIRST: Christians were chosen **FOR** salvation. Let's face it, most of us as we were accepting Jesus Christ as our Savior did so thinking this life changing decision was up to us, when in reality everything reverted back to God's Spirit working in tandem with the choice of God in eternity past. In reality God was seeking us, not us seeking after God.

SECOND: Christians were chosen **THROUGH** sanctification. In the eyes of God we were viewed and are viewed as being set apart to Himself. The word sanctification conveys two concepts - one, we are set apart **TO** God, and secondly, we are set apart **FROM** sin. All too often we limit salvation to the past experience (being justified) while failing to understand the importance of holiness in daily living (sanctification) throughout our lifetime.

THIRD: Christians were chosen **BY** the Spirit and faith. As stated earlier, too many of us have the belief that we chose God and thus His salvation. This is primarily due to modern-day evangelistic methodologies — and the practices of those with evangelistic fervor while notching their evangelistic guns with more converts. The third preposition notes the work of the Holy Spirit as He convicts the lost of sin and makes the message of God's grace clear to the one being convicted. As the individual experiences the result of conviction and repentance, the Holy Spirit supplies the faith (the authorization to accept) in becoming a child of God.

FOURTH: Christians were chosen **IN** truth. Think about this, our sovereign God, in eternity past knew all things. In reference to His omniscience, He made a choice of grace on a doomed humanity. That choice was demonstrated to Adam and Eve, throughout the Old Testament as viewed through Abram, the tribes, the law, the temple, the offerings, His disciplines, and

ultimately through the incarnation, Jesus' ministry, the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension. This truth will culminate in Christ's return and our eternal bliss.

Verse fourteen states, "It was for this [the above] He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." Lastly, we are reminded of the fact that as we live to glorify God, we are gaining the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Today, may we consciously endeavor to allow the Holy Spirit of God to maintain control of our lives to His glory.

Something to consider as we live out His will in a dark, confused world.

Upcoming Events In February

February 27—"Get out of the Cave" Men's Retreat, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM, Old Town Hill Baptist Church, Muncie

SBC Emphasis for February

Month of February "True Love Waits" Emphasis

February 7—Church Planting, Evangelism and Missions Sunday

February 8-14—Focus on WMU

February 13—Children's Missions Day

February 14—Racial Reconciliation Sunday



Please pray for our pastors and their wives on these special occasions.

Birthdays

February 12—Greg Haisley (Integrus Community Church, Albany)

Disaster Relief Team Provides Valuable Ministry Even Amidst Pandemic

As this newsletter is being written, our Disaster Relief Team is in Kentland, Indiana, working on a home that was flooded with almost three feet of water for at least three days. This called for a major reconstruction of the home. Teams have removed all the walls and insulation, stripping the building to bare studs. Three layers of flooring were taken down to the bare floor joists. All the wiring and plumbing had to be removed and the kitchen and bathroom completely gutted. The furnace, water heater, and all the duct work was removed. Through the generosity of anonymous donors, the family will receive all new appliances, fixtures, furnace, air conditioning, water heater, shower, toilet, vanity and sink. When our team leaves, the home will have all the flooring installed, the drywall taped and one layer of mud applied.

The homeowners will then be able to move in and finish the walls.

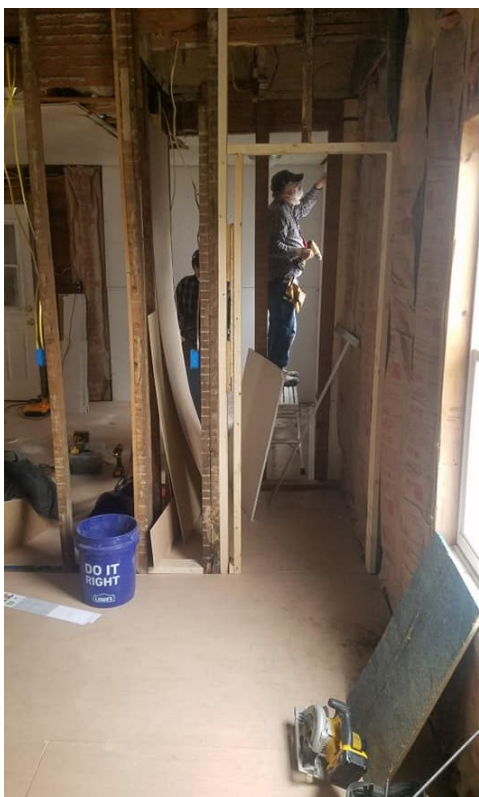
Team Leader, Joe Fox, and all his volunteers give all the glory to God for being able to do this work. He said, "We are all volunteers working for our Heavenly Father Jesus Christ and are blessed to do so."



All the wiring had to be replaced.



Working outside the home.



Walls were stripped to the studs and new insulation installed.



All new drywall was hung.

EAST CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

c/o Pat Storm

8900 W County Road 950 N

Middletown IN 47356

Phone: 765-623-3940

Email: ecba@theecba.org

www.theecba.org

Follow us



Plan Now to Attend

Semi-Annual ECBA Associational Meeting

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Integris Community Church

356 West State Street

Albany IN 47320

7:00 p.m. Associational Meeting

6:00 p.m. Fellowship Meal (If possible)