

ECBA Prepares for Vacation Bible Schools

Lifeway's Nashville Vacation Bible School Preview was held January 5-6 in Brentwood TN and ECBA sent a team of 6 to the training. Attending were Ceress Beane, Erin Van Duyn, and Danielle McLaughlin from New Day Baptist Church in Alexandria; Tammy Trego from New Day Baptist Church in Muncie, and Lynn Mitchell and Brenda Brooks from Redeemer Baptist Church in Anderson. Sabra Douglas from Old Town Hill Baptist Church in Muncie had planned to go but was unable to due to work. The group was able to travel together by using Redeemer's church van.

The VBS training introduced the 2024 theme, "Breaker Rock Beach" with its training materials, music, and choreography. In addition to the age-level training classes there were also opportunities for general VBS training topics. Included were classes such as decorating without breaking the bank, how to rally volunteers for VBS, teaching kids to overcome the world's hot topics, raising standards instead of lowering expectations, leading a child to Christ, conflict in VBS, five essential steps towards a safer ministry, follow up after VBS, and more.

The Association provides funding for this training plus purchases teaching materials and



ECBA VBS Team at Lifeway Training in Tennessee: Danielle McLaughlin, Tammy Trego, Ceress Beane, Lynn Mitchell, Brenda Brooks, and Erin Van Duyn.

decorations that can be shared by all the churches. The extra bonus is the fellowship that is enjoyed between the churches. We now have 4 of our churches who are planning to hold Vacation Bible School. If your church would like to have a VBS but needs help, please contact ECBA VBS Coordinator, Brenda Brooks at 765.623.5929. Help is available for you.

New Day Mission Trip to Cuba

By Ceress Beane

On December 1, I joined Becky Galbreath and Pastor Chris Hubler on a missions trip to Cuba. I went to Cuba expecting to change it, instead Cuba changed me. I was very quickly humbled in regards to the children's ministry, as well as my own spiritual life.



Pastor Chris Hubler, Ceress Beane, and Becky Galbreath from New Day Baptist Church in Alexandria are ready to board their plane to Cuba for a mission trip.

It was a trip full of opportunities for ministry and for sharing Jesus and was such a blessing! I was able to sing and share my testimony. I taught children 3 different times and 1 child gave his life to Christ. I was also able to talk to the childcare workers of River of God. Again, I learned more from them than what I felt like I could teach them. They have 80-100 children every week. One lady brings 40 children every week who walk with her from the neighborhood.

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Dr. Ron Ross

The Katecheo

Matthew 16.18 from the NASB '95 states, *"I also say to you that you are Peter [petros], and upon this rock [petra] I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."* In the Greek text, verses 17-19 form paragraph 199 of the entire Gospel. In the last verse of that paragraph, Jesus gives Peter the *"keys of the kingdom of heaven"* ... the ability to *bind or loose*.

Through the writing ministry of the apostle Paul to believers in Ephesus, we are provided the job descriptions of apostles, prophets, evangelists (similar to the modern-day missionary) and the pastor-teacher as described in 4.11-13.

With the passing of time, these two concepts have been overtaken by the *"natural practices"* of that modern era. Today, the concepts of the secular business world have saturated the purposes and practices of most evangelical churches.

As the initial design of God has been replaced with the ideologies and practices of the technological advancements of the age, we are experiencing less and

less of God's Hand on churches and para-church organizations. We are prone to misinterpret the real from the fake. Humility has been replaced with pride and boasting. The genuine is being replaced with the spectacular. Spiritual growth in individuals has been replaced with an intense interest in numerical advancement — the larger, the better. Whereas in years past, some church members were in need of spiritual "scuba equipment," today's needs basically consist of the "surface skis" purchased at Walmart or Dick's Sporting Goods.

If you will, please take your copy of "The Baptist Faith & Practice," reading **Article 1: The Scriptures** with special attention given to the fifth sentence: *"It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried."*

Our practice reflects what we really believe!

New Day to Attend NAMB Women's Evangelism Conference

Seven women from New Day Baptist Church will attend the NAMB Women's Evangelism Conference in Alpharetta, Georgia April 8—9. This is the first year for this

conference and it has already sold out. The conference was developed to encourage and equip women to create a culture of evangelism in their local ministries and to reignite their passion to invite people to know Jesus and to train others to do the same. Speakers include Christine Hoover, Missie Branch, and Catherine Renfro.

For more information, or if you would like to be placed on the waitlist, go to <https://www.namb.net/evangelism/women-conference>.

