

December 2023



# CONCORD COVENANT

*Individual Churches United in Fulfilling the Great Commission*



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## 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** | 8:00 AM – NOON

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(Sign-up link also available at:

<https://cbamo.org/newsletters/>)

## December 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5 Prayer Walk @ Lincoln BSU 6:20-7:30 pm	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Newsletter Deadline	16
17	18	19 Pastor's Roundtable @ 12 pm (MBC Building)	20	21 Office Closed	22 Office Closed	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1 Merry Christmas Office Closed	2	3	4	5	6
	1 HAPPY NEW year Office Closed	2	3	4	5	6

## January 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	1 HAPPY NEW year Office Closed	2 Prayer Walk @ Lincoln BSU 6:20-7:30 pm	3	4 Leadership Team Meeting @ 6 pm (MBC Building)	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 MLK DAY Office Closed	16 Pastor's Roundtable @ 12pm (MBC Building)	17	18 Executive Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm (Memorial)	19 Newsletter Deadline	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

Midwest Leadership Conference (Springfield, IL)

## CBA Church Events



### **Festival of Light - Concord Baptist Church**

Join Concord Baptist Church as they celebrate Christmas and worship our Savior, Jesus Christ, through music and drama! Four performances will be spread across the weekend of December 1-3.

The performance will start at 7:00 pm each night, with a 3:00 matinee on Saturday.

Childcare is provided for children ages 3 and younger.



### **Meet At The Manger - Memorial Baptist**

Enjoy dinner, cookie decorating, nativities, and live music on December 3 from 5:30-7:30pm at Memorial Baptist Church!

All are welcome.



### **Blue Christmas Service - Memorial Baptist**

A Blue Christmas Service is offered especially for those who are hurting during the holiday season. They may be suffering, mourning, lonely, estranged, homesick, in conflict, or in need, It is held on December 21st, the longest night of the year. We gather in the midst of suffering to remember that God is good, we are not alone, and we have every reason to hold on to hope. Come support our brothers and sisters in Christ as we look to Jesus in our brokenness.

*Have an event to share? Please submit to [office@cbamo.org](mailto:office@cbamo.org) by the newsletter deadline!*

## A Word from our DOM



Dear CBA Churches,

Christmas time is once again before us. What an incredible time to reflect on the miracle of salvation that came to the world through the baby Jesus. ***"10 And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'"*** Luke 2:10-11. Jesus came for the salvation for all the people! So often we can be consumed with the activities surrounding Christmas: the programs, the parties, the dinners the gifts, etc. But this year let us be challenged with being consumed with Jesus!

There are so many ways to be consumed with Jesus and His love. We can invite someone to church to hear the truth of scripture proclaimed that salvation comes through Jesus. Did you know that according to information published by the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, 82% of the unchurched are at least somewhat likely to attend church if invited. Can you imagine the difference for the Kingdom of God if we began to invite our unchurched friends and family?

We can contribute to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering for which proceeds are 100 % used to fund international missions. We can volunteer to go on a Mission Trip through the International Mission Board's Send Relief

(<https://www.sendrelief.org/trips/>). We can serve on mission to share Jesus with our neighborhood, community, state, nation and world. May we find the opportunity this Christmas season to do just that!

There are so many opportunities to share with a lost and dying world that Jesus has come to the world to bring salvation. Jesus commanded us to make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20) and to be His witnesses (Acts 1:8). Christmas time is exciting, but nothing can be as exciting as Committed Follower of Jesus to being consumed with Jesus by sharing His Hope, Peace and Salvation with those who do not know.

Thank you churches for being faithful to the Lord, to preaching, teaching, sharing and living the Good News of Jesus!

Paula and I wish for you the Merriest of Christmas and a Happy New Year!

