



THE ARK

Volume 19, No. 2 News from the Akron Area Association of American Baptist Churches Summer 2019

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE



These past few months have flown by for me as we celebrated our youngest son's graduation from High School, conducted VBS, enjoyed a couple of holiday celebrations, participated in two weddings, went on Vacation and countless other activities. It amazes me how fast the time is passing by and I bet you can identify with me. Soon my wife will be heading back to her elementary school for another year, my two younger kids will be in college and I will be staring down the fall season. What? Yes Fall, a time of football games, changing leaves, cooler days and backyard fires just to name a few of the things it holds.

Fall for our Association means our annual gathering or rally. It's a time for our churches to come together and celebrate who we are in Christ. At the core of the association principle is the concept that together we can accomplish more in Christ than we can separately. Individual churches come together as one to celebrate worship, evangelize, partner in missions and encourage one another. It is a biblical representation of the body of Christ, "There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body" 1 Corinthians 12:12.

Although geographically this sometimes can be difficult, our churches are called to be one body, one association, a part of a bigger region and a part of the worldwide church.

I mention this association principle because it will be the core theme of our Fall Rally, **"We're Better Together!"** I want to challenge you and your church to step up your game and ask, if I truly believe "We're Better Together," that we can accomplish more partnering with each other than we can on our own, then what can we do to contribute? At the upcoming rally we will have the opportunity for fellowship around the dinner table and afterwards we will celebrate in a worship experience much different than in the past. We want to invite you as individual churches to participate by bringing your worship team or your choir to lead us all in worship. Pastor Benjamin Payne from Seville First will serve as our worship director bringing together the

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Association Churches and Ministries



First Baptist Akron

By Jo Claire Knott

The changes from one season to another bring new activities, a review of past ones, and looking forward with anticipation to discover and follow the plans God has for each of us.

Currently, our **Community Garden** is flourishing. We and our neighbors planted seeds for food and "seeds of friendship" and God continues to water both. It has proven to be a positive outreach and opportunities to witness to neighbors.

Following an **all-church picnic**, the Board of Christian Education hosted a **Rubber Ducks baseball game** at Canal Park August 4. It was Mascot Bash Day, so all got to see their favorite and the children participated in the Post-Game Kids time to run the bases.

At the end of the Bible Studies for the men and women, we celebrated with a **pot-luck luncheon**. Marsha Malone, our teacher, gave us lengthy assignments to be completed by the time we resume September 3!

Security cameras have been installed in various areas in and around the church to provide protection for anyone inside the building and for the building itself.

People continue to be appreciative of the variety of food distributed the last two Wednesdays of each month.

We look forward to hosting the Association Day of Spiritual Renewal on **August 17** led by our own Jacque Jackson. Rev. Jill Smith, Pastor, Faith Fellowship Church, will be the keynote speaker for the event. Plan now to attend this event where you will be renewed and inspired for even greater service for our Lord.

Trinity Baptist Church

By Carol Warner



Trinity Baptist Church held a successful **Vacation Bible School** in June. The theme was Victory In Christ. We learned about Joshua, David, Gideon, Esther and Jesus. We had Bible stories, crafts, music, games and snacks. A Saturday picnic culminated the week.

Graduation Sunday was held on June 30th. The following graduates were honored: Elizabeth Eberle - Hoover High School; Susan Nicholson - ABC/Ohio Leadership Academy; and Deserrae Potts - Ohio State University.

During the month of June and July we had a **Wednesday Night Bible Study**. We have been studying the book of Nehemiah. We have been inspired by Nehemiah's leadership and to listen to what God has put in our hearts to do. The Bible study was led by Kathie Frischkorn.

Lift Campaign - Our lift was completed, inspections passed and we received our Certification of Operations. We are grateful that now everyone can have access to our Second Floor Fellowship Hall for activities.

Trinity hosted a **Hospitality Tent** at the North Canton Main Street Festival on August 17th - 18th. This provides Festival-goers a place to come and sit down and relax and eat their "fair food".