Upcoming Events In March

March 14—6:00 p.m., Fellowship Meal at North Delaware Baptist Church, 809 E Royerton Rd #500 N, Muncie IN 47303.

March 16—7:00 p.m., ECBA Semi-Annual Meeting at North Delaware Baptist Church, 809 E Royerton Rd #500 N, Muncie IN 47303. Guest Speaker: Dr. Jamison Work, Associational Missions Network Associate | Mobilization for the International Missions Board (IMB).

SBC Emphasis for March

March 3 - 10 —North American Mission Board Week of Prayer & Mission Study & Annie Armstrong Offering

March 17 —Church Planting Emphasis

March 24 — Personal Evangelism Commitment Sunday

March 31 — Easter



We do not have any birthdays or anniversaries in March. Please pray for all of our pastors, their wives, and families.

More on Cuba Mission Trip

(Continued from page 1)

Several events were held during the week. There were 18 separate Friend Day services, a leadership meeting at River of God, a pastors and wives conference, an event for expectant mothers and young mothers, a sports camp for the neighborhood children, plus we served soup to the community twice. All of these events



provided at least a snack and, sometimes, a full meal. Some events provided clothing, gift bags, giveaways, and medicine. They were all made possible by the money given for this ministry. Thousands of people were impacted! Most importantly, at all of these events we talked about Jesus. We didn't just give out bread, but also told them about the Bread of Life.

I also had an opportunity to talk with the expectant mothers and young mothers group about motherhood. I

shared with them the challenges and rewards and how very important a mother's role is. Additionally, I had the opportunity to help serve soup. One of the more humbling experiences for me was to pray a couple of times in front of a group of 4 pastors and a bunch of other people who were way smarter than me.

One of my most humbling and moving experiences occurred on our first Sunday: the children stood up, quoted scripture to me, and started praying blessings over me. I was floored! Another incredible experience was during the pastors and wives conference. Everyone was praying in groups and they were all crying. The Holy Spirit showed up in a mighty way!



Our trip was from December 1 – 11. Pastor Chris Hubler will be going back in February for a pastors conference. Then, in April, New Day is planning another missions trip there.



ECBA Volunteers Help with Operation Christmas Child



On January 25, a group of volunteers in our association headed to Aurora, IL to help pack Operation Christmas Child boxes at the OCC warehouse. Brian and Kendra Bunch plus George and Sara Biggs, all from New Day Baptist Church in Alexandria; along with Kendra's friend, Susan Shuter; plus Brenda Brooks from Redeemer Baptist Church in Anderson spent that evening and the next day packing boxes. These were mostly "build a box" boxes where donors give money to have them pick and pack each box with items for children. As they are working, they also get to hear stories of how the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes have blessed and effected so many children and their families. It is a very rewarding experience for all. If you are interested in helping this year, or if you would just like to know more, please contact any of the volunteers for more information.

Pictured to the left are: Brian Bunch, George Biggs, Brenda Brooks, Sara Biggs, Kendra Bunch, and Susan Shuter.

Transformed

The Transformed Women's Conference will be held April 12 – 13, 2024 at Calvary Baptist Church, 200 Sunset Blvd in Greenwood IN. Due to changes in the SCBI staffing this past year, there was uncertainty about this conference, but arrangements have been made and a rewarding weekend has been planned for the attendees. This conference will challenge women to grow in their relationship with Christ as they learn about how they are made for community with God and each other. 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 a relationship with Him.

The guest speaker for this conference is Emily Dean. Emily serves as Assistant Professor of Ministry to Women at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. She is passionate about preparing women for ministry leadership and enjoys training women on how to live out God's call to disciple making.

The cost for this event is \$55. Registration is now available at <https://scbi.wufoo.com/forms/transformed-womens-retreat>.

Week of Prayer for North American Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering Materials Available.

From Chris Conrades

The promotion materials for the 2024 Week of Prayer for North American Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering are now available. You can order your church's materials by going to <https://scbi.wufoo.com/forms/s1gfm0dk1dhrngk/>

You should have already received one English planning guide that was mailed to every church pastor by the North American Mission Board in January.

March 3-10, 2024 are the suggested dates for the Week of Prayer. Churches, of course, can observe the season of prayer when it is most convenient for their calendars. The 2024 national goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is \$75 million. For more information and resources visit www.AnnieArmstrong.com. Here you can find clip art, videos, and lesson plans that can be used for all ages.

Thank you in advance for challenging your church to pray for and give to North American missions.

