

ECBA Churches Help with Operation Christmas Child

By Tami Hubler

On February 5th, a team of 10 women from 3 of our associational churches left Indiana to serve at the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Processing Center in Charlotte, NC. These women represented Kingston Avenue Baptist Church, Redeemer Baptist Church and New Day Baptist Church (Alexandria & Pendleton Campuses). The women's mission was to fill shoebox orders placed by individuals online. Working a total of five 3 hour shifts each, the ladies walked over 7 miles a day packing, taping and palletizing shoeboxes. During each shift, Christian music was heard overhead and an endless stream of videos showing lives changed by shoeboxes were played in the warehouse. The women and the employees prayed over the shoeboxes several times a day and Samaritan's Purse brought in individuals who shared their testimonies of receiving shoeboxes as children - their lives forever changed after accepting Christ as their Lord and Savior! The team had the honor of listening to Alex from Kenya and speaking to



L to R Front row: Brenda Brooks, Sherri Hughey, and Nan Orr.

Back row: Tami Hubler, Sheliah Gross, Dolly Allender, Leah Wickham, Beth Weaver, Cindi Oakley, and Kendra Bunch.

him afterwards.

A bonus was the trip to the Billy Graham Library that had just finished renovations. There was no

(Continued on page 4)

Chinese Christian Fellowship Baptize 2 Believers

By Henry Wang

The Muncie Chinese Christian Fellowship (MCCF) organized a baptism ceremony at Halteman Village Baptist Church on November 27, 2022. Brother Wei Shi and Sister Wenpeng Shang were baptized and joined God's family. Brother Wei Shi is a Chemistry professor at Ball State University. Sister Wenpeng is a visiting scholar from Guangzhou, China. They are now attending our church services regularly.



Baptism candidates respond to questions regarding their faith prior to being baptized.



The Muncie Chinese Christian Fellowship welcomes two new believers to their church family, brother Wei Shi and Sister Wenpeng Shang.

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Dr. Ron Ross

The Katecheo

As previously mentioned, the 2023 Winter Bible Study is Paul's writings to Ephesus. This six chapter letter, though questioned by many, contains an interesting overview of *salvation* (called Soteriology by theologians). The second paragraph (1.3-14) contains an overview of this interesting topic. On this writer's book shelves, there are five volumes on this very topic that range from 93 pages in treatment to another containing 412 pages on this doctrine. You might ask, "why such a range of pages?" Obviously, the treatment of a topic focuses on what interests the reader...some only desire a basic treatment, while others are looking for exhaustive treatment of a topic. Today, however, this article is being written to challenge readers with this bit of insight:

the Letter to the Ephesians was written around A.D. 60 by Paul
 the Book of Acts (19-20) was written around A.D. 65 by Luke
 the First Letter to Timothy was written around A.D. 65 by Paul
 the Second Letter to Timothy was written around A.D. 67 by Paul
 the Gospel of John was written around A.D. 75-80 by John
 I and II John were written around A.D. 85-90 by John

the Revelation was written around A.D. 95 by John.

These eight references have one commonality; they were all written to or about the believers in Ephesus. With this much insight into God's revealed truth; the believers, within a thirty-five year period of time, had "*lost or left their first love*" (Revelation 2.4). Today, that area of the world is blanketed with widespread Islam and records only a minimal number of Christians.

Though the Covid virus outbreak for the last few years has been blamed on the visible decline in church attendance and involvement, could it be another name for *LOSING OUR FIRST LOVE* or worse yet *NEVER HAVING HAD IT?*

This realization has staggering implications for each of us. Ephesus had such precise knowledge of the truth as do we, but their knowledge failed to prevail in their personal walk with their Lord. Something to ponder as we endeavor to be *conformed to the image of Jesus Christ!*

Upcoming Events In March

March 16—6:00 p.m., Fellowship Meal at New Day Baptist Church, 518 N Pendleton Avenue, Pendleton IN 46064

