

Your

411

THE NEWS JOURNAL OF THE BLUE RIDGE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION



## INSERVICE Training Night

*The BRBA will be hosting a night of Training and Fellowship at Paramount Baptist Church on Monday, September 13 at 7:00 PM. Speakers will include Dr. David Lee, from the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, Lori Ferguson, Children's Ministry director at Daybreak Community Church, Bruce Conley, BRBA Director of Missions and a whole lot more. You can see the list of training course offered on page 5-6 of this newsletter.*



## ✕ Share Your Summer Success Stories

Every summer Blue Ridge Baptist Association churches conduct mission trips, Vacation Bible Schools, camps, and service projects. We would love to hear about what your church has been doing over the summer so we can share it with our other churches.

Perhaps you had a successful VBS or mission trip that would be an encouragement to others. Maybe something you did will

spur a creative idea with a reader. Maybe God can use your success to provoke another one of our churches to do more for His Kingdom this fall.

If you have something, please write an article and submit it to us. Who knows, it

might end up on the front page of our next newsletter.

Please send submissions to Mae at [mae@blueridgebaptist.org](mailto:mae@blueridgebaptist.org).



**Delbert Pope, Pastor of Destiny Church in Frederick, has been accepted to the Moody Bible Institute's "distance learning program". Congrats, Delbert!**



# Moving Forward With God

*from your Director of Missions - Bruce Conley*

I learned at a very young age in my Christian walk that the key to success in the Christian life is learning to hear God's voice and then obeying it. Dr. David Yonggi Cho - pastor of the world's largest church (800,000 people) in Seoul, South Korea, has been asked many times why he feels his church has experienced such enormous growth. Without hesitation his response is, "I pray and I obey." In other words, he listens for God's voice and then he does what God instructs. You can't go wrong with that formula! In fact, you'll find people get into trouble when they start doing what THEY want to do, instead of how God directs.

My family has recently moved ahead with a new chapter in what we believe is God's calling on our lives. It has not been the most comfortable transition for us .... I am a home body by nature - born and bred in Prince George's County, MD. I have lived my entire life in that county, and 26 of the 28 years that I have been married have been as a resident of the City of Bowie, MD. .... so it doesn't seem natural that we would pack up and leave now. *But keep in mind the formula that works best for every believer .... we need to hear God's voice, and then obey.*

There are a lot of things that I could be doing in ministry - but the real question is - where does GOD want me to serve? Eighteen months ago I knew that He was calling me to something new, something larger than I ever dreamt possible, and it became obvious to me, that if I was to be in the center of God's will, I would need to move on - even if it meant a total change in surroundings, location, and leaving the church family that I had grown to love while serving them for these past years.

As I write this article, a major part of that change has taken place. We have moved our family from Bowie to the Blue Ridge area into a townhouse where we will stay until our home "on the mountain" is built in a few years. I will be increasing my hours and service to the churches in the Blue Ridge Association and spending

more time strategizing how best to plant new churches in our region to reach increased numbers of lost people with the saving message of the gospel. I ask for your prayers for my family as we go through this transition. Please also pray for God to empower me to help our churches to new levels of strength and health, and that new churches would be successful in reaching the lost at a vastly increased rates in the years ahead. As I more fully step out in faith to God's new call on my life, I am also reminded of James who says, "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

Do you struggle "doing instead of just hearing"?



I once asked a wise old Pastor, "How do I know if I am on the right path?" His response was to talk about how steering worked in cars before power steering was introduced in the 1950's and 1960's. He quoted James 1:22 about being doers and not just hearers, explaining that it was important to "do" because doing meant that we were

attempting to move ahead for the Lord. "A car without power steering doesn't work very well when a car isn't moving. But when the car starts moving, it becomes easier to steer the car in any direction. When we keep moving and ask God to direct us, He will steer us in the right direction."

His simple yet profound wisdom has stuck with me to this day.

The next time that you are questioning whether or not you are moving in the right direction, say a prayer asking God for His direction, listen to God, but above all .... keep moving.

Blessings,

*Bruce M. Conley*

# Keeping Up with all that Social Media Stuff

*from your Media Minister - Phil Graves*

I love social media. Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc., they are all great ways to keep up with friends and the people I wish I knew.

