

New Day Baptist Fasts to Seek God's Will

Over six years ago, Pastor Chris Hubler was studying scripture and noticed Jesus saying, "when you pray...", "when you give...", and "when you fast..." and he thought, although they prayed and gave, they were not fasting. Why not fast, he pondered. Jesus fasted, the Jewish priests called the people to fast, and he believed God wanted them to fast, too. At the first of the year, he asked the church to fast and seek God's face with him as they sought God's direction for their church.

This year's corporate fast was from January 7 – 11. As in previous years, Chris met with the church elders. They prayed and asked God to show them on what direction they should focus in seeking His will for their church. This year they focused on the process of discipleship. As a result, New Day will be adding deacons to their church for the first time. Chris said that every single thing they have sought each year, God had brought about. He said that it scares him to think about not fasting at the first of the year.

Is VBS Worth It?

As you begin to schedule your 2019 kids ministry activities, you may take a moment to ask yourself, "Is VBS worth it?" It's a valid question. The time, energy, and money you invest in VBS is substantial.

To help you make up your mind about this summer's VBS, consider this:

- For most churches, VBS is the most evangelistic event of the year, providing various moments to connect with unchurched families in your community.
- 95% of American parents said participating in VBS was one of their child's most meaningful church experiences [according to a survey](#) conducted by LifeWay Research.
- The unique nature of VBS gives you an opportunity to involve your entire church and impact disciples of every age.
- In 2017, more than 65,000 salvation decisions were reported to LifeWay VBS.

Any event that requires extensive planning, volunteer recruitment, and a portion of your budget should be tested for whether or not it's worth it. After considering the facts above, we hope you'll make room on your ministry calendar for VBS. It's worth it.

Reprinted from LifeWay VBS



Muncie pastor Dale Trego and church member, Chris Finchum, along with New Day senior pastor, Chris Hubler enjoy breakfast served at New Day—Muncie following a 7 day fast.

Fasting reveals our sin, uncovers it, and allows us to confess it and draw closer to God. It is not a way of twisting God's arm to do what we want, but to seek His face and His will. To Chris, fasting is worshipping 24/7.

There are always personal breakthroughs in the corporate fasts. This year a man who had been recently saved but still struggled with alcohol said he found out through the fast that his flesh was a liar and he didn't have to give into it.

Chris said that about 75% of their congregation participated in the fast. Some have a complete fast from food. Some do a "Daniel fast." Others fast during certain hours of the day. They all focus on seeking God's will. New Day Baptist Church finished its corporate fast on Saturday, January 12, with the Muncie campus hosting a breakfast that morning.

God continues to bless the church. The past two Sundays, even with the terrible winter weather that closed many churches, they had over 80 members and guests in attendance. They are also excited to now have a baptismal at the Alexandria campus. It is a portable, fiberglass baptismal and replaces the horse trough that they had several years. They are looking forward to using it.

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Educational Matters

Recently each ECBA pastor received an article written by an acquaintance of our Educator Coordinator. The article, "Give Yourself to the Discipline of Learning," was written by Dr. Don Whitney a professor and associate dean in the School of Theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. In brief, the article highlighted the importance of lifelong learning coupled with intentional learning.

Let's face it — God could have given each of us perfect insight regarding His will at the moment of our acceptance of Jesus as Savior, BUT He didn't. God never forced any of us to make a decision against our will. Though our decisions are not free of divine involvement, they are decisions based on our understanding of God's Word.

Let's face it — most of the information we have about God has reached our brain through the influence of others and that is how we all grow; however, we must process all we hear through the "grid" of God's Word. Christians should see themselves as a "follower of Jesus Christ/student of the Word of God."

Let's face it — as a follower of Jesus Christ and a student of the Word of God, we must corner off time with our Heavenly Father to read, pray, and study the Bible. Such a practice requires a secured time, a secured place and the necessary materials (a Bible, a note-pad and pen). This personal time alone with God will provide answers and new questions, all of which will enhance our personal relationship with our Savior, the indwelling presence of God's Spirit, and of course our Heavenly Father.

