

# MISSIONS & MINISTRY

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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."**



## Pastor/Staff/Spouses Appreciation Banquet

**January 23**

**with Duane Laflin**

**Christian Illusionist**

**Monday, January 23**

**7 PM FBC, Raytown**

**\$5/person**

**Register by January 19**

The Association will hold its 2nd Annual Pastor/Staff/Spouses Appreciation Banquet on Monday evening, January 23 at First Baptist, Raytown. The banquet will begin at 7:00 PM in the Student Auditorium at the church.

Our featured entertainment will be Duane Laflin, Christian Illusionist from Pigeon Forge, TN. Laflin is an internationally awarded performer who has been seen on five continents, in eighteen countries of the world, and in forty-seven of the fifty states in the USA.

He was a star performer in the Magic Beyond Belief theater in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee for two years. The show featured tigers and grand illusions. He

also starred in Grand Magic at the Grand Majestic Theater in Pigeon Forge. But more important than that is the fact that he loves the Lord and shares the message of God's love in a clear, Biblical, and encouraging manner.

The Association provides this evening out for pastors, staff and their spouses as a means of showing our appreciation for the leadership they provide to the churches and our cooperative mission endeavors.

Cost for the evening is \$5/person, \$10/couple and is payable at the door. The Association covers all the other costs for the evening.

Reservations can be made by calling Jennifer at 795-1822 or by going to [www.blueriver-kansascity.org/banquet.html](http://www.blueriver-kansascity.org/banquet.html) and completing the online registration form. Please register by no later than January 19.

## Fellowship designed to sharpen preaching skills

**Monday, March 5**

**9AM – 4PM**

**FBC, Grandview**

**Lunch provided**

The Association is launching a 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.

**Why a preaching fellowship?**

## Executive Board Meeting

**Thursday, January 26**

**7 PM Noland Road B.C.**

The Executive Board of the Association will meet Thursday, January 26, 7 PM at Noland Road Baptist Church in Independence. The Board will hear financial reports and continue discussing the Administrative and Finance Committees' Joint Proposal for how to invest and spend the proceeds from the eventual sale of the Mission Center.

The Joint Proposal was presented at the special called meeting of the Association last November, but no action could be taken because there was not a quorum of 100 messengers present. A quorum for Board meetings is only 35, so we anticipate voting on the proposal at the January 26 meeting.

In addition, Board members will meet Conrad Au, a church planter from Vancouver, who will share with them about his work and how the Association's churches can partner with him and other church planters in that city.

Because of all the tasks a modern pastor is called on to do, preaching the Word should be paramount. As Ian Maclaren wrote, "...the most critical and influential event in the religious week is the sermon."

The day will be filled with worship, prayer, scripture and four keynote speakers who will address sermon preparation and delivery.

*(See Fellowship on page 2)*

## E<sup>3</sup> Minister Meetings expanding to 5 each quarter



The popularity of our E3 Minister Meetings has grown to the point we are offering a 5th meeting each quarter at First Baptist, Blue Springs. This is to make it more convenient for the pastors and staff in the eastern parts of the Association to attend a meeting.

The purpose of the meetings is to Equip, Empower and Encourage our pastors and staff as they live out God's call on their lives. Each quarter, ministers will gather to have lunch and share news and prayer concerns. Occasionally, a special guest will be invited to attend and present insights and information that is helpful to the pastors.

In 2012 there will be five meetings each quarter at five locations around the Association. No pastor is more than 30 minutes away from one of the locations. The 2012 meetings and locations are shown in the box below. Put the ones close to you on your calendar now and come enjoy the company of your fellow ministers.

• <b>Red Bridge</b> , 4901 Red Bridge Rd., KC, MO	February 2	May 3	August 2	November 1
• <b>Immanuel</b> , 112 W. 23 <sup>rd</sup> , Independence, MO	February 16	May 17	August 9	November 15
• <b>Abiding Love</b> , 302 E. Pearl, Harrisonville, MO	February 23	May 24	August 16	November 29
• <b>Bales</b> , 3414 E. 12 <sup>th</sup> , Kansas City, MO	March 1	May 31	August 23	December 6
• <b>First Baptist</b> , 1405 Main, Blue Springs, MO	March 15	June 7	August 30	December 20

## Is God calling you to Vancouver in 2012?



Vancouver is one of our two Partnership Mission areas (along with the Horn of Africa), and there are several opportunities to do mission work there this summer. Chane Hutton, BR-KC Church Planter Strategist, will be leading a team on a Visioning Trip April 16-20. The purpose is to see the city's need for

partners and meet church planters. They hope to form long-term partnerships which will result in increased resources for the new church starts. Estimated cost for the trip is \$600. E-mail [chane@az-u-r.com](mailto:chane@az-u-r.com) for more details.

