

THE MESSENGER

Thousand Hills Baptist Association, 1701 Jamison, Kirksville, Missouri 63501

660-342-7658 * 1000hillsba@gmail.com or rdnations@gmail.com * www.1000hillsba.org

INSIDE...

From the DOM

Richard Nations wishes everyone a Merry Christmas in his column on page 2.

Photos and events

There are photos and news about Operation Christmas Child, the Pray Across Missouri tour, the THBA Christmas party for pastors and wives, Christmas pageants and Grand Oaks Baptist Assembly recognition of the Boyers on pages 2 & 3.

Calendar and Events

Page 4 has a listing of some upcoming announcements and the THBA calendar

VBS training dates

The association will have training for VBS leaders on:

Mar. 3 - Pastor/Director preview

Apr. 14 - Training for VBS leaders

Apr. 28 - Training for VBS leaders

Locations are being determined and will be announced in the next issue of the *Messenger*.



First Baptist, Kirksville French Speaking Mission

A mission congregation targeting Congolese immigrants was established November 19th. Bro. Joel Kabamba is the pastor of the mission congregation. 29 people attended the first worship service, including 2 men from China. Bro. Joel is also assisting the First Baptist Church of Milan with Congolese ministry.

THBA Executive Board Meeting

Board members and guests are invited.

Thursday, January 25th, 6:30 PM

Fellowship Baptist Church, Kirksville

The meeting will feature guest speakers Zach and Amy V. They are cross-cultural workers serving in Southern Asia. Names are not being completely disclosed due to security reasons. Many in the THBA will remember them when they served here in a church in the association four years ago. We will have some business to approve and then a time of fellowship following the meeting.



From the Director of Missions Bro. Richard Nations

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I asked a fellow today how his day was going and he said he was tired of Christmas shopping but he had found a place to sit on those “old men benches up at the front of the Wal Mart.” I laughed and said that was a pretty good place to hang out. I don’t particularly like the Christmas shopping rush either, but like everyone else I suppose, we go out and buy some presents, see the Christmas lights, listen to the music.

I was explaining some of the Christmas symbols and traditions to a young man from Africa the other day and many of these things are all new things to him. But I am glad that we have unique ways of celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. I really enjoy the Christmas season and we hope you and your church family will have a great time with your special events, your family get-togethers and your renewed focus on the new year after we conclude 2017 the last part of this month.

The Christmas programs and concerts Rachel and I have attended this year have done a great job of telling the wonderful Christmas story. God bless all of you as you have faithfully proclaimed the Christmas story and celebrated with your congregations.

So Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you. I hope your 2018 is a good year and God blesses you as he has Rachel and me this past year.

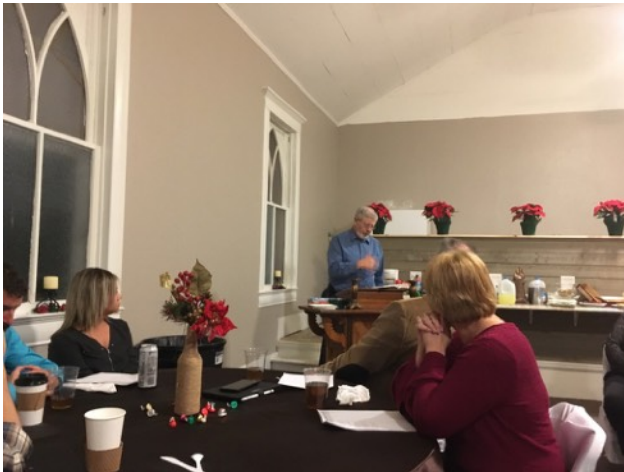


Andy Kottwitz, helped count the cases of Operation Christmas Child Boxes being loaded on to a truck at Rehoboth Baptist Church, Kirksville, as the Kirksville collection site finished receiving Shoebox gift boxes from churches across northeast Missouri. 7523 boxes were gathered at the Rehoboth site. From the church the boxes were shipped to a distribution site in Minn. and then distributed across the world for needy kids. Emily Kottwitz, coordinated the Kirksville collection site. Dana Marshall, a member of Hamilton St. Baptist church coordinates OCC efforts for the region.