Paul Todd and Paul Todd Jr. will present a Free Concert on Wednesday, August 21st at 7 p.m. Paul Sr. sings and plays 6 keyboards, while Paul Jr. sings and accompanies his dad on the drums. Their concert consists of Christian, Gospel, Broadway, Big Band, Jazz, and Classical music. A free will offering will be taken. You will not want to miss this outstanding performance.

Youth Director Position - Trinity is looking for
See Trinity, Page 7

Moderator, Cont.

various groups for a splendid time of worshipping our Heavenly Father. Be thinking about how you can participate and look for the information packet that will arrive at your church to let you know all the details and how you can make your reservations for dinner.

So, mark your calendars for the Association Fall Rally Sunday, October 13th, dinner @4:30, worship @5:30. Let's celebrate who we are in Christ and let us recognize as an association that, "We're Stronger Together!" May God receive the glory that is due only to Him.

Looking forward to our Worship Experience,
Pastor Kevin Thomas



Dear Friends,

I remember when we didn't lock the doors or windows in our homes or our church buildings. It was common to park the car in the garage or the driveway, and leave the keys in the ignition. But things have changed. Now, most of us lock our doors, many of us have security systems in our homes, and we often arrange for neighbors to watch our property when we are away.

Even after we started protecting our homes, we still believed that the church was one of the safest places on earth. But in the past few years, we've seen so many incidents around us that remind us that the church isn't the safe, sacred place in our culture that it used to be. Congregations of all faiths – urban and rural, small and large, affluent and disadvantaged – have been attacked by intruders. Still others have discovered too late that people they trusted with the care of their children or the leadership of their youth were molesting their kids.

As much as we wish these dangerous situations

didn't exist, it is essential for the church not to ignore the possibilities that such disasters could happen in their congregations. In response to concerns expressed by pastors and other church leaders, the American Baptist Churches of Ohio will be sponsoring an event to address these dangers ...

Safety and Security in the Church

Saturday, August 17

10 am to 3 pm

American Baptist Churches of Ohio Offices
136 North Galway Drive, Granville, OH 43023

We will hear from **David White, a specialist in church safety from Church Mutual Insurance Company**, and **Rev. Denny McDonald, who will present the newly-developed Safety and Security plan of the First Baptist Church of Massillon**. We will also learn about this issue from a **law-enforcement perspective**. This workshop is appropriate for pastors, trustees, teachers, parents, and others who are concerned about providing safer church environments.

I hope your church will send at least one leader to learn how to create a safer environment for your congregation. The cost is ***\$20 for individual registrations or \$15 per person if more than one person registers from the same church.*** This fee includes the cost of lunch.

Please complete the enclosed registration form and return it to our office by **Monday, August 12** so that we will be sure to have enough materials and meals. Please let us know if you have questions or need additional information.

Blessings!

Rev. Jane Gibbons
Executive Minister for Program and Ministry Development
American Baptist Churches of Ohio
jgibbonsohio@aol.com
740-587-0804

Koinonia Camp Capital Campaign Announcement



Looking back, Koinonia Camp has a strong history of changing lives and addressing the challenges people face. Over the past few years the camp leadership has been discussing what needs to be addressed in order for Koinonia camp to continue changing lives for many years to come.

Children and adults have complicated relationships and numerous influences that send mixed messages about their identity. These relationships and influences create feelings of stress, anxiety, confusion, and self-image issues. In light of these, people struggle with being connected or being alone, being loved or being judged, and are unsure regarding who they are created to be. That is where Koinonia Camp steps in to help.

Each year Koinonia Camp serves 1,500 individuals with the goal of guiding them to a changed life. New campers come looking for a safe place to experience the outdoors, connect with others, and grow spiritually. Returning campers come back with a desire to deepen their connections to their camp family and their relationship with Christ. Through the diligent work of camp staff, Koinonia Camp has a number of 2nd and 3rd generation campers who attend because their parent or grandparent's life was changed through a camp experience.