When I'm talking to people about social web sites, one of the questions I often get asked (usually just after the one about whether you actually need to join all the social networks, just because everyone else is) is "how do you keep up with everything?" People are often concerned about the amount of time it takes to read all of those tweets or updates, and wonder how in the world they will be able to keep up with everything, while still finding time for their work or hobbies. My answer sometimes surprises people: you don't have to keep up with everything.

I don't read every post or update on all of my social web sites. The secret to participating without losing your sanity is that you don't need to read everything. Think about it like a river of information. When you have a few minutes, you can dip your toes into the water for a little break, but you don't need to spend the entire day swimming in it. Participating in social web sites is like a huge chat room. You participate when you can, but you don't need to catch up on the conversations that you missed during the times when you weren't in the chat.

Each of us have slightly different ways to keep up with social web sites. For this article, I'll focus on Twitter, since it seems to be one that can be the most difficult to keep up with for many people.

My strategy for improving Twitter efficiency has three components: smarter use of applications, ignoring Twitter and following fewer people. I use Seismic Desktop (<http://seismic.com>) to manage the flow of information by filtering my stream to focus on the updates that I care about the most, and I ignore a lot of what happens on Twitter. I

keep up with what I can while letting the rest stream past me.

Chris Brogan talks about how to use Twitter at high volume (he follows almost 90,000 people). He also thinks of it like a river of information. Chris uses applications to pick out what he can and lets the rest stream past. He also uses search extensively, and considers it to be the most important part of the Twitter experience.

You could also consider using the twenty minutes per day strategy for managing Twitter. The idea is that you pop into Twitter five times per day, spending three minutes each time to read a few posts, check @replies and direct messages, and post your update or respond to someone else. This leaves you with five minutes per day to search for interesting information and find other people that you might want to follow.

Another great strategy, if you have a smart phone, is to install an application that lets you read and post to Twitter whenever you have some spare time, like waiting in a line or sitting in your doctor's office waiting for an appointment. I would however, advise against using it while waiting for a red light.

Finally, remember that Twitter, and all social media sites are not more important than your relationship with God or your family. Make sure you keep your priorities in line and use your time wisely.

*Phil*

# Great Commission Resurgence Passes

After months of debate, Southern Baptist Convention messengers who met June 15-16 adopted an amended version of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force report and also elected a new president, Bryant Wright, Sr. Pastor of the Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, GA.

The 23-member GCR Task Force, formed during the 2009 meeting by then-SBC President Johnny Hunt, released a preliminary report in February and a lengthy final report in May. Discussion on the report in newspapers, Internet blogs and social media led to the largest messenger total at an annual meeting -- just over 11,000 -- since 2006.

The GCR report dominated messengers' attention. It had seven components, none of which drew more floor discussion during the Tuesday

afternoon session than the third component's call for a new category, "Great Commission Giving," that would encompass not only Cooperative Program giving but also designated giving to all SBC causes.

Critics argued the new category would de-emphasize CP giving, and when messenger John Waters (Ga.) offered an amendment striking the new category from the report, a vote via a show of ballots appeared too close to call. Rather than putting the amendment to a ballot vote that possibly would push discussion of the report into the evening, task force members offered two compromise amendments that strengthened the report's CP language. Both were amendments to

Component No. 3 and both passed overwhelmingly.

The first amendment said Southern Baptists "continue to honor and affirm the Cooperative Program as the most effective means of mobilizing our churches and extending our outreach." The second amendment -- which was written during a discussion on stage between task force members and Waters -- said Southern Baptists affirm "that designated giving to special causes is to be given as a supplement to the Cooperative Program and not as a substitute for Cooperative Program giving."

After the final amendment passed, the report itself passed via a show of ballots by an estimated 3-to-1 margin.

Ronnie Floyd, committee chairman said:

"We are guided by our shared commitment to the Gospel itself and to the articles of faith identified in the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. The Southern Baptist Convention is a convention of churches that is committed to a missional vision of presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in the world and to make disciples of all the nations. We are a Great Commission people."

Sam Floyd, another task force member said, "We just thank all of Southern Baptists for believing in the Great Commission. And now it's time to move forward."

