

CBA

CONCORD BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024 | ISSUE NO. 9

STRENGTHENING CHURCHES

As we reflect on 2023, our Strengthening Churches strategic focus saw several impactful events centered around discipleship and church renewal. Two of these events, the D5 Framework Workshop and Breathing Life into Sunday School, were previously detailed in our newsletter. Additionally, two other well-attended and highly valued events were Your Group Matters, focusing on Sunday School and Small Groups training, and our CBA Church Renewal Workshop, led by Phillip Smith, Lead Pastor at Faith Harvest Church in Lenoir City.

We were greatly encouraged by the level of participation and the positive feedback received from all our Strengthening Churches events in 2023.

Our 2024 event schedule for Strengthening Churches is still being developed however, our first event will be on **April 3rd from 10:30am-12:30pm called Five Questions for Disciple Making** led by John McClendon. This is a free event and lunch will be provided.



Leaders gather for worship at the Your Group Matters workshop.



YOUTH MINISTERS ROUNDTABLE

On January 30th, we had our first CBA Youth Ministers Roundtable led by Jay Barbier. It was an encouraging start with strong participation, great content, and meaningful fellowship. One of our goals, if there is enough interest, is to create fellowship and learning opportunities around other support staff positions. We are beginning with youth ministers and hopefully move on to other positions. Our next roundtable meeting will be **May 7th, 11:00am-12:30pm.**



CBA CHURCH RENEWAL TEAM

Our CBA Church Renewal Team has been diligently collaborating with one of our churches, conducting assessments and presenting them with various options for their future direction. On Sunday evening, March 3rd, our team delivered a comprehensive presentation to their leadership, outlining the proposed paths forward.

We are committed to continuing our support as they carefully consider these options. Additionally, the CBA Church Renewal Team is available to respond to requests from other CBA churches seeking assistance. We offer comprehensive assessments and tailored recommendations aimed at enhancing the health, growth, and sustainability of each church.

SENDING PARTNERSHIPS

CHICAGOLAND

A team from the CBA traveled to Northwest Indiana to support Ross Baptist Church in Gary, IN, as it undergoes revitalization. During this trip, the team focused on remodeling a bathroom.

Another team from the CBA will be returning to continue their work on the Ross facility from April 1st to 5th. Their tasks will include general construction work such as plumbing, flooring, and painting.

If you are interested in joining this effort, please contact the CBA office for more information.



In the second week of January, a team of 15 individuals from the Northwest Indiana Baptist Association (NWIBA) traveled to Rutherford County to assist one of our CBA churches, Grace Church in Smyrna, with various construction projects. Their tasks included installing new lighting and sound boards, removing walls, and laying flooring.

Another team from a church within NWIBA will be visiting this summer to support Living Waters Church in Murfreesboro during their VBS. From July 15th onward, HopeSpring Church in Griffith, IN, will be joining this effort. They not only plan to assist Living Waters but also seek additional opportunities for daytime service, such as clean-up, canvassing/outreach, or helping with a daytime VBS.

If your church requires assistance with any of these activities, please reach out to the CBA office.

REACHING SOUTH ASIA



A team of 11 individuals from the CBA, representing 5 churches, traveled to Mumbai from February 1st to 9th. The team was divided into 3 sub-teams. Two of these teams remained in Mumbai, engaging in evangelism, prayer walking, and providing training to local nationals. Meanwhile, the third team journeyed 2 hours inland to attend a 3-day conference for national leaders and company personnel.

During the conference, our team focused on providing training regarding the True Gospel, countering the influence of a false prosperity gospel that has taken root in the region. Witnessing the impactful work of our company personnel, who are collaborating with national leaders to foster Kingdom growth in Mumbai, was truly inspiring.

In 2023 alone, the efforts in Mumbai resulted in 28,818 individuals hearing the gospel, the establishment of 62 new house churches, the initiation of 248 new outreach and discipleship groups, and the baptism of 1,090 people.



