

Churches Prepare for Vacation Bible School

It's almost time for Vacation Bible School! The excitement is building! Last year, most of our churches did not have Vacation Bible School because of the Covid-19 pandemic. This year, five of our churches have planned to host Vacation Bible School events at their church.

This year's theme is "Destination Dig." At VBS, kids will unearth more than just dirt. They'll discover real-life archaeological finds that have helped to uncover the truth about Jesus. Bible stories will come to life as they learn about where Jesus walked and study tangible pieces of the past to learn the truth about who Jesus is and why He came. As always, VBS will be full of

crafts, fun games, tasty snacks, cool songs, and learning about missions.



Diana Johnson from Redeemer looks on as ECBA Children and VBS Coordinator, Brenda Brooks, shares plans for VBS.

East Central Baptist Association

held a VBS training and planning meeting on Saturday, March 6th, at Redeemer Baptist Church in Anderson. Church VBS leaders met together to learn and to plan their events plus make arrangements to share resources. Redeemer Baptist Church in Anderson will hold the first VBS from Monday, June 7th through Friday, June 12th. Old Town Hill Baptist Church in Muncie has planned theirs from Sunday, June 20th through Thursday, June 24th. New Day Baptist Church in Muncie is hosting a one day VBS event on Saturday, June 26th. New Day Baptist Church in Alexandria is planning to have a VBS but have not determined the date as yet.



Tammy Trego and Deneia Trego from New Day in Muncie and Melissa Ousley from Redeemer learn about the available VBS materials.

Vacation Bible School takes a lot of work and many volunteers but the rewards are worth it as children learn about Jesus. Dig in! Unearth the truth about Jesus at VBS!

God's Continuing Work at Remedy City

By Jeremiah Kinney

Our BSU men's group concluded the school year the last Wednesday in April with 27 men in attendance. We discussed how God had grown us over the last 9 months and how we would keep walking with Him over the summer. Lots of good stories were shared; some about moms and dads now walking with the Lord through the influence of our group, some about how one of our men reached out and invited this one or that one, some about overcoming

addictions or doubts. It was a good night!

Remedy City did another door-knocking, trash collection, prayer-request requesting walk on May 2nd. We tackled two streets in our neighborhood. One team was a father, son, and grandson! They met a lady who can't drive but wants to go to church. The Sunday after Mother's Day, this team is scheduled to drop by her house to bring her to Remedy City! Another group prayed with a

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Dr. Ron Ross

The Katecheo

May 9th-15th was Christian Home Week and the ECBA Education Coordinator prepared and shared the material with local pastors so they could use the booklet with their members. On the Thursday entry, readers were confronted with “The Importance of the Local Church.” A portion of that devotional states — “Generally, if your local church is important to you — it will be important to your family. This is the reason why parents are very careful in seeking God’s leadership in joining a local church. A local church must believe the Word of God in statement as well as in practice. This means that the teaching and preaching must be in keeping with Scripture. It also means that the methods and manners of practice are in accordance with God’s Word.”

“The local church is patterned after the Old Testament ‘synagogue’ which was localized in an area that had a minimum of ten Jewish families; thus churches were localized to enable Christians to gather, pray, and study together. The purpose of both the synagogue and church was to enable growth in those attending the gatherings. Today, we long to see Christians grow in their walk with the Lord and thus, everything the local church does is to promote the spiritual growth of its membership.”

“Membership is vitally important to any local church. Please remember, every Christian is a member of the Universal Church, the Body of Christ, and everyone who possesses Jesus Christ as Savior should be a member in a local

church. The local church serves as a LIGHT to an otherwise dark or dismal community. The church must always remember it is ‘in the world, but not of the world.’ In a day of redefining things, the church must never get caught up in the progression of the world.”

This assessment is too late for some congregations, while others teeter on the brink of becoming excessively like the world around them.

Something to ponder as we endeavor to become more Christ-like each day!

