

# THE MESSENGER

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

660-342-7658 \* [1000hillsba@gmail.com](mailto:1000hillsba@gmail.com) or [rdnations@gmail.com](mailto:rdnations@gmail.com) \* [www.1000hillsba.org](http://www.1000hillsba.org)

## INSIDE...

### From the DOM

Bro. Richard Nations' monthly column is on page 2.

### Men's Initiative

The annual men and boys rally called "Men's Initiative" is featured on page 3. The Unionville Middle School is the location for this popular event.

### Events/Block Party Trailer proposal

A photo as an example of a possible new evangelistic tool being proposed for the association is on page 4.

### THBA Calendar

The Calendar of Events is found on page 4.

**Classes on Bible preaching and Bible teaching are being conducted on Monday nights at Fellowship Baptist Church. For more info. contact the association office.**

## VBS Training Plans Announced

**By Bobbie Bansal, THBA VBS Coordinator**

Pray for God's blessings on upcoming VBS teams as they begin to prepare for VBS 2021 and the training sessions offered by THBA. What a fun and exciting way to share the Lord and His love with our communities!



The VBS theme for 2021 is: "Designation DIG: Unearthing the Truth about Jesus." Pack your bags and grab your gear, VBS 2021 is headed to present-day Israel where an epic adventure of discovery awaits. Discover long-hidden treasures, amazing finds, and exciting evidence that proves biblical events were not just stories.

They really happened! Kids will discover the truth of Jeremiah 29:13 that God reveals Himself to us when we seek and search for Him with all our hearts.

**March 6** - Early Clinic from 10 am – Noon at Fellowship Baptist Church, Kirksville for VBS directors and pastors.

**April 24** - Training Clinic from 9 am - Noon at Fellowship Baptist Church, Kirksville for the entire VBS team.

Not doing Destination Dig this year? That's okay, because our training clinic will also include a review of "Concrete & Cranes" and sessions that aren't directly related to this year's Lifeway curriculum. Sessions include "Children & Salvation" and "Adult VBS." Plan to bring your workers to be trained!





## **From the Director of Missions**

### **Bro. Richard Nations**

The association executive board met on January 28th at Fellowship Baptist Church, Kirksville. At that meeting the board received a recommendation from the leadership council to consider exploring the purchase and outfitting of a block party/events trailer. This suggestion to the board was brought by Pastor Curtis Ferguson of Rehoboth Baptist Church, Kirksville. He suggested we look into outfitting a trailer with games, an inflatable bounce house and equipment to provide snacks and drinks at events such as county fairs, church block parties, VBS and camps.

Several associations in Missouri have a trailer like this and they tend to be well used and helpful for churches to check out and use for evangelistic events.

The board appointed a committee of three to investigate the costs of such a project and selected Curtis Ferguson as chairman along with Walter Griffen and Les Leftwich. They will bring back a recommendation at the April executive board meeting. A photo example of this type of trailer is found on page 4.

The board also received a recommendation from the leadership council that an informal self-audit of the associations finances be conducted this spring. This is done periodically and is handled internally with a committee appointed to meet with the treasurer and director of missions to examine the books, procedures and policies and then to do random spot-checks of the ledger amounts and the filed documentation for such expenditures. The board asked the director of missions to appoint three persons with some financial background and those persons have been selected: Michelle Drummond, Lancaster Baptist; Donna Welte, Lancaster Baptist and Brenda Rowland, Hartford Baptist. They hope to have a report back to the association in April.

I got sick with the COVID-19 virus in mid November and it took me out of action for about two weeks. I faced chronic fatigue and exhaustion for much of December and my knee (which has caused problems for many years) has flared up with a lot of arthritic pain and caused me some limping and use of a cane. So you haven't heard from the association via newsletter for a few months now. Hopefully back on schedule now.

