

ECBA Votes to Provide Financial Assistance to Churches and Purchase Tractor for DR

The Quarterly meeting of the East Central Baptist Association was held on Thursday, July 23rd, 2020. It had originally been scheduled for May 14 but was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. The host for this meeting was Integris Community Church in Albany. They graciously provided a one-touch meal of delicious homemade pizzas prior to the meeting (although it was later than planned because of some confusion about the time of the meal).

The Quarterly meeting began at 7:10 p.m. with a call to order and prayer by Moderator, Greg Haisley. Even with the current Corona virus situation there were enough churches represented to reach a quorum for conducting business. Team Leaders and Committee Chairs presented their reports (included in this newsletter). The first order of new business was for the moderator to establish a finance committee for the 2021 calendar year. Greg Haisley named Sharon Armstrong, Mike Armstrong, Jon Nichols, and Ron Ross to this committee.

The next order of business was to hear a report and motion from an ad hoc committee suggested by Jon Nichols to address the financial needs of our churches caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. A committee made up of Brad Storm, Chris Hubler, Bruce Reynolds, and Greg Haisley met and recommended that we grant each of our participating churches \$1,000 to help with any downturn in finances caused by the pandemic. The churches are to use this money for staff salaries, utility bills and other essential expenditures. Costs that would not fall under this grant would be nonessential expenditures such as building maintenance, repairs, or other unrelated costs. Additionally, should any of our churches have financial needs exceeding this \$1000 gift, they are encouraged to contact Pat Storm to notify the Ad Hoc Committee about analyzing those additional needs. Conversely, any church that does not feel a need for this grant, can return it to the Association to further assist other churches that may have a greater need. This motion was unanimously approved.

On behalf of the trustees and the disaster relief team, Joe Fox made a motion to purchase a \$42,000 John Deere Tractor that has the capacity to lift approximately 3,200 pounds and the Association voted in agreement to approve the purchase. Joe explained that they now cover

(Continued on page 4)

Old Town Hill Recognizes Graduating Seniors

Many graduating seniors were not able to have traditional senior graduation events because of the Covid-19 pandemic; but, Old Town Hill wanted to make sure their seniors were able to receive recognition



Holden Parsons marches in for Senior Recognition Day.

for this important occurrence in their lives. Using social distancing and wearing masks, they honored their seniors who were able to attend on Sunday, July 12th at the church. Congratulations to these and to the other graduating seniors who were unable to participate. May God bless your future as you follow Him!

social distancing and wearing masks, they honored their seniors who were able to attend on Sunday, July 12th at the church. Congratulations to these and to the other graduating seniors who were unable to participate. May God bless your future as you follow Him!



(L-R) Dusten Reynolds, Holden Parsons, and Seth McKinney and parents were recognized for this life achievement.

Inside This Issue	
The Katecheo	2
Birthdays/Anniversaries	2
Upcoming Events	2
Associational Ministry Team Report	3
Church Health and Trustees Reports	4
June P & L and Balance Reports	5



Dr. Ron Ross

The Katecheo

IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS: God is Sovereign!

For the last six and one-half months our world has dealt with a pandemic virus and thousands of deaths. Compounding this challenge, we are reminded of the widespread reality of racism. In addition, there are abortions, homosexuality, transsexuality and the fracturing of marriage and the family through divorce. All this with a growing challenge to the drug abuse problem so prevalent in our communities. How do Christians deal with all these challenges in a manner that brings glory to God?

Though the expression of sin has blossomed in unbelievable ways over time, we must remember sin is sin. The electronic-age has made us aware of new ways to satisfy our sinful flesh in the privacy of our own homes. God warned believers through the apostle Paul to — “be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15.58 NASB), as time approached for Jesus’ return for the Church.

In reframing this current crisis, let us reflect on the reality of Elohim God creating the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1.1), as well as everything that would be present in both. Let us also remember that God, prior to His architectural act of creation, knew how the human race would respond to His authority in a defiant manner. With that knowledge, He made a sovereign choice determining those who would be called to salvation through Jesus’ substitutionary death on a cross.

As a child of God the Bible is God’s counsel to you for

daily direction amidst all these challenges. The sovereign God is aware of everything taking place throughout the world.

You may be wondering why God does not do anything about your personal situation? Well, the answer is possibly unknown; however, He is always working in whatever you face to ultimately conform you into the image of your Savior. In the final analysis God is sovereign, and you can count on it!

Let us encourage fellow-believers in these turbulent days, and even more so as we see His return approaching (Hebrews 10.25 NASB).