To continue sharing the Gospel, creating experiences that change lives, offering programs that help people experience success, and attracting people to utilize the camps, the leadership board of Koinonia Camp is beginning a capital campaign. Through prayer, discussion, and reviewing the current conditions of the camp facilities, the leadership board has identified four areas to invest capital campaign funding.

1. Update and increase the sewage treatment capacity of the camp - The long-range-vision of

Koinonia Camp is to have the capacity to serve large 150+ groups of campers throughout the year. Currently this vision to increase camp capacity is limited by the current sewage treatment and plumbing capability. Making improvements to this system allows the camp to provide for additional campers and be up-to-date with existing safety regulations.

2. Remodel existing lodges - To continue providing high-quality experiences as well as continue attracting new groups, the camp has identified a need to remodel the existing lodge spaces to address energy-efficiency, safety, layout, and appearance.

3. Remodel cabin areas - The long-range vision of the camp includes remodeling the current cabins to allow smaller groups to use the camp space self-sufficiently.

4. Replace aging equipment used to maintain the camp.

The starting goal for the campaign is **\$750,000.00**.

What can you do to help Koinonia Camp?

1. Schedule a time to visit the camp and meet with Camp Director Randy Brookes. The Camp leadership team is currently scheduling times for individuals and groups of churches to come and tour the camp.

2. Sign-up to receive the camp newsletter and email updates.

3. Consider what you can do to further the work of changing lives through Koinonia Camp.

a. Share the Koinonia Camp story with friends, co-workers, and church members.

b. Make a long-term financial commitment to the camp capital campaign.

c. Explore if your work offers matching donations or a foundation that gives to nonprofits.

d. Talk with the Camp Director if you have a unique resource you want to share.

4. Attend the Koinonia Camp Fall Festival on October 5th to kick-off the public capital campaign.

With your help, a successful capital campaign will result in an increased capacity to change more lives

See Capital Campaign, Pg. 6

BONDAGE BREAKERS, INC.



"What a joy, thus far!"

It is such a blessing to serve the Lord in non-traditional venues and unexpected ways. As Bondage Breakers, Incorporated continues to serve the Lord, the Lord has continued to open us the "*prison doors*" and allow his servants entrance, wherein we have found His presence in the midst (Matt. 25:35ff). In April we were met with good weather and a receptive crowd of men, nearly 300, which shared the ministry with us in song, testimony, prayer and the Word.

I was most proud of one of Tri-State Bible College North's students, Stephany Johnson, who brought the spoken Word that morning in a most excellent fashion. It was short, pithy and she applied the biblical principles of exegesis. Most of all, many received it in confession, praise and the desire to be prayed for. We give God the glory and say, "*What a joy, thus far!*"

After 30+ years of traveling back and forward, inside and out of the Ohio State Prisons, for the first time ever, we were invited by the Ohio Women's Correctional Institution to come and share in not one, *but two services!* "*What a joy,*" and thanks be to God. We were blessed beyond measure to be engaged in such an experience. While it is always a blessing, there is a certain burden that comes along with it.

Let me digress a little to explain. At Marysville (women's facility), on June 23, 2019, there were approximately 300-400 women in the Chapel Service. The place was filled from East to West and "standing room only." My heart sunk because from a spiritual standpoint, scholarly standpoint, looking in as a mother and grandmother, friend and minister of

the gospel of Jesus Christ, *it showed a sad indictment upon every category mentioned above.* While it is a "*joy*" to serve, it also shows the evidence of a broken social-judicial system.

