



CONCORD COVENANT

INDIVIDUAL CHURCHES UNITED IN FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION.



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CURRENT CBA OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY | 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
TUESDAY | 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
WEDNESDAY | 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
THURSDAY | 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
FRIDAY | 8 AM – NOON

ALAN EARLS, DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS
alaneails@cbamo.org
(573) 338-8333

ALICIA AMOS, MINISTRY ASSISTANT
office@cbamo.org
(573)635-4832

A WORD FROM OUR DOM

Dear CBA Churches,

December is a special time and gives us a great opportunity to reflect on the birth of Jesus. Jesus the Messiah; Jesus our Lord! Remembering Christmas unleashes wonderful childhood memories for many of us. As we reminisce, how many of us lost a night or two of sleep just tossing and turning worried about trying to memorize our lines for the great Church Christmas Pageant? Sometimes I became so consumed with the performance that I forgot about the message. But as I have matured a bit from my childish ways, I have realized that I cannot lose sight of this incredible message:

¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

*¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."*

Luke 2:10-14 (NIV)

The message of Jesus' birth reminds us of several things that our society has forgotten or perhaps have never been taught. The birth of Jesus, reminds us of:

- Deliverance and Overcoming Fear
- Great Joy for all people.
- The Birth of the Messiah, the Lord
- A reason to Praise God
- A promise of peace on earth on whom His favor rests.

If we look around us throughout our communities, state, nation and world we see many are missing the celebration of Jesus. What is missing? **Deliverance from Fear; Joy; The Messiah and Lord; Praise to God and Peace.** Those in the world are missing these gifts from God because they have never accepted them. They do not have a personal relationship with Jesus by repenting from sin, accepting Jesus as God the Son and His birth, life, death on the cross to pay for our sins, His resurrection and accepting Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. So perhaps this Christmas we can allow God to use us as His messengers.

As Christians who make up the churches of our Association, we cannot be so focused on performing Christian activity that we lose focus of living the message. Those who really don't know the Messiah needs to hear the message lived in the lives, attitudes, speech and actions of Born-Again Believers. We must live in God's truth. The truth we see in the birth of Jesus. Our society needs to see believers live the message of the Messiah by living a delivered life not one of fear; by living in the joy of a relationship with Jesus and not the circumstances of life; by acknowledging that Jesus is Lord; by praising, honoring and glorifying God; and to live in the peace of Jesus not in the turmoil of the world.

What a true blessing it is to live the message of our savior. Paula and I wish to express our sincerest Christmas greetings to you and your household.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Bro. Alan

MISSIONS CORNER:

"THE EARLS FRONT PORCH"



Hello, I am Paula Earls, wife of your Director of Missions, Alan Earls. I will be sharing a little about us over the next several months. So welcome to our porch.

We are so eager to get to meet with as many of you as possible and to hear your needs and share in your accomplishments. But until we make it to your church, I wanted to help you get to know us.

Today, I share a little about my upbringing and how we met. I was born and raised in Kentucky right at the western tip. In Kentucky sitting on the front porch was where you really got to know people with lot of storytelling, sharing a glass of sweet tea and even a little courting.

My Mom and Dad were very involved in a Southern Missionary Baptist Church where I was raised and accepted Jesus. My Dad was a coal miner and Mom stayed home. Getting to go to church was wonderful! It was through Mission Friends, GA's and Acteens I learned about places far away and serving the Lord.

Every year at Christmas time we were given baby food jars to save our spare change for "Missions" specifically Lottie Moon. I remember learning verses to earn coins and cleaning up and doing anything to raise money for my jar.

It was so exciting to return the jar full of coins. I knew I was helping missionaries obtain the items they needed to stay on the field to share Jesus. So at a very young age I learned how we support missionaries.

As I grew up, I knew I wasn't to stay in the coal mining town. I wanted to go to college and do something with my life for the Lord. I was fortunate to attend Western Kentucky University (WKU) in Bowling Green. It was a four-hour drive from my parent's home. It seemed very far away; however it was my opportunity to see what God had in store for me.