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JESUS
KNOWN**

 **North American
Mission Board**

ECBA Profit and Loss Statement for December 2023

	Dec 2023	Nov 2023 (PP)	Dec 2022 (PY)	Jan - Dec 2023 (YTD)	Total
REVENUE					
3025 Mission Building Fund	115.00	115.00	0.00		1,150.00
4000 Church Receipts	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
4060 New Day	500.00	500.00	500.00		6,000.00
4120 Halteman - Muncie	0.00	0.00	118.36		1,830.76
4140 Kingston - Anderson	217.78	119.24	166.36		1,747.23
4160 North Delaware - Muncie	175.60	250.15	218.12		2,664.70
4170 Old Town Hill - Muncie	0.00	0.00	0.00		5,001.54
4180 Redeemer - Anderson	196.42	273.48	0.00		3,549.74
4210 Faith Christian Fellowship	35.00	35.00	150.00		350.00
4220 Freedom International Ministries	0.00	0.00	0.00		905.00
4230 Integris	0.00	202.00	160.00		1,565.00
4240 Remedy City	91.78	150.26	134.38		1,591.33
4250 Muncie Chinese Christian Fellow	0.00	0.00	0.00		1,156.62
4270 Liberty Christian	0.00	0.00	0.00		150.00
Total 4000 Church Receipts	1,216.56	1,539.13	1,447.22		26,511.82
6100 State Mission Offering	0.00	0.00	0.00		3,689.19
6990 Church P & H Endowment Income	0.00	0.00	0.00		453.33
Total Revenue	1,331.56	1,654.13	1,447.22		31,804.34
EXPENDITURES					
7000 Administrative Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
7010 Other Expense	0.00	10.00	474.18		1,202.88
7021 Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00		4,601.84
7090 Payroll	906.26	906.26	835.16		10,875.17
7091 Bookkeeping	0.00	35.00	0.00		503.03
Total 7000 Administrative Ministry	906.26	951.26	1,309.34		17,243.82
7100 Church Health	0.00	80.00	1,810.75		9,300.08
7300 Associational Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00		970.01
7310 Disaster Relief	0.00	0.00	0.00		16,900.16
Total 7300 Associational Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00		17,870.17
7400 Baptist Collegiate Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00		3,000.00
7500 Trustee	0.00	0.00	0.00		17,176.88
7700 Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00		360.00
Total Expenditures	906.26	1,031.26	3,120.09		64,959.96
NET OPERATING REVENUE	425.30	622.87	-1,672.87		-33,155.62
NET REVENUE	\$425.30	\$622.87	\$ -1,672.87		\$ -33,155.62

ECBA Balance Report December 2023

	As of Dec 31, 2023	As of Nov 30, 2023 (PP)	Change	Total
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Bank Accounts				
1000 ONB	-6,883.46	-6,430.33	-453.13	
1010 General Budget	23,233.77	22,355.34	878.43	
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	22,704.92	22,704.92	0.00	
1040 OMC	1,307.84	1,307.84	0.00	
1051 ECBA Endowment	0.00	0.00	0.00	
1055 Funds Temporarily Restricted	7,366.43	7,366.43	0.00	
1111 Church P&H ROI	7,576.31	7,576.31	0.00	
1125 BCMH Temp Restricted	149,357.73	149,357.73	0.00	
Total 1000 ONB	222,589.00	222,163.70	425.30	
1100 Indiana Baptist Foundation				
1110 ECBA Endowment	12,505.85	12,505.85	0.00	
Total 1100 Indiana Baptist Foundation	12,505.85	12,505.85	0.00	
Total Bank Accounts	235,094.85	234,669.55	425.30	
Total Current Assets	235,094.85	234,669.55	425.30	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$235,094.85	\$234,669.55	\$425.30	
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Total Liabilities				0.00
Equity				
20000 Opening Balance Equity	45,107.04	45,107.04	0.00	
22000 Unrestricted Net Assets	223,143.43	223,143.43	0.00	
Net Revenue	-33,155.62	-33,580.92	425.30	
Total Equity	235,094.85	234,669.55	425.30	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$235,094.85	\$234,669.55	\$425.30	

EAST CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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Follow us



Don't Forget!!

ECBA Semi-Annual Meeting

Thursday, March 14, 2024

North Delaware Baptist Church

809 E Royerton Rd #500N

Muncie IN 47303

Featured Speaker: Dr. Jamison Work, International Missions Board

Fellowship Meal 6:00 PM

Meeting 7:00 PM