In Christ,  
Bro Alan

## Lincoln Collegiate Ministry Update: November Highlights



- I have loved having several international students visiting various local churches with me in November.
- The Gospel Choir on campus is supposed to let me know about a concert on December 3rd evening if you're interested.
- Soma Church at the BSU will host their Affordable Christmas on 12/9 and appreciate volunteers to wrap and price presents on 12/7 and 12/8.
- Prayers for students as they finish with exams between December 6-13th and safety heading home for Christmas holidays.
- A November highlight was 3 football guys following the Lord in believers baptism. Prayers for their continued growth and our Monday night Bible study.
- **An Opportunity for Partnership: Prayer Walks at Lincoln BSU!** I hope to see a great group of local church partners support our final monthly campus prayer walk for 2023 on Tuesday, December 5th from 6:30-7:30pm. Stay tuned for 2024 dates!

Thanks for your continued partnership,  
Clint

## Ministry + Job Openings:

### Youth/Associate Pastor, Fortuna Baptist

Fortuna Baptist Church is seeking a Youth/Associate Pastor. This would most likely be a bivocational position that would have potential to move to a full-time position. Duties would include youth ministry, teaching, and assisting the senior pastor with pastoral care and support as needed. If interested, please send resumes to [fortunabc.search@gmail.com](mailto:fortunabc.search@gmail.com) or for questions please call 660-473-1685.

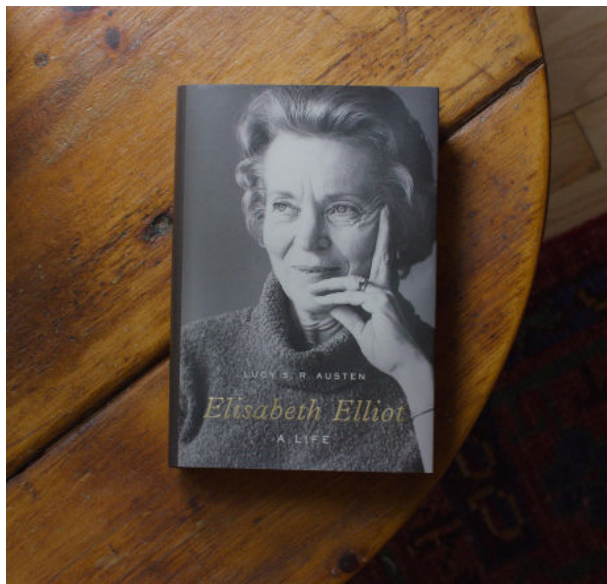
## Churches in Transition:

Please continue to be in prayer for our churches in transition and those leading them.

- Centertown - Interim Rev. Shawn Higgins
- Jamestown - Interim Rev. Ken McCune
- Mt. Pleasant - Interim Rev. Alan Earls



## Book Review: *Elizabeth Elliot: A Life* by Lucy S R Austen



Most of us have probably heard, at least in part, the story of Jim and Elizabeth Elliot. Their story made national headlines and is still talked about even today, sixty-seven years later. The Elliots were serving as missionaries in Ecuador in the late 1950's. Jim and four other men set out in a small plane hoping to make contact with an isolated tribe in the Eastern Ecuadorian jungle, the Waorani. The men were never heard from again, and their families eventually learned they were all five killed by members of the tribe. Jim was the first man killed when he and another missionary left the plane to greet the warriors. Many would have packed up their daughter and left the country, however, Elizabeth stayed in Ecuador and continued her mission efforts which were primarily focused on translating parts of the Bible into a language the natives could read.

Elizabeth eventually received an invitation to live with the Waorani tribe. "There was no question in her mind about whether to accept the invitation," (Austen, 2023 p. 289). She spends the next two years living with the Waorani along with her young daughter. Austen gives insight into Elizabeth Elliot's seemingly natural decision with detail on her upbringing. Her parents were missionaries and raised all their children in an environment and with a mindset toward foreign missions.

Austen follows Elizabeth through her life. When she finally returned home, Elizabeth spent her time writing books, articles, newsletters, and pamphlets. She was in demand as a speaker, and in her later life, had a radio program. She married twice more and died June, 2015 after a battle with Alzheimer's.