As we took a break and dined at the nearest Bob Evans, we went back around 5:30p.m. for the second service which was scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. Again, another fruitful service, even though the evening crowd was about 50-60 ladies who took part. The message was given by a previous "ex-offender," who spent time at Marysville back in the 1970's and 1980's. God is a deliverer! Her testimony and witness served as a beacon of hope for the women that evening. She has gone on to graduate from Case Western Reserve University and currently works as a social worker at Akron General Hospital. "*What a joy, thus far!*"

Now, I don't mind admitting this. We were so tired returning home after midnight and the next morning the thought "came to me," while it was a blessing to do two services in one day, "*don't do it again!*" The team praised God and complained all the way home, muscles were aching, and we were so tired with a capital **T**. Yes, it was a joy but wisdom says, not again! We thank God for all life experiences and we thank Him for "*prison ministry – what a joy, thus far!*"

*Keep praying for,
Bondage Breakers, Incorporated
We are a 501 c3 non-profit agency
Rev, Dr. Alicia J. Malone*



MISSIONS



It is such a joy to be a part of a Christian organization that never sees the glass half full, but actually running over. The plethora of ministries that presents themselves through the American Baptist is not only a blessing but serves to create a working knowledge of what it means to be a Christian being used to advance the Kingdom of God.

Back in June the ABHMS held their "summit by the sea." Their theme: Connect, Cultivate and Change, I am certain was in full throttle. Addressing emerging leaders and presenting new models for ministry is always an eventful time. As believers it is incumbent upon us to continue to shine the light of Christ even though darkness prevails. We are grateful for missions home and abroad.

Speaking of abroad, One Great Hour of Sharing presented disaster relief in the Midwest (the Central plains). While we at home have not encountered catastrophic losses, we are thankful and grateful for every church and individual who exercises faith and contributes to our One Great Hour of Sharing. Keep the "prayer and pocket wheel" turning, amen!

Recently, we acknowledge the couple Eliberto and Mollie J. Juarez being commissioned to serve in El Salvador through International Ministries. We wish them well in their efforts to bring their gifts, talents and educational prowess to Central America. Their presence is a first since 2013.

Another mission ministry commission has opened up for Pastor Boaz Keibarak and family in the country of Kenya, Africa. There is much vineyard work to be done across the globe and we pray that peace and justice prevail as Pastor Boaz Keibarak meets the day to day challenges. In May of this year

our missionary Karen Smith accepted a new role as area Director for Africa. We keep Karen in our prayers as she leads with joy and gratitude.

I do not know how many of us may have seen the interview on CBS of our missionary Bill Clemmer, dialoguing about the Ebola Crisis in the Eastern portion of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Bill is a medical doctor and an excerpt from the IM article states: "now is the second deadliest outbreak in history ..." If ever there was a time to pray incessantly for all of our missionaries who put their lives and their families lives on the line, it is now.

My brothers and sisters don't stop praying, realize the gravity of service, don't stop giving for Missions is rooted in the will of God for everyone who is a believer in Christ (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:6-8).

Rev. Dr. Alicia J. Malone

ABA Missions

Capital Campaign, Continued

by serving more campers. Capital funds will also help create high-quality, efficient, and safe areas for campers to use. Finally, a successful campaign will provide up-to-date equipment for staff to properly maintain the camp space. If the capital campaign fails to raise the needed funds, the result will be a continued limited capacity due to facilities and layout. The camp may experience decline in usage due to worn down facilities. This means fewer lives changed and fewer people who have made decisions about their eternal destination.

Serve To Glorify God

¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. **If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.** To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Trinity Baptist, Continued

a Youth Director to lead the Middle School and High School Youth Program starting in September. This is a paid position (and it can be set up as an internship.) We desire a committed, growing Christian who has completed at least their first year of college. They will be responsible for planning and facilitating weekly Wednesday Night discussion and activities leading class on Sunday morning and organizing events. We expect a commitment to the church of an average of ten hours per week. If interested or you would like more information, please call Pastor Steve at (330) 280-4329, or pastorsteve@tbnc.org.



Greetings from the Ladies of the Akron Area American Baptist Women! This report is for ALL who are interested in Missions and providing opportunities for women and girls to grow in and learn of God's love, plan and purpose for their lives. The next opportunity for growth is August 17 at **Akron First Baptist Church**. They will be hosting our Day of Spiritual Renewal. Rev. Jill Smith will be our Bible Study Leader. We will be skyping with at least one missionary that day – details to come. The White Cross requests will be passed out that day. There will be sweet fellowship! There will be lunch – so please give First Baptist a call with approximately how many will be attending ... they hate it when we run out of food! (By the way – that has never happened!)