Upcoming Events In June

June 7-12—VBS at Redeemer in Anderson

June 20—24—VBS at Old Town Hill in Muncie

June 26—One day VBS at New Day in Muncie

TBD—VBS at New Day in Alexandria

SBC Emphasis for June

June 6 —*Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church*

June 12—*Crossover, Nashville TN*

June 13-16—*SBC Convention, Nashville TN.*

June 20—*Baptist Men’s Emphasis*

June 27—*Mission: Dignity Sunday*



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

Birthdays

June 3—Bruce Reynolds
(Old Town Hill, Muncie)

June 23—Cassie Kinney
(Remedy City)

June 28—Pam Watson
(Halteman Village, Muncie)

Pastor-Church Anniversaries

June 8—Tim Overton,
Kingston, Anderson, 4 years

Old Town Hill Hosts Picnics to Restore Fellowship Halted by Covid

Covid-19 has robbed so many of time together with friends. Now that it is becoming more under control, a group at Old Town Hill Baptist Church in Muncie has been hosting outdoor picnics, in an effort to restore much needed fellowship. These pictures are from their last picnic on the grounds held on Saturday, May 1st. It was a great time of fellowship for all.



What a Year It Has Been!

The headline from our May 2020 ECBA Newsletter was "Reopening Begins." It's amazing to think that a complete year has past since our churches began reopening following the Covid-19 quarantine. All of our churches are now having in-person meetings. One good change that

came about was that most churches have continued to provide on-line broadcasts of their services for those who cannot attend in person. It may be hard to thank God for Covid but we can certainly thank Him for how He has used it to change us and to draw people to Himself.

DR Team Builds Ramp in Kokomo



Disaster Relief built a ramp for a woman in Kokomo recently. She had a stroke that caused paralysis on her left side, leaving her unable to walk. A Disaster Relief worker heard about her situation at their local pantry and made arrangements for the DR team to install her ramp. The Disaster Relief team is so glad to be able to help people in need, like her. And, ECBA is blessed to be able to have a part in this ministry.

God's Continuing Work at Remedy City...Continued

(Continued from page 1)

very skeptical couple sitting in a car with the windows rolled down. Later in the walk, a different group encountered this couple. The group was challenged by some next-door neighbors, but the couple, no longer skeptical of us, shouted, "Leave them alone! These are church people!" Then they talked with our church group around thirty minutes about real-life issues and the power of Christ. One of our men, who previously had been very hesitant to knock on doors, was overheard sharing the gospel with one of them.

In April, we baptized 6 young men, thanks to the hospitality of Halteman Village Baptist Church in sharing their baptistry! Over the semester, we added ten new members to our

church; plus two who have asked to join our church when they return to Muncie in the fall. The church membership class (we call it church partnership) launched the conversations that led to the baptisms.

I am now working part-time at the YMCA. I was asked to be one of four pastors to pray in public in front of the downtown Muncie Y for the National Day of Prayer. It was a neat time with about 30 people singing praises to God and then the four of us praying, with a microphone, for all of downtown to hear! We were asked to boldly pray in Jesus' name! I've also been asked to write the weekly "YMCA Encouragement"--a devotional that goes out to all the Y staff every Monday! What a privilege!

43% of Millennials 'Don't Know, Don't Care, Don't Believe' God Exists

By Leah MarieAnn Klett,
Christian Post Reporter

Just 26% of Gen X and 16% of millennials believe that when they die, they will go to Heaven only because they confessed their sins and accepted Jesus as their savior, compared to nearly half of the generation before them, a new study has found.

The [American Worldview Inventory 2021](#), a survey of the philosophy of life on American adults from Arizona Christian University, assessed the worldviews of four generations: millennials (born 1984-2002), Gen X (1965-1983), baby boomers (1946-1964) and builders (1927-1945).

Researchers found that among other recent generations, millennials have gone farther in cutting ties with traditional Christian views and normative biblical teaching.

For example, nearly half of all boomers believe that when they die, they will go to Heaven only because they confessed their sins and accepted Jesus as their Savior, compared to only 26% of Gen X and 16% of millennials.