**The Christian life comes down to two simple things: trust and obedience**

(Austen, 2023 p.496)

We are given the impression that Elizabeth was always surprised and a little baffled at the interest in her and Jim's story that followed her the rest of her life. Elizabeth Elliot lived her life to reflect this truth: "The Christian life comes down to two simple things: trust and obedience," (Austen, 2023 p.496). This book is a fascinating read about a fascinating woman.



This book review was submitted by Sarah Kennedy. Sarah is a member at Mt. Olive Baptist Church.

## On Evangelism: Don't Lose Heart



Have you ever been discouraged in your personal witnessing? Have you ever had those thoughts of what is the use of telling a person over and over about Jesus? I have witnessed and talked to them about the Lord Jesus and it just seems as if it has fallen on deaf ears. I have prayed and prayed for an individual's soul for years and it hasn't seemed to have any impact on their attitude towards the things of God. Let me encourage you to keep on keeping on for the Lord.

I received a text from a friend this past week that encouraged and at the same time challenged me. This lady volunteers in a ministry I am involved in. She told me a few years ago that her dad was lost. He was getting up in age and she was really burdened for him. He had never trusted Jesus as his personal Lord and Savior. She said she had witnessed to him several times and that

several preachers had shared the gospel with him, but he had never surrendered his life to the Lord Jesus Christ. I prayed with her about her dad's salvation and told her that as the Lord brought him to my mind I would be in prayer for his salvation.

I want to share with you a message she sent me right as I was going into a church to preach on a Sunday evening:

*"Hi Mike! Couldn't wait to let you know my Dad walked to the front at church this morning and gave his heart to the Lord. He was truly touched by the Holy Spirit and had tears in his eyes as he prayed to receive Jesus as his Savior. I am praising God! I have prayed for him since I was a little girl."*

Isn't God good! What a mighty God we serve! When I read that text, my mind went to the verse that says, **"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart"** (Galatians 6:9).

By the way I almost forgot to tell you, her dad is 94 years old!

Church let's get all excited and go tell everybody that Jesus Christ is Lord!



This article was submitted by Mike Quinn. Mike serves as the Staff Evangelist at Concord Baptist Church.

## Why Should We Cooperate?



As a local pastor in Kentucky, from time to time a fellow pastor would ask, "Wes, do you think we should continue supporting the Cooperative Program?" For me, it was always an easy answer. Yes. Despite potential concerns, and despite the latest argument on social media, I believe the Cooperative Program remains a vital tool for reaching our nation and the world for Christ. Let me briefly share three foundational reasons why cooperation is so beneficial.

First and foremost, our missionaries depend on our cooperation. Currently, Southern Baptists have over 3500 international missionaries, and more than 6000 missionaries and chaplains serving through NAMB. Every missionary has at least one thing in common - they depend on our cooperation. For as long as I can remember, I've supported the Cooperative Program knowing that missionaries around the world depend on our faithfulness.

For most of my time in ministry, I was supporting a missionary I had never met, serving in a country I had never visited.

In 2022, though, all of that changed and our cooperative efforts became much more tangible and meaningful. My associate pastor, who I served alongside for more than a decade, felt called to an unreached area of the world.

Together, we walked through the IMB process, prayed regularly, and made preparations for he and his family to be sent. At our SBC gathering in Anaheim, I watched as he and his wife stood on the platform during the Sending Celebration, shielded by a screen to protect their identities.

It was surreal as they sold their house, their vehicles, and most of their possessions. It was difficult the day they boarded a one-way flight to an unfamiliar land and people. It's an understatement to say I was proud of my associate pastor for following the Lord's calling, but I was also proud of us, Southern Baptists, for cooperating and sending.

Alone, our church didn't have the resources to send, support, and sustain a family on the mission field. Together, though, it was made possible. It's awesome to know there are thousands of similar stories! I'm so thankful we cooperate.