So – the details are:

Day of Spiritual Renewal – beginning at 10 am concluding around 2 pm

Cost – Love offering for lunch and a love offering for

The Women and Girls Fund

Akron First Baptist

1670 Shatto Ave.

Akron 44313

330-867-2121

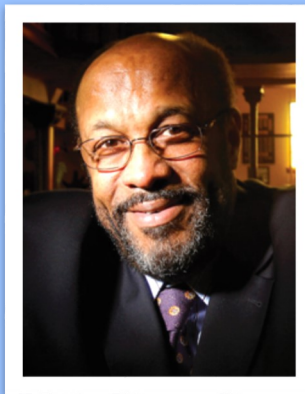
Janet Southerland

Akron Area ABW President

rsoutherland@neo.rr.com



Celebrating 30+ Years BONDAGE BREAKERS, INC.



Speaker:
Dr. Marvin McMickle

Friday, November 15, 2019

6:00 - 8:00 pm

St. George Antiochian Church

3204 Ridgewood Road

Fairlawn, Ohio 44333

Doors Open at 5:30 pm

**Try to be a rainbow in
someone's cloud.**

Maya Angelou

BrainyQuote



Greetings from the Reese family!

We're very excited to share an update on our progress towards mission's ministry in Haiti. As many of you know, we were officially endorsed by International Ministries in September 2018 and we attended our orientation at the new IM headquarters in Valley Forge this last February. We've been busy working with our fundraising coach, developing connections throughout Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Indiana, and traveling to events like June's ABCUSA Biennial Mission Summit in Virginia Beach. We've even spoken at some of your churches and we're very thankful for those churches who have allotted funds from their budget to support God's work in Haiti.

As of the second week of July, we reached 21% of our monthly budget. 25% of budget is our first major milestone and we're so close! At 25% we become official employees of International Ministries and then we will begin receiving an income.

Full transparency: I (Tim) have been unemployed since October 1st of 2018 and we've been living off of our savings. God has blessed us with help along the way, but our personal funds are running low and with 25% so close, we felt it was important to share this need and the urgency to reach this milestone. **In terms of dollars and cents, we only need \$550 in recurring, monthly pledged support and we will begin official employment.** This will allow us to continue travelling to conferences, visiting churches, and schedule important training like our

cross-cultural development and language acquisition (Haitian Creole). Right now, all of our travel expenses are out-of-pocket which does affect how far and how often we can travel to continue seeking support partnership.

We understand that church finances can be difficult at times and budgets are tight; but, would you believe that most of our support comes from individuals? That's right. While churches may not have room in their budget to add another ministry, we know that God calls individuals to also support His ministries. Individuals, families, and business are currently pledging anywhere from \$15 to \$150 a month to this ministry. **Just ten new partners at \$60 per month would push us beyond the 25% mark and drive this ministry forward!**

While partnering with each of the Akron area churches would be amazing, we also recognize the personal relationship that is formed as individuals come along on this ministry journey with us. We believe our best relationships can be found in our local congregations. **We are asked constantly, "How can I help you?" Here's the answer.**

Become a Monthly Partner. *Individuals just like you make up the majority of our current support! The amount per month is really up to you. When individuals join together, they can pool their resources and become a monthly financial partner with this ministry. For example, just 6 people in a small group each donating at \$10 per month can partner as a group at \$60 a month.*

Advocate for us. *Speak to the people in your church who are mission-minded or have a heart for Haiti. Let them know they can make a difference. Share about this ministry with your family, friends, and co-workers. If you are already partnered financially in this ministry, then your personal network will be more likely to partner as well.*

See Reeses, pg. 9

Reeses, Continued

Pray for this ministry. *Pray for our family. Pray for wisdom as we continue forward. And, pray for the Haitians. Pray that the Holy Spirit is preparing hearts and minds to receive the love God has for them and that they would feel the hope found only in Jesus even now.*

Our contact info is included below. If you would like your church on our schedule, let us know. If you would like to begin partnering with us, either monthly or annually, scan the QR code with your phone or follow the short link to our International Ministries pledge page. We are always happy and available to answer questions and the IM office can even receive pledges over the phone. It's very simple and user-friendly. Feel free to reach out to us and, together, we will grow God's kingdom. Help us help Haiti.