As I write this we are in the coldest part of winter and it's been difficult to make much progress lately. We've had some pretty nasty ice and snow storms and severe cold temperatures. Some of those cold days, I decided to sit in my office and send texts and make phone calls to the pastors. Over the course of two days, I sent word to all of them that I was praying for them and invited responses. Many phone calls and texts were returned and we had some great encouraging conversations. That seems to be a pretty good use of my time during this pandemic and severe winter. I'll continue keeping in touch with the pastors as much as I can whether it is in person or electronic communication.

Our next three pastors/ministers lunches are scheduled with guests speaking for short times:

Tuesday, February 16th - Bill Langley, International Mission Board, Richmond, VA

Tuesday, March 16th - Carol Fouse, Mo. Churches for Life and Allen Caukins, Mo. Baptist Children's Home

Monday, April 19th - Willie McLaurin, Southern Baptist Executive Committee, Nashville

We meet at the La Pa Restaurant, 2216 S. Baltimore, Kirksville from 11:30 AM to 1 PM. Join us!



**Men's Initiative**  
*show yourself to be a man*

No Cost to Attend  
Free Dinner

**Door Prize**  
**Henry Rifle**

All State &  
Federal  
Gun  
Laws Apply

February 26  
6:00pm

**Calling Men of all Ages to Action**  
Putnam Co  
Middle School  
801 S 20<sup>th</sup> St Unionville MO  
*Ask for Tom Rowland Jr*  
660-216-3111

**THBA is one of several organizations supporting the annual "Men's initiative" at Unionville Middle School. This is sponsored by Hartford Baptist Church and they invite men and boys to come learn how to move forward (rather than retreat...as men have been doing for far too many years). For more info contact Bro. Tom Rowland at 660-216-3111.**

**Pastor Walter Griffen has announced his retirement as pastor of Broadlawn Baptist Church, Unionville.**

He will conclude his service at the Broadlawn church on Easter Sunday, April 4th. He has served as pastor at Broadlawn the past 15 years. He has also served at First Baptist, Unionville; Hartford Baptist; Sue City Baptist; Sperry Baptist; Pleasant Grove Baptist, Downing and Mt. Zion Baptist, Green City. He also was a public school teacher and has been retired from that several years.

Brother Walter and his wife, Kathy, and daughter Rachael plan to stay in Unionville. He said he is open to supply preaching engagements and revivals.

To send a card mail to: Broadlawn Baptist Church, 419 S. 19th St., Unionville, MO 63565 or email: [wgriffen@nemr.net](mailto:wgriffen@nemr.net).



**February**

- 2 BSU Board Meeting, Kirksville, 7 PM
- 14 Valentines Day
- 16 Pastors/Ministers Lunch, La Pa, Kirksville, 11:30 AM
- 26 Men's Initiative, Unionville Middle School, 6 PM
- 27 NEMO Disaster Relief Rally, FBC Shelbina, 9 AM

**March**

- 5-6 Disaster Relief Training, Calvary Baptist, Hannibal
- 6 VBS Early Training for VBS Directors/Pastors, Fellowship Baptist, Kirksville 9 AM-Noon
- 9 Camp Team Meeting, Fellowship Baptist, 5:30 PM
- 14 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 16 Pastors/Ministers Lunch, La Pa, Kirksville, 11:30 AM
- 23-24 DOM Retreat, Baptist Building, Jefferson City
- 28 Palm Sunday