Second, our reach is expanded through cooperation. On December 10, 2021, a tornado leveled my hometown of Mayfield, KY. All of us who experienced the impact and aftermath will remember the significant feeling of loss for the rest of our lives. I will also forever remember how Disaster Relief teams arrived on December 12, led by Missouri's own, Ron Crow.

It was such a welcome sight watching



volunteers arrive with much needed supplies, but most of all arriving with hope and joy. Roads were cleared, roofs were repaired, trees were cut, and homes were restored. But most of all, the Gospel was proclaimed to those who were desperately hurting.

Beyond Kentucky, Send Relief assisted with purchasing generators, gasoline, hotel rooms, and food and clothing for those who lost almost everything. Teams from all across the nation responded during our time of need, drastically improving conditions and the quality of life for those who experienced deep tragedy.

Mayfield is just one city out of dozens that benefitted from the cooperative efforts of Southern Baptists. Alone, it simply wasn't possible for our church to adequately respond to such a massive need. Together, though, it was made possible. I am so thankful we cooperate.

Third, future generations are blessed by our cooperation. After feeling called to ministry, I worked towards my M.Div. at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Then, after serving several years in ministry, I started the journey towards my D.Min. at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Both degrees were made more affordable through the Cooperative Program.

Later in life, my wife and I felt called to become foster parents and adopt. We fostered through Sunrise Children's Services, a ministry partially supported through the Cooperative Program. Missouri Baptists are blessed with a similar ministry, the Missouri

Baptist Children's Home, which is also partially funded through our cooperative efforts.

So, I have personally experienced the blessing of our cooperative efforts, and I believe it's important for future generations to experience this blessing as well. In Missouri, we are fortunate to have multiple ministries focused on supporting the next generation through cooperation. As previously mentioned, we cooperate to support the Missouri Baptist Children's Home, but we also support Baptist Homes and Health Care Ministries, the Missouri Baptist Foundation, Missouri Baptist University, Southwest Baptist University, and Hannibal-LaGrange University.

How many lives are impacted through our cooperation? How many children hear the Gospel? How many future pastors and ministry leaders are educated and equipped? How many faithful senior adults are cared for? How many investments are managed for future Kingdom opportunities? Due to its breadth, it's nearly impossible to quantify the impact of our cooperative efforts. However, we can know this: *we are better together.*

Our cooperative efforts may not be perfect, but I believe wholeheartedly that the Cooperative Program is a great investment, and I pray this is your conviction as well. Thank you for serving so faithfully and giving so generously!



Dr. Wes Fowler is the new Executive Director of the Missouri Baptist Convention. This article is reprinted with his permission. It was originally published in the 11/7/2023 issue of *The Pathway*.

## Available Resources:

### **Block Party Trailer**

If you are planning an outreach event, VBS celebration, etc...the CBA Block Party Trailer is available for churches! It contains a bounce house, popcorn and snow cone machines, as well as a variety of games and evangelism tools. Requests will be taken on a first come, first served basis. An information packet, which includes the reservation form, is available for download at <https://cbamo.org/concord-baptist-association-block-party-trailer/> when you input your contact information and the date you are hoping to reserve the trailer. You may also contact Alicia Amos directly at [office@cbamo.org](mailto:office@cbamo.org)

### **Christian Counseling Available**

The Concord Baptist Association has an ongoing partnership with Still Waters Counseling, LLC. Still Waters Counseling provides Christian counseling in the Jefferson City area. Rhonda Myers, MA, LPC is 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](mailto:stillwaterscounselingmo@gmail.com)

### **Missouri Baptist Convention - Church Protection Resources**

The Missouri Baptist Convention has compiled a number of resources through the SBC, MBCH, Ministry Safe, Choice Screening, and others to help educate and equip your church's leadership to prevent and/or appropriately handle abuse within your church. There are also resources that can help your church develop security plans, review your church bylaws, etc.

These resources are all available at: <https://mobaptist.org/church-benefits/church-protection/>. If you need assistance accessing any of these resources, please reach out to our office and will help you in any way that we can.

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