While attending WKU, I was called to the mission field for 10 weeks one summer. It was that summer God allowed me to meet Alan. We had a great time serving the Lord together until I had to return to Kentucky. We planned to meet up again and again and again until a couple years later we ended up getting married. Wow! How awesome God is to have brought us together on the mission field.

Years later when we began our youth pastorate at Mt. Olive, Russellville, MO. I wanted to help our congregation understand missions more and to raise funds for the missionaries. So I had an idea of a Lottie Moon Express for Christmas cards. Alan and I worked with the youth so I had plenty of delivery help. I also had a church member who always was willing to make my dreams a reality. Jim Plaster built me a Lottie Moon express. It had an engine for the donations, a car for the cards and even a coal car for this Kentucky gal.

The church responded so faithfully by donating their stamp money to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. We delivered all their cards to the church members. It was so wonderful to have everyone involved in supporting our missionaries. I am happy to say it has been running for almost 25 years.



"The Mount Olive Lottie Moon Express" was built by Jim Plaster during our early years at the church. In 2015, the little rider was our grandson, Aiden Earls. This train has had many a rider!

Maybe you have a fun or unique way to raise funds for Lottie Moon, if so drop me an email – pje83@yahoo.com or note - Paula Earls, 8800 Scrivner Road, Russellville, MO 65074. I would love to hear how your church supports the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. Sharing ideas makes us all so much stronger!

Until next time, I wish for you a Christmas season full of blessings and abundant joy as we worship our Lord,

Paula

The CBA Missions Corner is a new addition to our CBA Newsletter. It will be an opportunity for CBA churches to share special missions and ministries for which they are a part. Please forward any special mission/ministry that your church is involved in to Alicia Amos at office@cbamo.org so we can include your mission and ministry to *Make Disciples of All Nations*.



UPCOMING DATES

Week of Prayer for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering – November 29th through December 5th

Revelation Bible Study – Join us at the CBA office on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 am to noon as we study the book of Revelations. The cost of \$20 is to cover the printed materials. *Due to vacation/the holidays, there will be no study on December 1st or 29th.*

Pastor's Roundtables – have resumed meeting once a month at the CBA office. The next Roundtable will be held on Tuesday, December 15th at 12:00 p.m. A light lunch will be provided, so please let us know in advance if you plan to attend.

Newsletter Deadline – If you have an item you wish to have in the January issue, please send it to office@cbamo.org no later than December 21st.

Concord Baptist Association Mission Trip Planning Meeting – The Concord Baptist Association would like to support our association churches by providing an opportunity for our churches to go on an international mission together in 2021. This is not to interfere with your church plans to go on your own trip. However, if you are interested in going on an international trip to El Salvador we would encourage you to pray about joining us. It is open to any born-again believer that is a member of one of our CBA churches.

There will be a planning meeting on December 22nd at 6:00 p.m. at the CBA Office (804 Fairmount Blvd). Anyone that may be interested in going or being part of the planning team is welcome to come, so please pray about joining us for this exciting opportunity to serve the Lord together in El Salvador. *A Zoom link can also be made available, should anyone feel uncomfortable attending in person.*

PS: If you don't have a passport, please go to the following website to find out how to get one – <https://www.usa.gov/passport>

Christmas Office Hours – The CBA office will be closed for the Christmas holiday from Christmas Eve until Monday, January 4th.

CBA CHURCH EVENTS

This Calendar will also be made available on cbamo.org. Please refer to the website for any changes that may be made to these events. If your church has a special event that you would like added, please email office@cbamo.org with the details.