Heart of Life Church in Garden City is planning a trip for college-age students 18-25. They will be going July 20-28 and will be working with college students in Vancouver to reach the campuses in the city. Vancouver is a hub for internationals, especially students, and they hope to reach people who will take the gospel with them when they return to their home countries. They estimate the cost to be \$1,000. Contact Nicolas Wright at [wrightna@live.com](mailto:wrightna@live.com) if interested.

Travis Hamm, campus minister to UMKC, is working on a 2nd college student trip May 7-12. Call Travis at 838-2801. The AZ\*U\*R Band is looking at June 27-July 2 dates for a trip.

The Greater Vancouver area is home to 2.7 million people speaking over 200 languages. While 54.9% of the population would claim to be Christian, an evaluation of belief and practices would indicate that over 93% of Metro Vancouver is lost. Pray for the teams that will be going this year.

## Fellowship (cont'd from page 1)



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. Robert 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., 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](http://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](mailto:jenniferh@kcbaptist.org).



### Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association News

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## From your Executive Director

Dear Partners in Mission,

I'd like to encourage you in this New Year to partner to share the gospel of Christ in 2012 and take advantage of opportunities to be encouraged in your ministry. Opportunities to partner to reach immigrant peoples with the gospel are available through our People Teams Strategy. Opportunities to partner in reaching college students can be done through Travis Hamm at UMKC and Carson Conover at Longview and Blue River Colleges. You can also partner to share the gospel church-to-church and with our new church starts. On our website you can find the names, contact information and details for connecting with these ministries, churches, and church plants. Go to [www.blueriver-kansascity.org](http://www.blueriver-kansascity.org) to learn more.

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Please pray about partnering to share the gospel of Christ in Vancouver and the Horn of Africa. In this newsletter are details of opportunities in Vancouver and last month we highlighted ways churches can help Eritrean refugee children in Ethiopia. Closer to home, let us encourage Pastor Kim and family by helping them with their funeral and medical bills (*see info on the back page of this newsletter*).

You can partner financially to share the gospel via our new Online Giving option. This will allow individuals, systematic givers, Missions and Ministry Club givers, and others to more easily contribute while special needs, projects and designated categories can receive funding immediately. You can use the online option to contribute toward Pastor Kim's need immediately at [www.blueriver-kansascity.org/giving.html](http://www.blueriver-kansascity.org/giving.html).

I'd also like to encourage you to take advantage of opportunities to be encouraged this year. On January 23 we'll have a wonderful evening of good food, fun and fellowship. We can only seat 150 however, so make your reservations with Jennifer in our office ASAP! Our ministers can receive further encouragement via our quarterly E<sup>3</sup> Minister Meetings, and our new Williams-Farmer Preaching Fellowship on March 5 (*see related articles in this newsletter*).

Share the gospel, encourage others, and be encouraged this year!

## People Teams is passionate about local churches...

...mobilizing their members into the harvest field, equipping cross-cultural workers to take the Gospel to the people groups in Kansas City. Our mission: To empower the local church to preach the Gospel to the lost, disciple believers to become disciple-makers, and to plant other churches with mature, Biblically-qualified leaders who have a vision to likewise plant churches with this DNA. Our motto: "the local church is both the end and the means of our labor!"

During the past few months, People Teams has been active in providing training for people wanting to be involved in cross-cultural ministry. Currently, Rich Casebolt is providing leadership for mobilizing teams to work among Kansas City's international population. The SE Asian cluster is currently laboring among

the Vietnamese, Burmese, Laotian, and Thai peoples. If you or your church are interested in getting involved in cross-cultural ministry, contact Rich at [richcasebolt@gmail.com](mailto:richcasebolt@gmail.com) or 918-691-8356.



People Teams can provide training in:

- Cultural awareness
- World Religions
- Evangelism
- Leadership development
- Getting started in cross-cultural ministry
- Befriending internationals

People Teams would like to invite you to an informational luncheon at Eleos Coffee House, 3401 Independence Ave. Kansas City, MO on Thursday, January 19 at 12 noon. Call or email Rich to confirm, [richcasebolt@gmail.com](mailto:richcasebolt@gmail.com) or 918-691-8356.