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

Birthdays

August 5 — Terra Haisley (Integris, Albany)

August 8 — Nathan Watson (Halteman Village, Muncie)

August 12 — Jim Marlow (North Delaware, Muncie)

August 23 — Dale Trego (New Day, Muncie)

Anniversaries

August 15 — Jeremiah & Cassie Kinney (Remedy City, Muncie)

Pastor-Church Anniversaries

August 6 — Dale Trego, New Day—Muncie, 4 years

August 18 — Dana Jones, Faith Christian—Anderson, 7 years

Upcoming Events

August 6—10:00 a.m., Leader Lab and Pastors Luncheon at Integris, 356 State Street, Albany IN 47320

August 29—ECBA Leadership Council Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Redeemer Baptist Church, 3230 Lindberg Rd., Anderson IN 46012

SBC Emphasis for August

August 2—*Social Issues Sunday*

August 9—*Student Evangelism Day*

August 16—22—*Worship Music Week*

Associational Ministry Team Report

By Sharon Armstrong, Team Leader

Disaster Relief Ministry

Joe Fox has agreed to serve the Lord and the East Central Baptist Association through The Disaster Relief Ministry for the upcoming ECBA year of 2020/21. The Disaster Relief Ministry has been able to serve the Lord and people by fixing two different homes for a couple of elderly widows. They put in steps and handrails, making their homes safer. A team of 11 people, five of which were from our Association, are currently working on a building project in Kentucky, July 18th-25th. The Disaster Relief team also received a blessing by being able to work at the home of one of our Associational leaders to remove a tree and some other debris. These projects, are just some of the opportunities for serving the Lord that our DR Team has had this past year. What a blessing to be able to serve in this capacity for our Lord and His people!

Evangelism Ministry

I will be blessed and it is my desire to continue serving Christ and the Association in the Evangelism Ministry for the upcoming ECBA year of 2020/21. We are living in some uncertain and challenging times, are we not? Maybe we do not know how things are going to work out, maybe we are fearful of the next challenge, or maybe we are worried about problems that we must conquer. But one thing is for certain, God is still on the Throne! God is still calling us to a greater purpose every single day, if we listen. Joshua 1:9 states: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." What a truth to hold onto when the uncertainty of

these days creep in. It is with this verse, and the Lord's leading, that as the Evangelism Ministry team leader, I continued my education as I approached the third phase of Biblical Counseling Training from leaders in Indianapolis. This certification training has been almost a year-long-process of travels, meetings, homework, and is still a continuing process today. When certification is complete, it is my understanding that Old Town Hill and our Association will be the only Church and Association within this region to have a certified biblical counselor through this national program. With that being said, this training is **DESIGNED** to bring to light things that are for God's Glory in order to serve Him and His people in a deeper capacity. I am humbled that He has given me this opportunity to serve Him in this way. One thing I love about God is that even in the uncertain times of our world today, God always makes a way to do what He is famous for and that is to draw us and grow us into a deeper relationship of service for His purposes. This is what **He Alone** does best. Once Biblical Counseling certification is complete, this will allow me to not only be better equipped to lead the Evangelism Ministry, but also offer Biblical Counseling within the Association. This is how I feel the Lord is leading me to serve in the upcoming year in ministry, as well as the Evangelism Ministry. We may not know what tomorrow brings, but we know who holds tomorrow. With that in reference to the Evangelism Ministry, I am asking you to join me in prayer for those in your congregation who want to learn how to give the Gospel. Please let your congregation know I am willing to train individuals from your church one on one, or

through Zoom meetings, to learn how to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I believe with all my heart, there are individuals in our churches who desire to know how to lead others to Christ. Finally, as hard as things seem right now, know this the gates of Hell will not prevail. The Church will march forward. I believe individuals **DO** want to grow and know, given the opportunity. That's just my perspective.

Educational Ministry Report

Dr. Ron Ross has agreed to serve the Lord and The East Central Baptist Association through The Education Ministry for the upcoming ECBA year of 2020/21. Following is his report:

Wow, since our March 12 ECBA Semi-Annual Meeting, the procedures for public gatherings have changed immensely — the use of masks, social distancing, the reduction of attendees in a building, and the entrance of awkward electronic services. We all have been affected, and most are asking "will we ever return to how it used to be!" Just think of it, the most exciting day on our calendar was celebrated at home — EASTER services were at best on video viewed in our house. How sad, indeed, that Easter celebrations could not take place in gatherings of local houses of worship!

In all the news about COVID19, we missed the opportunity to address "Substance Abuse Prevention Sunday" (March 29), "Baptist Doctrine Study" (April 12) and "Christian Home Week" (May 10-19) designed to make Baptist aware of the great need facing us all. In addition to these emphasis

(Continued on page 4)

Church Health Team Report

By Tami Hubler Team Leader

VBS

1. The 2020 VBS material purchased by ECBA is not going to waste. Old Town Hill decide to hold their VBS and it is being used by them.

We would like to take advantage of our National VBS training opportunity in 2021, since there are no plans for state training this coming year. Our plan is to use Church Health monies to send Brenda Brooks, our VBS/Children's Coordinator, plus

Association Ministry Report *(Continued from page 3)*

our Annual Southern Baptist Convention Meeting in Orlando, Florida had to be canceled. This was additionally disappointing with the elimination of discussion/action to be taken regarding the issues of dealing with sexual abuse in the church as well as racial discrimination. We missed Mother's and Father's Day, and the inability to gather together has raised concern about the future whenever we are able to gather in mass — will we have the same congregation?