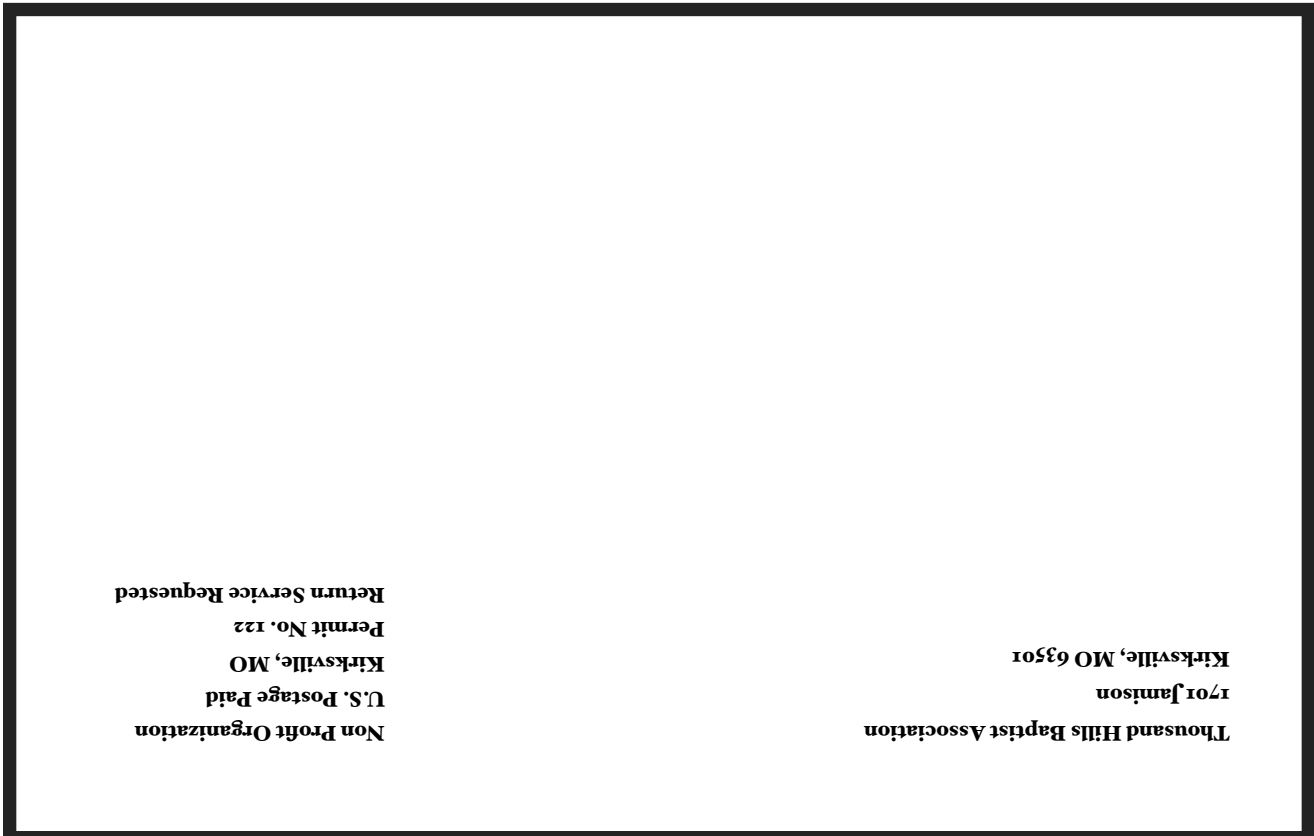
**April**

- 2 Good Friday
- 4 Easter Sunday
- 5 Office closed (Easter Holiday)
- 14-18 DOM on vacation in Des Moines - Son's wedding
- 19 Pastors/Ministers Lunch, La Pa, Kirksville, 11:30 AM
- 22 Exec. Bd. Mtg., Rehoboth, Kirksville 6:30 PM
- 24 VBS Training, Fellowship Baptist, Kirksville 9 AM



This is an example of the type of trailer that the association executive board is considering raising funds for to purchase and outfit with inflatables, portable games and food service equipment that can be used for churches to hold block parties, events, county fairs, VBS, camps, etc.

This is the trailer of the Tri-County Baptist Association located in Nixa, Missouri.



Non Profit Organization  
 U.S. Postage Paid  
 Kirksville, MO  
 Permit No. 122  
 Return Service Requested

Thousand Hills Baptist Association  
 1701 Jamison  
 Kirksville, MO 63501