March 16—7:00 p.m., ECBA Semi-Annual Meeting at New Day Baptist Church, 518 N Pendleton Avenue, Pendleton IN 46064

SBC Emphasis for March

March 5 - 12—North American Mission Board Week of Prayer & Mission Study & Annie Armstrong Offering

March 19—Church Planting Emphasis



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

Birthdays

March 9—Jearme Ousley (Redeemer, Anderson)

Vacation Bible School 2023 Takes Twists and Turns

By Deneia Trego

Make your ways known to me, Lord; teach me your paths. Psalm 25:4

We know that LIFE can be full of ups and downs, like CHUTES and LADDERS; or full of unplanned moves, like TWISTER; or as sweet as CANDYLAND. Children may even feel their lives are TROUBLE.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) gives us the opportunity to provide children with the gospel-centered winning pieces and the biggest CLUE: Jesus is the ultimate game changer. In order to avoid a KERPLUNK, we ask that you remember VBS in your prayers. May 21, 2023 is set aside as a national day of prayer for VBS.



Brenda Brooks, Deneia Trego, and Tammy Trego (L-R) at the VBS training in Ridgecrest, North Carolina.

New Day Baptist Church in Muncie will hold VBS on June 21 to June 23 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Redeemer Baptist Church in Anderson will have VBS Sunday, June 11 through Thursday, June 15 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Old Town Hill Baptist Church will hold their VBS June 25—29 from 6:00—8:30 PM.

Deneia Trego and Tammy Trego from New Day in Muncie

and Brenda Brooks, ECBA VBS Coordinator from Redeemer Baptist Church, attended VBS National Training at Ridgecrest in North Carolina January 27 – 28. There they were able to see all of materials, learn the worship songs and movements, get ideas for decorating, and discover ways to have a more effective VBS.

ECBA would love to help your church have a VBS. We have materials and decorations and can train your VBS leaders plus provide help and support. For more information, contact Brenda Brooks at 765-623-5929.

Disaster Relief Team Continues to Serve Those in Need

Our Disaster Relief volunteers continue to be busy helping those in need. Their most recent project has been in Bremen, IN. They are helping to rebuild a house for an elderly couple whose home was flooded. It is

almost a complete rebuild and is a huge project for them. All the joists had to be replaced, new wiring and plumbing put in, new siding, all new appliances, just to name a few. The community there has been very supportive. The people next door have been feeding the volunteers. The community also helped to pitch-in by providing food. The volunteers have been able to stay for free in a rental across the street. God certainly is providing!

In addition to the disaster relief efforts, the team continue to build wheelchair ramps in and around our area. Most recently, they have just finished 2 more.



If you are interested in helping with this project or in future disaster relief projects, please contact our ECBA Disaster Relief Coordinator, Joe Fox, at 765-729-1366.



...More from Operation Christmas Child

cost to visit the site; it is FREE, and all agreed that the museum and surrounding grounds exceeded expectations. The team is already planning another trip and hope that more women - and men will be called to go serve. Stay tuned!



Beth Weaver, Sherri Hughey, and Nan Orr work together to fill boxes.



Notice the video playing in the background as Cindi Oakley packs shoeboxes.



Brenda Brooks reaches for items to fill her shoebox.



The group at the foot of the glass cross at the Billy Graham museum.



Nan Orr picks a cute doll to put in a shoebox.



Billy Graham Library just finished renovations.



Join other East Central Baptist Women at this year's **Transformed Retreat, April 14 - 15 at Northside Baptist Church, 3021 E. 71st Street, Indianapolis, IN 46220**. This rewarding weekend challenges women to grow in their relationship with Christ as they learn how to experience the abundant hope that comes through a relationship with Jesus. They will be inspired to reach out to others with the Gospel of Christ and tell of the hope that can only be found in relationship with Him! The cost is \$55 if paid in full by March 1 and \$65 if paid in full by March 31. (Cost includes: Registration, Bag, Coffee Connection on Friday and lunch on Saturday). For more information or to register for this event, go to <https://scbi.org/events/transformed/transformed-north-central2>.