Blessings!!

Tim & Stacy Reese
IM Global Servants



Email: reese@internationalministries.org

Phone: 330-313-4112 (Texts are welcome) (if we are unable to answer when you call, please leave a voicemail)

Website: www.internationalministries.org/author/reese

Social Media: www.facebook.com/journeywiththereeses

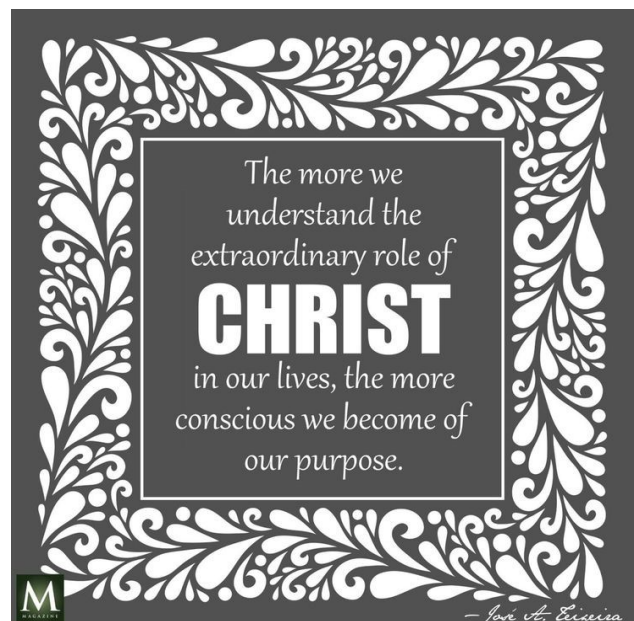
(Facebook Messenger-friendly)

Support Short Link: bit.ly/ReeseGive



Stacy and Tim Reese are endorsed to serve in discipleship and community development with IM partner in Haiti the Christian Association for Spreading the Gospel and Economic and Health Development. They are both passionate about discipleship through artistic expression. Stacy will serve alongside women cooperatives in building relationships, retail management, mentoring and education. Tim has a background in marketing and will collaborate with church and local business leaders to help maximize their potential by encouraging innovation, business development and fellowship.

Stacy and Tim Reese, from Massillon, Ohio, have been endorsed to serve as International Ministries (IM) global servants in Haiti. They are members of First Baptist Church of Massillon.



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Summer 2019



Association Website

(aaa-abc.com)

Facebook

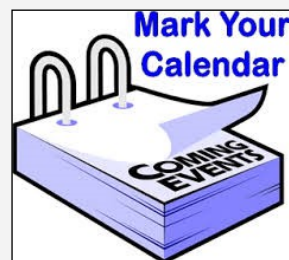
Akron Area Association of
American Baptist Churches

Koinonia Website

(christiancampohio.org)

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**August 12, 2019 - Executive Leadership Team
Meeting ... 5:30 pm - Canton First Baptist**

**October 13, 2019 - Fall Trustees Meeting and
Fall Rally at Springfield Baptist Church**

Trustees Meeting - 3 pm

Dinner - 4:30 pm

Program - 5:30 pm

**November 11, 2019 - Executive Leadership
Team Meeting ... 5:30 pm - Canton First Baptist**

AAA/ABC 2020 Theme



1 Corinthians 12:12

**There is one body but it has many parts. But all
its many parts make up one body.**

Fall Ark Articles are due by September 20, 2019.