Dr. John Yeats, executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention spoke briefly at the Schuyler County Courthouse in Lancaster, November 1st. Yeats led a prayer meeting with courthouse officials and area Baptists. Shown with Dr. Yeats are (from left) Karen Smith, Pastor Bob Smith (both of First Baptist Church, Queen City) and Spencer Hutson of the Missouri Baptist Convention offices. Yeats and Hutson also made stops in Macon, Unionville, Kirksville and Milan praying at county courthouses. Pastor Bob Smith organized the Schuyler County event.

Receive *The Messenger* faster and in color by e-mail. Send address to roohillsba@gmail.com to subscribe.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

24 pastors and wives gathered at Pure Air Baptist Church, Novinger on December 5th for the THBA pastor-wives Christmas dinner. Pastor Rodney Dorr, FBC Green City, provided a Christmas devotional. Pastor Ben Austic of Rehoboth Baptist Church, Kirksville, led in singing Christmas carols. The barbecue dinner was catered by Baker's Smokehouse in Kirksville. Pastor Andy Cordray, and his wife, Barbie, hosted the event. The youth group of Pure Air Baptist Church were the servers for the guests. Gifts were provided to all.



The choir of the First Baptist Church, Macon, presented a multi-media Christmas concert and drama on December 2 & 3. Directed by Pastor John Snider, the presentation was titled "The Greatest Story Ever Told." In addition to the choir, there were ballet dancers, actors and a multi-media light show which was coordinated by Patty Dill. At the end of the performance, Pastor Phil Bray gave a simple gospel message from the Book of Daniel, inviting people to receive the Christ who was portrayed in the musical.



Above: LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, dedicated their new headquarters building on November 27.

Left: Don and Jollette Boyer were honored at Grand Oaks Baptist Assembly in Chillicothe, November 12 for 32 years of service managing the regional Baptist camp. Mr. Boyer is stepping back from the manager position but will still serve as assistant manger.

December Events

3-10 Week of Prayer, Lottie Moon-International Missions
5 Ministers/Wives Christmas Dinner, Pure Air Baptist
25 Christmas Holiday - Office closed 12/25-29
31 Hymn Sing, Lancaster Baptist, 7 PM

January Events

1 New Year's Day—office closed
11 Bible Training Centre classes resume , Fellowship Baptist Church and Broadlawn Baptist Church - every Thursday evening from 6:30 - 8:30 PM until March 15
16 Minister's Lunch, King's Buffet, Kirksville, 11:30 AM
23-25 Midwest Advance Conference, Springfield, IL
Some key associational leaders are attending.
25 Executive Board Mtg., Fellowship, Kirksville, 6:30 PM

February Events

20 Minister's Lunch, King's Buffet, Kirksville, 11:30 AM
22-24 MBC Great Commission Conference, Springfield

March Events

3 Early VBS Preview for Pastors/Directors, Fellowship Baptist Church, Kirksville, 10 AM to Noon.
11 Daylight Savings Time ends
15 Bible Training Centre classes end
20-21 DOM Spring Retreat, Jefferson City

The Omaha Baptist Church, Unionville, has invited all to attend their annual radio broadcast KOMA, Radio Omaha on Sunday evening, December 17th at 6 PM. This is the only time they will perform this "Omaha Country Christmas" radio program this year.

Richard and Rachel Nations would like to thank the churches in the association for the Christmas gift provided to their family at the Pastors and Wives Christmas Dinner held at Pure Air Baptist Church, Novinger on December 5th.

The THBA Pinewood Derby will be held at Rehoboth Baptist Church, Kirksville on Saturday, April 7th at 10 AM to noon. Cars will be available for purchase at the THBA office January 2nd. Contact DOM Richard Nations prior to coming to the office at 1701 Jamison, Kirksville to make sure he is in the office when picking up the cars. Phone the DOM at 660-342-7658. Cars are \$6.00.