A staggering 90% of builders believe you treat others as you want them to treat you, while less than half of millennials agree.

Additionally, 43% of millennials stated they either don't know, don't care or don't believe God exists compared to 28% of boomers, and 44% of millennials believe Satan is a real and influential, compared to 64% of boomers.

The study also found that overall, younger Americans are significantly more likely than the two previous generations to embrace horoscopes as a guide and Karma as a life principle, to see "getting even" with others as defensible, to accept evolution over creation, and to view owning property as fostering economic injustice.

On spiritual matters, Americans younger than 55 are far more likely to distrust the Bible and to believe God is uninvolved in people's lives.

Interestingly, a majority of Americans call themselves Christian, ranging from 57% of millennials to 83% of builders.

Researchers warn that the beliefs and behaviors of younger Americans, especially millennials, "threaten to reshape the nation's religious parameters beyond recognition."

"In fact, this radical spiritual revolution has created a generation seeking a reimagined world without God, the Bible, or churches," they wrote.

Commenting on the study, George Barna, CRC director of research, said that Gen X and the millennials have "solidified dramatic changes in the nation's central beliefs and lifestyles," adding: "The result is a culture in which core institutions, including churches, and basic ways of life are continually being radically redefined."

The American World Inventory corroborates an earlier [study from Barna](#) that found that two-thirds of

teens and young adults (65%) agree that "many religions can lead to eternal life" compared to 58% of teens and young adults surveyed in 2018.

Additionally, 31% of teens and young adults "strongly agree" that what is "morally right and wrong changes over time, based on society," compared to just 25% in 2018.

Recent [survey data](#) released by Gallup found that one in six Gen Z adults identify as LGBT — the highest percentage of any generation in history — and that number is likely to continue to increase.

Jacob Bland, the new president and CEO of [Youth for Christ](#), told The Christian Post that despite the challenges facing today's young people, he looks toward the future with optimism.

"Teens today are facing crises like never before, but it's often in the darkness that light shines the brightest," he said. "To enter into a disciple-making relationship where you're introducing a kid to an unconditional love that maybe they've never even considered, showing them the goodness and love modeled in Jesus — there's a lot of hope in that."

"Jesus has a way of being new and fresh for the circumstances of today, and He is certainly doing that," Bland added.

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ECBA Profit and Loss Statement for April 2021

	Apr 21
Income	
4000 · Church Receipts	
4060 · New Day	500.00
4120 · Halteman - Muncie	366.93
4140 · Kingston - Anderson	135.20
4160 · North Delaware - Muncie	169.80
4170 · Old Town Hill - Muncie	0.00
4180 · Redeemer - Anderson	0.00
4190 · First - Montpelier	80.00
4210 · Faith Christian Fellowship	260.00
4230 · Integris	454.00
4240 · Remedy City	59.82
Total 4000 · Church Receipts	2,025.75
Total Income	2,025.75
Expense	
7000 · Administrative Ministry	
7010 · Other Expense	47.49
7090 · Payroll	745.06
Total 7000 · Administrative Ministry	792.55
Total Expense	792.55
Net Income	1,233.20

ECBA Balance Report April 2021

	Apr 21	Mar 21	\$ Change
1000 · ONB			
1010 · General Budget	40,380.55	39,329.86	1,050.69
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
1020 · Disaster Relief	474.28	474.28	0.00
1025 · Mission Building Capital Fund	7,627.19	7,397.19	230.00
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	19,892.33	19,892.33	0.00
1000 · ONB - Other	185.26	232.75	-47.49
Total 1000 · ONB	83,659.33	82,426.13	1,233.20
1100 · Indiana Baptist Foundation			
1110 · ECBA Endowment	12,431.18	12,431.18	0.00
1111 · Church P&H ROI	3,496.31	3,496.31	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	184,508.31	184,508.31	0.00
TOTAL	268,167.64	266,934.44	1,233.20

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

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