

In This Issue:

2

2011 Giving Records

3

DOM's Insights
Campus Ministry
"Me to We" Training
Vancouver Partner

4

Church News
Missionary News
E³ Meeting Schedule
Financial Report
Calendar

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"We envision a network of healthy Baptist churches partnering together to transform lives and communities through the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ at home, in North America and around the world."

VISION
2020

First Annual Williams-Farmer Preaching Fellowship

Monday, March 5

9AM – 4PM

**FBC, Grandview
Lunch provided**

Register by February 19

The Association is launching a new Preaching Fellowship March 5 at First Baptist, Grandview that is designed to give senior pastors a day of encouragement and equipping. The *Williams-Farmer Preaching Fellowship* is the work of the VISION 2020 Equipping Leaders Team and is named for two pastors who preached in this area in the late 1800's, A.P. Williams and Jeremiah Farmer.

The day will be filled with worship, prayer, scripture and four keynote speakers who will address sermon preparation and delivery. Leading off the day will be Bro. Willie Davis, Pastor

at Sycamore Hills Baptist Church in Independence. Bro. Willie has been at Sycamore Hills since 1993. His topic is "Brothers! Preach the Word!"

Dr. Ben Awbrey, Associate Professor of Preaching at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will examine the act of preaching "From Preparation to Delivery." Dr. Awbrey completed his dissertation on the expository preaching of John MacArthur at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Following lunch, which will be provided by the Association, Bro. Rob Hutchinson, pastor at Faith Baptist in Harrisonville, will lead a session titled "What Do Preachers Do?" Bro. Rob has been at Faith for 7 years and recently completed his D.Min work at Gordon-Conwell Seminary in Massachusetts.

Closing out the day will be Bro. Gary Taylor, Evangelism Director for the Missouri Baptist Convention. Bro. Gary will challenge the pastors with "Brothers! Preach Christ!"

Prayers and readings will be led by Bro. Stephen Freels of Oakwood B.C., Bro. Gary Jones of U Church, Bro. Steve Eggert of FBC, Grandview, Bro. Tim Redding of FBC, Peculiar, Bro. Clarence Newton of Mt. Washington B.C., Bro. Jeremy Shuler of Birchwood B.C., Bro. Joey Candillo of Bales B.C. and Bro. Jeff Paul of Country Meadows B.C.

More details, and a brochure are available at www.blueriver-kansascity.org/preaching.html.

There is also a registration form on that page, or pastors can call Jennifer Hutton at 795-1822 to register or e-mail her at jenniferh@kcbaptist.org.



Bro. Davis



Bro. Awbrey



Bro. Hutchinson



Bro. Taylor

**Williams-Farmer
Preaching Fellowship
March 5, 9AM – 4PM
First Baptist, Grandview**

The Forgotten Children of Mai Ayni Refugee Camp

First of a 2-part article by Jim Tompkins, Pastor, Pleasant Prairie

The Horn of Africa is certainly a humanitarian crisis that demands our attention. The problems of drought and war are overwhelming. Forgotten amongst all the pleas for help are the Eritrean people, whom our Association has tasked to help.

The regime in Eritrea is

closed to outside missionaries, and vigorously persecutes Christians. This repressive regime is forcing thousands of Christians and others to leave their country for hope of a better life.

Our focus is on the unbelievable problem of unaccompanied refugee children,

who are leaving their homes and making the dangerous journey across borders which are patrolled and land-mined. Currently in one Ethiopian camp, Mai Ayni, there are a minimum of 1300 children (some say 2000) aged 4 to 16 who have no parents or relatives in the camp. They are vulnerable and at risk. Because of the limited opportunities in camp, the

(See "Children" on page 2)