## Campus Ministry

Carson Conover  
Campus Min.



Every Thursday evening some friends and I met with Ryan. We worked through the entire Gospel of Mark with Ryan considering the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and its implications for Ryan as He considered whether or not he'd follow Jesus.

After completing Mark, we began reading Genesis 1 side by side with John 1. In Genesis 1:1 we read "*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*" Similarly, we read in John 1:1-3, "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him nothing was made that was made.*"

Finally, we read that "the Word" through whom the world was created was God the Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus entered our world in order to rescue us from our sin and rebellion.

As Ryan began making these connections, he told us that he was ready to trust Christ and asked us what he should do. We explained to Him that Jesus had already done what was necessary to find forgiveness. He simply needed to respond to God's gift of grace in repentance and faith. And He did!

My friends and I continue to cultivate our friendship with Ryan while helping him grow in his discipleship to Jesus. We continue to meet every Thursday night to consider the basics of what it means to follow Jesus together.

Ryan is also plugged into a community group (10-15 people who meet in homes for growth in Christ) that meets every Monday night, and is attending LifeConnection's corporate worship gathering every Sunday.

We're going to challenge Ryan to follow through with baptism at one of LifeConnection's baptism services. Pray for his continued growth in Christ and for his success in school and the future.

## News from the churches

**Maywood Baptist Church** has a missionary residence currently available through May for missionaries and denominational leaders. This 3-bedroom cottage in Independence (across the street from the church) is fully furnished. If you are interested please call Kathleen Wright at 816-254-3344.

**South Kansas City Baptist Church**, 10200 James A. Reed Road, Kansas City, MO 64134 is seeking a part-time Youth Minister. Resumes may be sent to the church.

**United Believers South Campus** will host a Faith-Based Basketball League sponsored by the Concerned Clergy Coalition starting January 14. In addition to the league, they will provide life-skills training and training in the fine arts. Contact Dicie Brenson at 816-825-7351 if interested. For more information about the Concerned Clergy Coalition, contact Rev. Michael Brooks at hope4kc@hotmail.com.

**Wornall Road Baptist Church** held a "Longest Night" service on December 20 to memorialize 109 people who were murdered in Kansas City during 2011. Families of the deceased were invited to attend. 109 crosses were placed on the lawn in front of the church. Several of the area television stations covered the event.

**Forest Avenue Baptist Church and Family Shelter** is in need of a bus, preferably a large one, but any size will do. If you or your church can help, contact Pastor Ken Smith at 816-753-4753.



### 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 or by visiting

Mardel Bookstore in Independence.

## Online giving available



It is now possible to donate to the Association online.

Churches or individuals can establish

an account and make donations to our general fund or any number of designated accounts. You can use your credit or debit card or an electronic check.

This service will be especially helpful whenever there is an immediate need for donations to help a worthy cause (see "Your help is needed!" article on this page).

Go to [www.blueriver-kansascity.org/giving.html](http://www.blueriver-kansascity.org/giving.html) and follow the link to access Online Giving.

## Your help is needed!

In October we reported on the death of the 11-year-old son of Pastor JiSung Kim, pastor at our Kansas City Korean Church. The family has some very significant medical and funeral expenses related to the death.

We have set up a special fund to help Pastor Kim. Checks can be mailed to the Association at 4041 NE Lakewood Way, Suite 260, Lee's Summit, MO 64064, or you can go to our new Online Giving page on the web at [www.blueriver-kansascity.org/giving.html](http://www.blueriver-kansascity.org/giving.html) and create an account through which you can give. Check "Pastor Kim Assistance" on the ACS giving page.

Please don't pass up this opportunity to help the Kim family in their time of need.

## November Financial Report

	Current Month	Year-to-Date
Receipts from churches	\$33,761.13	\$346,157.14
Other Income	16.77	236.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$33,777.90</b>	<b>\$346,393.17</b>
Less Expenses	( 29,857.46)	( 330,630.45)
<b>Balance as of November 30, 2011</b>	<b>\$ 3,920.44</b>	<b>\$ 15,762.72</b>
Budget \$383,764.00 Annual	\$31,980.33 Monthly	\$351,783.63
Budget Receipts + other income		346,393.17
Receipts compared to budget	98.5%	(\$ 5,390.46)

## Calendar

### January

- 11 Finance Committee
- 12 VISION 2020 Ministry Teams
- 16 MLK Day (office closed)
- 23 Pastors/Staff/Spouses Appreciation Banquet
- 26 Executive Bd. Meeting

### February

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