Well, as usual the Education Coordinator has sent out articles, sayings and thoughts for the day, but at a reduced rate. This is certainly a time when leaders need to be encouraged, and historically, leaders who are focused and joyful attribute such to elements of encouragement they have received from others. Hopefully, the Lord will lead you to encourage someone today!

As always, this Educational Coordinator is always available for pulpit supply and leading one of the denominational emphasis in local churches. Feel free to contact him if he can meet a need in your church.

participating ECBA church VBS directors to the national training. Two (2) locations have been found but cannot we cannot register due to Covid restrictions. Our goal is to invest our resources to equip our churches to reach children at an early age with the gospel message and a love for missions.

WMU

1. State Level – The Missions Lifeline event will be moved to November 21st and be held as a virtual event. We will provide more information as it is available.

2. The ECBA - WMU luncheon was postponed due to Covid restrictions. Carol Mohler is exploring new date options in 2020.

International – The Church Health team is exploring options to create an International Missions scholarship program for participating ECBA church High School Juniors and Seniors. Our goal is to invest our resources in High School youth to further the gospel and solidify their faith by sending them on a life changing mission trip prior to college and other world influences.

ECBA Meeting *(Continued from page 1)*

all of central and southwestern Indiana. The tractor would be used in storm recovery to clean up demolished buildings plus be used to clear downed trees. It can also lift large logs and large piles of debris and brush which is a huge help in assisting our aging volunteers. The tractor includes a scoop bucket, a root grapple and a grading box blade. It is 4-wheel drive and can use farm diesel. It can be loaded and hauled with our recently purchased dump trailer. Having this equipment will enable our DR team to be first responders in our local area and surrounding counties. Joe said he believes we can do a lot more of the work God has given us with this equipment. "Every time we help someone, we share Christ with them and pray with and for them. It is definitely a tool that gives us a chance to witness." Not only can the tractor be used for DR, it can also be used as needed by our churches. One helpful function would be to grade gravel parking lots. It would remain an ECBA asset and, if we later decided that we no longer needed it, it could be sold, recovering part of the expense.

With no other business to address at this session, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the East Central Baptist Association will be the Annual Meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 17th, at 7:00 p.m. at Kingston Avenue Baptist Church in Anderson. There is a pitch-in fellowship meal planned for 6:00 p.m. but that will be dependent upon current Covid-19 recommendations.

Trustees Report

By Joe Fox, Trustee Chair

The bearings needed to be replaced on the block party trailer. New Day Baptist has the trailer and Rich Galbreath arranged for it to be repair by the husband of one of their church members. When he asked him about the bill for it, the gentleman said there was no cost; he was donating all the parts and labor. Praise the Lord!

Also, we were still receiving some small utility bills on the Portland property but that has all be cleared up now.

ECBA Profit and Loss Statement for June 2020

Income	
4000 · Church Receipts	
4060 · New Day	1,500.00
4120 · Halteman - Muncie	277.56
4140 · Kingston - Anderson	225.00
4160 · North Delaware - Muncie	237.25
4170 · Old Town Hill - Muncie	0.00
4180 · Redeemer - Anderson	340.04
4190 · First - Montpelier	90.00
4210 · Faith Christian Fellowship	0.00
4230 · Integris	248.61
4240 · Remedy City	50.60
Total 4000 · Church Receipts	2,969.06
Total Income	2,969.06
Expense	
7000 · Administrative Ministry	
7010 · Other Expense	35.50
7021 · Insurance	600.75
7090 · Payroll	729.99
Total 7000 · Administrative Ministry	1,366.24
7500 · Trustee	134.04
Total Expense	1,500.28
Net Income	1,468.78

ECBA Balance Report June 2020

	Jun 20	May 20	\$ Change
1000 · ONB			
1010 · General Budget	35,881.71	34,412.93	1,468.78
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	6,362.19	6,362.19	0.00
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	71,892.33	71,892.33	0.00
1000 · ONB - Other	-900.99	-900.99	0.00
Total 1000 · ONB	128,334.96	126,866.18	1,468.78
1100 · Indiana Baptist Foundation			
1110 · ECBA Endowment	10,827.32	10,827.32	0.00
1111 · Church P&H ROI	1,179.71	1,179.71	0.00
1120 · Church P&H Fund	19,223.09	19,223.09	0.00
1125 · BCMH Temp Restricted	149,357.73	149,357.73	0.00
Total 1100 · Indiana Baptist Foundation	180,587.85	180,587.85	0.00
TOTAL	308,922.81	307,454.03	1,468.78

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

Annual ECBA Associational Meeting

Thursday, September 17, 2020

Kingston Avenue Baptist Church

5403 Kingston Avenue

Anderson IN 46013

7:00 p.m. Associational Meeting

Speaker, Doug Jividen