OUR STEWARDSHIP

Church Giving 2011

Church	2011 Assn. Mission Giving	Church	2011 Assn. Mission Giving	Church	2011 Assn. Mission Giving
Abiding Love	1,719.36	Fleming	448.04	New Wave Ministries	40.00
Anchor Point	606.23	Forest Avenue	0.00	New Zion Missionary	0.00
Antioch	322.02	Freeman	1,661.26	Noland Road	25,244.70
Antioch Southern	2,555.26	Grace, Oak Grove	2,187.28	Norfleet	4,077.66
Armour Heights	120.00	Grace and Truth	950.00	Oak Grove, First	38,346.13
AZ-U-R	650.00	Grace Heartland Community	1,100.00	Oakwood	1,200.00
Bales	0.00	Grace Point	2,954.37	Olive Branch Missionary	0.00
Beaumont	0.00	Grain Valley, First	8,255.05	Paradise Outfitters	3,483.65
Belvidere Heights	600.00	Grand River	760.59	Peculiar, First	3,546.60
Bethany	0.00	Grandview, First	10,915.83	Plaza Heights	4,000.00
Beverly Hills	200.00	Greater Bethel Missionary	0.00	Pleasant Hill, First	0.00
Big Creek	11,890.00	Greater Faith Missionary	0.00	Pleasant Prairie	0.00
Birchwood	0.00	Greendale	0.00	Pleasant Ridge	2,044.19
Blue Ridge	7,788.97	Greenwood Missionary	0.00	Primera Iglesia Bautista	310.00
Blue Springs, First	32,494.96	Heart of Life	9,760.48	Principe de Paz	550.00
Blue Summit	310.49	Hickory Grove	1,508.92	Raymore, First	2,539.00
Buckner, First	5,792.53	Hispanic, Rockwood	0.00	Raytown, First	31,200.00
Calvary, Blue Springs	722.32	Holmeswood	0.00	Red Bridge	600.00
Calvary, Independence	1,723.23	Holy Hill	200.00	Redeemer Fellowship	0.00
Calvary Temple	0.00	Iglesia Pan de Vida	495.55	River Boulevard	2,748.48
Carlisle	260.00	Immanuel	8,466.69	Roanoke	1,172.92
Celebration Community	0.00	Independence, First	999.96	Rockwood	487.72
Central	4,085.32	In God's Hands Ministry	75.00	Russian, Kansas City	0.00
Church of Faith International	50.00	Kansas City Korean	0.00	Second Missionary	0.00
Cleveland, First	0.00	Koinonia Bible Church	0.00	Six Mile	1,712.00
Colbern Road	0.00	Lee's Summit, First	37,386.03	South Haven	24,679.76
Coleman	0.00	LifeConnection	7,885.39	South Kansas City	1,200.00
Connect Ministries	48.75	Lifeline	0.00	Southview	6,246.43
Corinthian Missionary	300.00	LifeQuest	1,035.00	Sovereign Grace	0.00
Cornerstone	0.00	Little Blue	3,064.35	Spring Valley	11,512.51
Country Meadows	2,691.81	Living Faith KC	0.00	Spruce St. Matthew	900.00
Covenant Memorial	0.00	Living Stones Community	0.00	Sterling Acres	5,922.98
Coventry Estates	1,235.22	Logos	0.00	Strasburg	7,467.82
Creighton, First	3,658.58	Loma Vista	1,041.94	Susquehanna	100.00
Crescent Creek	0.00	Lone Jack	1,320.00	Sycamore Hills	10,999.71
Cross Creek	2,057.35	Longview	660.00	The Avenue	0.00
Crossroads	600.00	Martin City	948.22	Tree of Life	0.00
Crossroads Church Kansas City	0.00	Maywood	1,650.00	True Vine Missionary	0.00
Discovery	0.00	Mt. Moriah	0.00	U Church	1,293.00
East Lynne, First	618.02	Mt. Washington	920.00	United Believers	0.00
Ebenezer Missionary	0.00	New Birth Christian Ministries	0.00	Vietnamese	630.00
Faith	6,235.65	New Haven	0.00	Word of Life Community	507.00
First Haitian	609.00	New Life Cambodian	0.00	Wornall Road	1,200.00
First Westside	100.00	New Salem	1,721.87	Individual contributions	25.00
				Total	\$394,404.15



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Loren Hutchinson, Editor
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Children (cont'd from page 1)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees says that as many as 30 percent of the unaccompanied children eventually leave the camp, either on their own or with the help of professional smugglers. They become easy prey for traffickers, tortured for ransom, or murdered and their organs harvested for the black market. (Report of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, Oct 2011)

These children are being ignored by the press and the authorities. But we will not ignore this situation. The Blue-River Kansas City Association is raising funds from our churches to address some of the problems facing these children.