CORTICELLI

December 6th & 13th, 5:00-7:00 pm – Drive-thru “Living Nativity”, no admission charge

MOUNT OLIVE

December 20th, 10:30 am – Adult Christmas Cantata

December 20th, 6:30 pm – Children’s Christmas Program with snacks and fellowship time following

December 24th, 8:00 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

RUSSELLVILLE

December 24th, 6:00 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

OPEN MINISTRY POSITION

PART-TIME YOUTH DIRECTOR

Corticelli Baptist Church, Russellville, MO, is seeking a part-time youth director. Approximately 15-20 hours a week. \$15,000 per year.

Job description can be seen at corticelli.org or call the pastor at 573-680-0192.

Send resumé to rwseaton@embarqmail.com

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYER FOR...

OUR CHURCHES WITHOUT PASTORS, THE MEN LEADING IN THE INTERIM, & THE MEN GOD IS PREPARING TO LEAD THEIR CONGREGATIONS:

CENTERTOWN

COLE SPRING (Interim Mark Donnell)

HIGH POINT (Interim Heber Mena)

LUPUS (Interim Billy Bolden)

MT. OLIVE

HEALTHCARE WORKERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE CARING FOR THOSE HOSPITALIZED WITH COVID

PLEASANT HILL AS THEY MOURN THE LOSS OF THEIR PASTOR, KEVIN KOHLER

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

AWANA Materials Available

Salem Baptist Church has the following AWANA materials available:

Awana Council Time Lessons Volume 2
The Awana Encyclopedia of Ideas
Commander Director Guide
Cubbies
 Director Guide
 Hopper Celebrations—2
 Bear Hug Brochure—9
 Adult polo shirt—M
 Vest—large—1; XL—3
 Bag—1
 Weekly progress cards—12
 Attendance charts—7

Sparks Vests – 3X & 5X
Truth and Training Club
 Basic and Beyond Director Guide
 Blue Book – 2
 Red Book – 3
 T-shirt – M
 Handbook bag – 4
 Shirt – size 12
Pioneer shirts – 2 (S&M)
Blue Awana Shirts – 2-XL
Awana Bucks – 1s & 5s

Please contact Salem Baptist Church at (573)796-3534 or salembaptistcalmo@gmail.com if you are interested in any of these resources.

For the Church Institute through Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

The CBA office is excited to introduce you to a new initiative from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (MBTS). It is called For the Church Institute or FTC Institute. MBTS through FTC Institute is offering free online courses for who may be seeking theological education. These courses are **offered free of charge to anyone within your church that is interested in theological education but is not necessarily after a degree or paying a lot of money.** You are encouraged to click on the link below and see what you think. It is possible for you to offer these courses within your church. The 10-week lesson plans are all online and there is no additional requirement to purchase any additional resources. For the Church Institute is part of Midwestern's core value to serve the church. You do not receive seminary credit, however, upon completion of the course you do receive a certificate and are eligible for Continuing Education Credit, if any of your licensures would require CEU's. Some of you may have your seminary degree and want to have a refresher; some of you may not have had an opportunity to attend Seminary; some of you are mentoring those called to the ministry and could use these courses in organized mentorship; some of you are seeking to work on leadership development for your church lay leaders and will find this opportunity to greatly help them enhance their Biblical understanding. It is great for Sunday School teachers, small group leaders, pastoral staff, and anyone that desires and needs the training. Oh, and did I mention it is FREE, it is provided to the churches by Midwestern Seminary because their mission is to serve the CHURCH! For more information, please visit <https://ftcinstitute.squarespace.com/>

CHRISTIAN COUNSELING

The Concord Baptist Association is proud to announce a new partnership with Still Waters Counseling, LLC. Still Waters Counseling provides Christian counseling through a Licensed Professional Counselor in the Jefferson City area. Rhonda Myers, MA, LPC is now available to pastors and churches throughout our association. She currently offers Christian Counseling at the Concord Baptist Association office on Friday mornings. If you are aware of anyone in need of Christian counseling, please contact Rhonda Myers by cell phone at (573) 680-3718 or email for an appointment at stillwaterscounselingmo@gmail.com