ECBA Profit and Loss Statement for January 2023

	Jan 2023	Dec 2022 (PP)	Jan 2022 (PY)	Total Jan 2023 (YTD)
REVENUE				
4000 Church Receipts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4060 New Day	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
4120 Halteman - Muncie	296.02	118.36	138.26	296.02
4140 Kingston - Anderson	114.24	166.36	75.32	114.24
4160 North Delaware - Muncie	164.30	218.12	201.98	164.30
4180 Redeemer - Anderson	784.08	0.00	228.81	784.08
4190 First - Montpelier	0.00	0.00	82.00	0.00
4210 Faith Christian Fellowship	150.00	150.00	260.00	150.00
4230 Integris	0.00	160.00	0.00	0.00
4240 Remedy City	105.22	134.38	130.00	105.22
4250 Muncie Chinese Christian Fellow	1,156.52	0.00	0.00	1,156.52
Total 4000 Church Receipts	3,270.38	1,447.22	1,616.37	3,270.38
6990 Church P & H Endowment Income	521.88	0.00	0.00	521.88
Total Revenue	3,792.26	1,447.22	1,616.37	3,792.26
EXPENDITURES				
7000 Administrative Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7010 Other Expense	11.38	360.00	15.40	11.38
7021 Insurance	638.25	0.00	0.00	638.25
7090 Payroll	906.26	835.16	835.15	906.26
Total 7000 Administrative Ministry	1,555.89	1,195.16	850.55	1,555.89
7100 Church Health	0.00	1,810.75	0.00	0.00
7500 Trustee	0.00	0.00	819.96	0.00
Total Expenditures	1,555.89	3,005.91	1,670.51	1,555.89
NET OPERATING REVENUE	2,236.37	-1,558.69	-54.14	2,236.37
NET REVENUE	\$2,236.37	\$ -1,558.69	\$ -54.14	\$2,236.37

ECBA Balance Report January 2023

	As of Jan 31, 2023	As of Dec 31, 2022 (PP)	Total Change
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Bank Accounts			
1000 ONB	1,714.49	0.00	1,714.49
1010 General Budget	43,907.67	43,907.67	0.00
1011 Discretionary Admin Team	7,493.99	7,493.99	0.00
1020 Disaster Relief	474.28	474.28	0.00
1025 Mission Building Capital Fund	9,957.19	9,957.19	0.00
1035 Church P&H Fund	25,520.98	25,520.98	0.00
1040 OMC	1,307.84	1,307.84	0.00
1055 Funds Temporarily Restricted	10,458.78	10,458.78	0.00
1111 Church P&H ROI	7,587.60	7,065.72	521.88
1125 BCMH Temp Restricted	149,357.73	149,357.73	0.00
Total 1000 ONB	257,780.55	255,544.18	2,236.37
1100 Indiana Baptist Foundation			
1110 ECBA Endowment	12,820.47	12,820.47	0.00
Total 1100 Indiana Baptist Foundation	12,820.47	12,820.47	0.00
Total Bank Accounts	270,601.02	268,364.65	2,236.37
Total Current Assets	270,601.02	268,364.65	2,236.37
TOTAL ASSETS	\$270,601.02	\$268,364.65	\$2,236.37
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Total Liabilities			0.00
Equity			
30000 Opening Balance Equity	45,107.04	45,107.04	0.00
32000 Unrestricted Net Assets	223,257.61	229,444.10	-6,186.49
Net Revenue	2,236.37	-6,186.49	8,422.86
Total Equity	270,601.02	268,364.65	2,236.37
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$270,601.02	\$268,364.65	\$2,236.37

EAST CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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Don't Miss It!

Semi-Annual ECBA Associational Meeting

Thursday, March 16, 2023

New Day Baptist Church

518 N Pendleton Avenue

Pendleton IN 46064

7:00 p.m. Associational Meeting

6:00 p.m. Fellowship Meal