We are planning a return Mission trip to Mai Ayni (Ethiopia) October 1-10, 2012. Airfare will be around \$1600, and expenses will be around \$100 per day. We are needing \$25,000 by early June or July to allow us to purchase clothing, school supplies and meat sources to take with us or have transported there when we arrive. We are also exploring working with Urgent Relief for Eritrean Refugees (URER), in building and furnishing a library in the camp.

Next month, Part 2 of this article will give details about the trip to Ethiopia. E-mail Pastor Jim Tompkins, jimlyd@gmail.com if you would like more information about how you can be a blessing to the forgotten children of Mai Ayni Refugee Camp.

From your Executive Director

Dear Partners in Mission,

This month I'd like to introduce to you a Canadian church planter, reintroduce to you a well known Pastor in the Kansas City Metro area, update you on our end-of-2011 finances and the sale of our office property.

BR-KC voted to partner with West Coast Baptist Association (Vancouver, Canada) in 2010. The Association there asked us to especially help start new churches in Coquitlam, a suburb of Vancouver. Since we began praying for Coquitlam the Lord has raised up three church planters for that area. One of them is Conrad Au, a Canadian-Chinese church planter who lives and works in Coquitlam. Conrad has already hosted teams from BR-KC, and recently visited our Executive Board meeting and spoke at South Kansas City Baptist Church, AZ-U-R church and FBC, Buckner (see article on this page). We're thrilled that the Lord would allow us to partner with such people as Conrad.

Vernon and Charlene Armitage, formerly of Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, have agreed to move back from Chicago and assist BR-KC churches. Vernon pastored Pleasant Valley Baptist Church for 41 years. He and his wife, Charlene, still consult for Willow Creek Association, train churches in utilization and development of volunteer leaders and now will also voluntarily assist BR-KC in developing leaders and training churches, as well as leading their addiction ministry, "Jump Recovery." Welcome back Vernon and Charlene.

Also, let me express heartfelt gratitude to the Lord and BR-KC churches for outstanding giving in the midst of an ongoing sluggish economy. We finished 2011 with approximately \$394,000 in receipts, well over our budget of \$383,000. We spent only \$360,000 from our regular budget accounts and due to your strong giving were able to assist several of our churches with renovation and emergency needs from non-budgeted funds. All this while fixing the roof, air-conditioning, and parking lot of the Mission Center office property, moving into our new smaller office suite, partnering in Vancouver and assisting refugees in the Horn of Africa. Praise the Lord and thanks BR-KC!

Finally, it's a joy to report we are in a contract negotiation with a potential buyer who is seeking to finalize their financing. We will, of course, report as soon as possible on the completed sale of the Mission Center office property. You can see our strategic plan for investing and expending the proceeds of the property sale online on our web page.

Grateful for your partnership in the gospel,
Rodney

Armitage to offer "Me to We" to BR-KC Churches



Vernon Armitage, long-time pastor at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church in Liberty, is partnering with BR-KC to offer E² Leadership

Training to churches and church staff. E² Leadership is the new ministry Vernon and his wife Charlene have started to assist churches in mobilizing volunteers.

E² Leadership helps church leaders develop an equipping culture that unleashes the exponential power of every believer. To help someone move from being a first-time guest to a fully engaged

volunteer reaching his or her God-given potential is experiencing equipping at its best!

Imagine your church as a healthy body of Christ where every member is functioning according to their God given design. That is what E² Leadership is all about.

Plans are underway for an informational meeting later this Spring that will give more details about how E² Leadership can help your church leaders to move from a "Me" mentality to a "We" paradigm helping them live out the biblical principle of Ephesians 4:12.

For more details about this ministry, go to www.e2leadership.org.

Campus Ministry

Travis Hamm
Campus Minister



Impact is hosting free student lunches and residential hall dinners for UMKC students. We are looking for churches to provide meals for these events.

A church would be responsible for making dinner and drinks (iced tea or lemonade) for approximately 60 students and provide plastic utensils, plates, napkins, etc. They could also bring information about their church to share with the students.

The dates we need help for lunches are March 13th and April 10th. The dates we need help for dinners are February 22nd and April 25th. Any church interested can contact me at travis@impactumkc.com or 816-838-2801.

Impact will be serving in Joplin during UMKC's spring break. The trip will be March 24-30. The cost is \$10 plus transportation expenses. Food and lodging will be provided by some Joplin churches. Any college student in the Association is welcomed to join us. Contact me at the address above by March 9 if you would like to help.