*(re-printed and transcribed from Baptist Press)*





### **Tuning up your church ministries**

**Join us on September 13, Monday, from 7:00 – 8:45 PM at Paramount Baptist Church in Hagerstown.**

13234 Marsh Pike  
Hagerstown, MD 21742

#### **Conferences and Workshops**

##### ***Security for Today's Church, an open discussion – Jim Rice***

"Proverbs 22:3...foresee danger and plan ahead..."

What can be done to prepare us, our congregations and our Church facilities. The current threat picture, statistical evidence of violence in, around and directed at Church's and Christians and the things we can do to protect ourselves against the unthinkable. Getting people to think about Church and Safety/Security in the same thought.

*SSA James Rice is Special Assistant to the Assistant Director, Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate, Wash. DC*

##### ***Making the Most of Your Ministry Dollars During Tough Economic Times – Rev. Bruce Conley***

Finding it hard to stretch your dollars during this economic downturn? This class will give you proven strategies that you can use in your local church to be the best steward you can be during tough financial times. This class will benefit any member of your church Trustees, Building & Grounds Committee, Finance or Stewardship Committee.

*Bruce Conley is the DOM for BRBA*

##### ***Old and New: Bridging the Gap – Dr. Joel Rainey***

Established churches and new churches need each other in order to grow the Kingdom of God. "Enter the world" of a church planter and understand areas where their help will be crucial. Joel will also introduce Bobby Gilstrap's 5/52 church start financing plan. Which shows how any church, no matter the size, can significantly help a new church financially.

*Joel Rainey is the DOM for Mid-Maryland Association*

##### ***Mission Trips that Work – Christopher Walls***

Whether you are on the giving end or the receiving end, successful mission trips require the most preparation possible. Here's how.

*Chris Walls is pastor of life connections at Smithsburg Valley Church*

***(Continued on next page)***

**Deacon Basic Training Workshop – Dr. David Lee**

What is the deacon's most important task? What are the keys to becoming an effective spiritual leader? What is the primary work of the deacon? What are some practical tools that will help me do my work as a deacon? Each participant will receive a multi-page manual as a part of the study.

*David Lee is Executive Director of BCMD*

**Helpful Tips for Everyday Emergencies – Pam Eubanks**

A practical approach to implementing various emergency procedures including CPR, and First Aid for adults and children. This course is not applicable for CPR certification.

*Pam Eubanks is a certified EMT and trained firefighter*

**Hot Topics in Children's Ministry – Lori Ferguson**

Lori shares her tips for success in recruiting/training teachers, and involving parents in children's ministry. This course will also include curriculum do's and don'ts, Children's Church, family worship programs, and special events. She will cover hot topics of your choice and give information and resources on different aspects of growing a healthy children's ministry.

*Lori Ferguson has an MA in Family Ministry and is Director of Children's Ministry at Daybreak Church*

**Putting YOU in Youth Ministry – Pastor Matt Gregory**

Matt will present innovative ways to get your youth more involved with missions opportunities like World Changers. He'll present the basic concepts of "Purpose Driven Youth Ministry" (by Doug Fields), and will talk about fund raising within the church for youth projects. Resources will also be made available for the youth minister/director who needs help and ideas for ministry.

*Matt Gregory is Minister of Youth at Faith BC*

**Technology as a Ministry? - Phil Graves**

Do you want to get your church website up to snuff; get your pastor's sermons online; set-up a Facebook page for your ministry? Church leaders want to get a handle on how to use technology in their church. This is the session for you. Join our Church Media specialist as he talks about the why and how of technology ministry.

*Phil Graves is the Media Minister for the BRBA*

**To sign up to attend, or for more information, please contact Mae Argilan at the BRBA office 240-818-8760 or via email or [mae@blueridgebaptist.org](mailto:mae@blueridgebaptist.org)**

***Remember the Date!***

**Monday, September 13th 7:00 - 8:45**

**PARAMOUNT BAPTIST CHURCH  
13234 Marsh Pike  
Hagerstown, MD 21742**

## *Spotlight on our Summer Intern*

Christie Clark is a native Marylander and was raised her entire life in Frederick County. She is currently a sophomore at Oklahoma Baptist University where she plays softball and is majoring in Cross-Cultural Ministry. After graduation Christie plans on serving as a full time missionary overseas to a place God will reveal in His perfect timing. Christie has been having an amazing summer working with BRBA and serving with the churches in the association.