CBA CHURCHES MINISTERING IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



In 2023, four CBA churches: Blackman Baptist, Crossway Baptist, Mission Point Community and One Church - Calvary, partnered with Re-Vision to send missionaries as a part of five teams to serve churches and communities in the Dominican Republic. The teams helped with kids' clubs, women's ministry, sports ministry, construction of schools and churches, worship ministry, outreach ministry, discipleship ministry, dental clinics, and more. On the final trip of the year, members from all four CBA churches joined a team that helped provide evangelistic Christmas parties in three communities, sharing the Gospel with over 600 children.

One of the reasons the Concord Baptist Association partners with Re-Vision is so that churches of all sizes can participate in international missions. In 2024, there are at least three already-scheduled trips that CBA churches can join. The first is to Moscú, a newer community partner where work has just begun on construction of a church. This team will include some construction, work with the over 100 children already in their AWANA program, sports ministry, and more. One Church - Calvary will be sending some on this team. Others are welcome but should sign up soon.

Two additional trip opportunities open now include August 3-10 to La Cúmbre, also with One Church - Calvary. Again, this will include some construction, children's ministry, and women's ministry. Other activities will be added depending on team size. We also have our year-end Christmas trip scheduled for December 5-9, where we will again lead an evangelistic Christmas children's program.

For more information about any of these opportunities, contact Doug Campbell at (615)848-3834 or doug.campbell@fortheleast.com.

STARTING CHURCHES



This has been an exciting time for our Starting Churches strategic focus. We held a Plant Rutherford meeting on November 1st, which was one of the largest gatherings we've had at the CBA office. Tom Agnew, the CBA Starting Churches Team Leader, utilized this opportunity to share our strategy for establishing new churches in Rutherford County and to invite churches to engage at various levels.

We were pleased with the number of churches that expressed interest in contributing to the advancement of the kingdom by starting new churches.

Our Starting Churches Team has conducted interviews with two church planter candidates and has another scheduled later in March. One of these planters, David Dean, has already begun his work in Murfreesboro with the launch of Hope Community Church. We are currently in the process of identifying a CBA Sending Church (Mother Church) for this endeavor. All three of these planters are undergoing assessment with the TBMB.



You can visit this link on our website to the Plant Rutherford page to learn more: www.concorderbaptists.org/plant-rutherford

WOMEN OF PRAYER

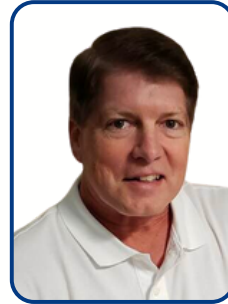
In February, women from association churches and the local community united for a seven-week study on prayer, entitled 'When We Pray.' Led by Nancy Duggin from Belle Aire Baptist, the study drew a strong attendance. Held at the association office, it delved into poignant questions: Do you struggle to find the right words when you pray to God? Are there emotions you hesitate to express? Throughout the study, women found encouragement to deepen their prayer lives.



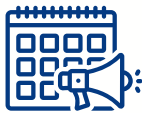
THE CBA WELCOMES NEW PASTORS



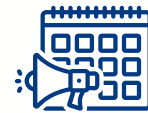
Mike Cirricione
OneChurch Barfield



Ron Byers
Ward's Grove Baptist
Milton



UPCOMING EVENTS



5

Discipleship Questions
Every Church Leader Must Answer

April 3, 10:30AM-12:30PM

Join us as we discuss with John McClendon the Five Discipleship Questions Every Church Leader Must Answer. It will be a time where you might discover some answers that you haven't ever considered regarding how all elements of a church work together to either help or hinder a healthy discipleship strategy.

Pastors and Leaders Luncheon

Wednesday, May 1st, 12:00PM

Featured Guest: Jay Hardwick, Sr. Pastor of Forest Hills Baptist Church and President of the Tennessee Baptist Convention

Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 22nd, 12:00PM

Lunch Provided by Living Springs Baptist Church