Vancouver Partner Conrad Au



Conrad Au is a Church Planter in Vancouver, British Columbia and a strategic partner with BR-KC in our emphasis to help new churches reach that city for Christ. Conrad is a church planter with much on his plate.

In addition to his new church start, The Common Place, he is the Youth Catalyst for the Canadian National Baptist Convention, Associate Pastor at Living Word Baptist Church and an Officer for the Administration Industry for the Government of Canada.

Conrad spoke to the Executive Board at their January meeting explaining the work he and his wife are doing in the city of Coquitlam, a suburb of Vancouver. Your church could partner with Conrad. Call 795-1822 to discover how that can happen.

News from the churches

The Association Office has four EdgeStar Extreme Cool 14,000 BTU Portable Air Conditioner & Heater units for sale. Extended warranty included. Brand new but no boxes. \$375 each. Contact Jennifer at 816-795-1822.

Roanoke Baptist Church needs individuals or a team of adults and/or youth to distribute door hangers and flyers in their neighborhood. This can take place anytime during the week at your convenience. Contact Pastor Bo Price at 816-929-4978.

First Westside Baptist Church at 801 Cesar Chavez in Kansas City, MO is seeking a part-time minister of music. Responsibilities would include a weekly rehearsal with the praise team, two Sunday morning services and a Sunday evening service. Please contact Pastor Randy Schmidt at 816-536-1653 for details.

First Baptist, Grain Valley has three new staff. Pastor Robert Strong moved here from Hannibal, MO. He and his wife, Hannah, will reside in Blue Springs. Dane Hernandez is the new Youth Director from Garden City, KS. He and his wife, Carrie, have three daughters. The new Music Director is David Weldy from Shawnee, KS.



L. to R. Bros. Weldy, Strong & Hernandez



Club-D-Mask-Ua

February 7 7:00 PM

also performing

Bread of Stone and Samestate

Doors open at 6:00 PM

Pre-concert by AZ*U*R at 6:30 PM

Tickets available by calling 550-0513 or 550-0144, online at www.az-u-r.com, or at the Mardel Bookstore in Independence.

Missionary News

Bill and Carol Bowers, missionaries to South Africa are back in the states preparing for retirement. They are presently staying at First Baptist, Raytown's mission house.

Their mailing address is 7519 Crescent Drive, Raytown MO 64138, and can be reached by phone at 816-356-6611 or e-mail at billbowerskcmo@gmail.com or carolbowerskcmo@gmail.com. They are both available to share with churches and mission groups about how God is at work in South Africa. Bill is available for supply preaching in the immediate area.



E³ Meetings

Feb. 2, Red Bridge, Kansas City

Feb. 16, Immanuel, Independence

Feb. 23, Abiding Love, Harrisonville

March 1, Bales, Kansas City

March 15, First Baptist, Blue Springs

E³ Meetings are open to all pastors and staff. Attend the one closest to you, or attend as many as you want.

Each quarter we gather to share joys, concerns and fellowship. Those who attend tell us that the time they spend with fellow pastors is the most valuable and enjoyable of their day.

All meetings start at noon, lunch provided. Go to www.blueriver-kansascity.org/e3.html for details.

December Financial Report

	Current Month	Year-to-Date
Receipts from churches	\$48,147.01	\$394,304.15
Other Income	9.81	245.84
Total	\$48,156.82	\$394,549.99
Less Expenses	(31,124.86)	(361,755.31)
Balance as of December 31, 2011	\$17,031.96	\$32,794.68
Budget \$383,764.00 Annual	\$31,980.33 Monthly	\$383,764.00
Budget Receipts + other income		\$394,549.99
Receipts compared to budget	102.8%	\$10,785.99

Calendar

February

- 2 E3 Meeting, Red Bridge
- 9 VISION 2020 Ministry Teams
- 16 E3 Meeting, Immanuel
- 18 Children's Min. Day (WMU)
- 18 Mother-Daughter Tea (WMU)
- 23 E3 Meeting, Abiding Love

March

- 1 E3 Meeting, Bales
- 5 Williams-Farmer Preaching Fell.
- 8 VISION 2020 Ministry Teams
- 15 E3 Meeting, FBC, Blue Springs
- 17 Association WMU Meeting
- 24 Association VBS Clinic