Let's face it — as our personal time with God grows, it affects my corporate worship experience with fellow church members on Sundays. It is interesting to note that the two Old Testament places of worship — the synagogue and the Temple — are today the "local church gatherings" and our "own bodies." The "Temple," according to First Corinthians 6.19, is today housed in every believer's body.

Certainly, this truth, once understood, can solicit change — this is the desire of God, that we daily would see change in our lives (this is the process known as sanctification). To complete the growth cycle, we need to be involved in a local Bible-teaching/Bible practicing gathering, called the local church. This local assembly is patterned after the synagogue, which was a place of

learning. The teacher in each place of learning is the pastor. Being the teacher, he must be a student of Scripture. Just as a golfer desires to know more about golf, so the pastor, as teacher, desires to acquire a better understanding of God's directives to His People. This takes study. This spiritual preparation required to convey God's Word in a corporate manner with those assembled is a must, if the people are going to be fed by God's infallible and inerrant Word.

Let's face it — so many of our church members are not experiencing God's best for their lives and it just may be because they do not know any different. Our churches have become more social than houses of prayer and teaching. So often the meal overrides the message; the ritual overrides the real purpose for gathering. As Dr. Whitney shared in his article, we need to give ourselves to the discipline of learning.

Our Educational Coordinator is available to share information helpful to personal Bible study and can be reached at roro062@att.net.

Upcoming Events In February

February 7—10:00 a.m., Leader Lab and Pastors Luncheon at New Day Baptist Church, 518 N Pendleton Ave, Pendleton IN 46064

SBC Emphasis for January

Month of January "True Love Waits" Emphasis

February 10—*Racial Reconciliation Sunday*

February 11-17—*Focus on WMU*

February 11-17—*Children's Missions Day*



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

Birthdays

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

East Central Baptist Association Profit and Loss Statement for November 2018

Income		
	4000 · Church Receipts	
	4060 · New Day	1,116.06
	4120 · Halteman - Muncie	643.37
	4140 · Kingston - Anderson	104.82
	4180 · Redeemer - Anderson	734.71
	4210 · Faith Christian Fellowship	125.00
	4230 · Integris	84.88
	4240 · Remedy City	49.76
	4250 · Muncie Chinese Christian Fellow	153.48
	Total 4000 · Church Receipts	3,012.08
Total Income		3,012.08
Expense		
	7000 · Administrative Ministry	
	7010 · Other Expense	45.99
	7021 · Insurance	926.58
	7090 · Payroll	697.69
	Total 7000 · Administrative Ministry	1,670.26
Total Expense		1,670.26
Net Income		1,341.82

East Central Baptist Association Balance Report November 2018

	Nov 18	Oct 18	\$ Change
1000 · ONB			
1010 · General Budget	27,256.05	26,029.23	1,226.82
1011 · Discretionary Admin Team	7,493.99	7,493.99	0.00
1015 · BCM Rent Deposit	0.00	0.00	0.00
1016 · BCM Capital Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
1025 · Mission Building Capital Fund	5,297.93	5,182.93	115.00
1035 · Church P&H Fund	6,297.89	6,297.89	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	2,599.78	2,599.78	0.00
1000 · ONB - Other	-0.99	-0.99	0.00
Total 1000 · ONB	50,252.49	48,910.67	1,341.82
1100 · Indiana Baptist Foundation			
1110 · ECBA Endowment	9,866.01	9,866.01	0.00
1111 · Church P&H ROI	1,132.40	1,132.40	0.00
1120 · Church P&H Fund	17,978.09	17,978.09	0.00
1125 · BCMH Temp Restricted	146,996.00	146,996.00	0.00
Total 1100 · Indiana Baptist Foundation	175,972.50	175,972.50	0.00
TOTAL	226,224.99	224,883.17	1,341.82

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Follow us



Plan Now to Attend

Semi-Annual ECBA Associational Meeting

Thursday, March 14, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

North Delaware Baptist Church

809 E Royerton Rd #500 N

Muncie IN 47303

Speaker, Jim Marlow