Christie participated in a wide range of outreach events throughout the entire sprawl that makes up the BRBA territory. Helping with VBS activities, she taught Bible stories and missions at South End, West End, Faith, and Smithsburg. She was also involved in set-ups, tear-downs, kick-offs, and the closing ceremonies of family nights. Daybreak church found her assistance vital in running their 3 weeks of adventure camps. At North Star she added the 'End Hunger Campaign' to her busy schedule, as well as the Middletown Carnival for Fellowship church. The best part was the number of decisions for Christ from the children that were reached.

From the larger, well-established churches, to brand new church plants, and everywhere in-between this energetic and talented student spent her summer with us contributing to Christ's kingdom in a practical way. Christie did everything asked of her, and declared that it was, "So fun!" Thanks, Christie. Same time next year?

## *Birthdays and Anniversaries*

### Birthdays

#### August

1 Richard Krauss  
3 Ed Jordan  
11 Susan Smith  
13 Crissy Crawford  
14 Terry Crawford  
18 Christine McClellan  
25 Becky Krauss  
30 Larry Eubanks

#### September

1 Kimberly Pope  
5 Steve Rose  
18 Van Heslop  
23 Aidsa Zambrano  
23 Phil Graves

#### August Anniversaries

6 Dan and Mille Housam  
7 Van and Karen Heslop  
8 Steve and Donna Rose



## *News and Events*

### *In the Association*

Rev. Brian Scott, the Executive Director for the Frederick County Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs will be a guest speaker (10-15 minutes) for our **Pastor's breakfast** on **August 4th, 2010** at 8:00 AM at **Barbara Fritchie** in Frederick.

### *Church News*



#### **First Hagerstown, MD**

Our VBS had record numbers and everything went so smoothly we are praying for specific protection against our opponent Satan.

#### **Maugansville, MD**

Maugansville Baptist in a small way makes big waves with the ordination and sending out of Pastor Harvey Earl Wentzel III to plant a church in Urbana.

We celebrate how God has used our church in such a mighty way.



#### **Smithsburg Valley Church, MD**

On May 29, 2010 runners and walkers participated in a 5K for Project 320 at Antietam Battlefield.

Approximately 320 men, women, and children raised \$6,000 to go toward drilling a well in Nicaragua. More pictures, information, and GPS coordinates will follow as work progresses on the well.



Saddle Ridge Ranch VBS will get underway at Smithsburg on August 2-6 @ 9:30 – 12:30.

### **Fellowship, Middletown**

The outdoor worship service and baptism was held on June 13th at the Brunswick Campground by the Potomac River. There were 52 in attendance, which included a few friends from Faith Baptist. By the time they were finished 7 were baptized.

We have been working on renting a building. We had a delay with the town because of the planning commission. We now have their blessing for the zoning certificate, so we have applied to the county for an occupancy permit. We are waiting for the two inspections to take place, one building inspection and one fire and safety inspection. Once they are approved we will be able to move into our building. Please pray that the inspections go well, so we can finalize this goal and move on to the opportunities this location will give us to serve the Lord.

### ***Prayer Hi-Lights***

#### **Crossroads, WV**

Crossroads Community Church has been meeting at a school while saving up for a building. The county is reconsidering its policy on building use, and we might be wise to seek alternate meeting places. We would appreciate your prayers.

#### **Maugansville, Hagerstown**

God has been very good to us this spring sending new members and individuals who have been visiting on a regular basis. God has also offered several other unspoken blessing to our doorstep. So we are asking for God to continue to guide us.

#### **Blue Ridge Church, Front Royal VA**

Everett and Jennifer Powell are dealing with a lot right now: sale of our West Virginia house, finding a job for Jennifer, dealing with 'empty nest' syndrome. Blue Ridge Church is looking for a worship leader, and God's favor on our outreach efforts.

#### **Myersville BC**

Seeking God's direction in filling senior pastor position.

#### **Greenbrier BC**

Seeking God's direction in filling bi-vocational senior pastor position.





THE NEWS JOURNAL OF THE BLUE RIDGE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

*You can subscribe to the online version of our newsletter at [www.blueridgebaptist.org](http://www.blueridgebaptist.org)*



20810A National Pike  
Boonsboro, MD 21713