

METRO PEORIA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

The Heart-Beat - November-December

DECEMBER

5 Minister's fellowship @ Noon at association office

16 Babysitting night fundraiser for Merge BeachReach trip. 6:00-9:00 at Woodland.

23-31 Office Closed

JANUARY

1 Office Closed

2 Pastor's Fellowship 12:00 Noon association office

21 Prayer Breakfast 8:30 @ Laramie St. BC

24-26 Central State Mission Conference

FEBRUARY

6 Pastor's Fellowship 12 Noon association office

20 Executive Board 7:00 @ FBC Washington

28 Churches of Strength 6:00 Woodland

WOODLAND November 13-23 Senegal partnership mission trip. December 4 @ 6:00 Hanging of the Greens and December 24 @ 6:00 Candlelight service

FIRST BAPTIST MARQUETTE HEIGHTS ladies will be enjoying a Christmas Tea on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 2:00 pm. There will be a time to get to know one another over hors d'oeuvres and a guest speaker. Tickets are going to be \$2.00 and need to be reserved by Dec. 4 so they know who to expect. They would like to invite every one of their sister churches in the association to attend. RSVP to FBC Marquette Heights at 309-382-3766 or fbcmarquette@gmail.com

ROLAND MANOR Christmas Nativi-Tea will be held Thursday, December 8 at 6:00. They will focus on the birth of Jesus and will have a very special guest visit that evening. Please call the church at 694-6493 if you plant to attend.

BARTONVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH will have their third Christmas family Service on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 6:00 p.m. The service will include special music, readings, etc. by those in attendance. The fall session for Mommy and Me with Carla LeMasters, Director will conclude this month with 7 children and 6 mothers enrolled. The spring session will be March 5-May 22. Call 309-691-3680 for more info.

RICHLAND BC just completed a huge project by renovating the sanctuary with new paint, carpeting, a new stage area, and chairs! On October 30th they rededicated this new sanctuary to the worship and Glory of God.

ELMRIDGE BC was blessed by a group of amazing, Godly people. A repair team from Woodland BC, with only a promise of lunch, showed up in force and did fantastic repair work. They were so inspired and regenerated by these people and their very selfless act, that their revival scheduled for the following week began with them. Thank you and may God bless each one of you who helped.

LARAMIE ST. BC is presenting "The Promise of Christmas" a musical cantata on Dec. 18 at 6:00. All are welcome.

PARK AVE. CHURCH is experiencing some blessings from the Lord. Since our first service on May 1st we have seen a faithful group of people in consistent Worship attendance. It is great to report that we have been able to attract several from the community who are very regular. The church has been able to participate in various community ministries. Sharing the building with Hidden Manna food pantry gives us a weekly opportunity to help to provide for 200-250 persons. Once a week we are privileged to share in serving a meal out side the Salvation Army's men's shelter to those waiting to get in for the night. Last week we were also able to distribute to those men 75 new pairs of gloves. Each pair had a treat and a Gospel track inside. Our Halloween evening Trunk-or-Treat event was a great success. We ministered to 87+ kids plus many adults. Attendance awards of a bicycle and a digital camera were awarded. Please pray for us as we plan our Thanksgiving and Christmas community meals and as we try to further penetrate our community.

bro joe's journal

I was in a world mission's conference recently in another state. I was one of several NAMB and IMB missionaries invited into the association. We spoke in four different churches Sunday thru Wednesday.

We attended and participated in the association's annual meeting. At one point during the meeting a pastor of advanced years was helped to the podium. He had been a pastor in that association for sixty years! He was asked to speak about the glorious past of the association. For a long time he reminisced about the "good ole days."

The question I wanted to raise was "good for who?" This area was ground zero in the battle for civil rights. Within a 30 minute drive of the church many atrocities took place, including the murder of 3 college students who were spending their summer vacation registering voters.

Were these the good ole days for the people whose churches were bombed and burned in that area? Where they good for children being denied equal education? What about the 3 college students swinging by a rope? Were they humming the tune "these are the good ole days?" What of the people denied jobs and the right to vote? What about being told you're not good enough to eat here or drink from this same water fountain or use the same restroom? Precious memories indeed! The good ole days certainly!

As you can probably discern these things bother me; but let me tell you something that bothers me about churches. So many times I hear church people talk about "the good ole days" of their church. They speak glowingly about how God worked in the past. Don't get me wrong, we should rejoice over what God has done. We should be grateful for His past blessings! My question is this: what about now? Is the cross still powerful to save? Has the blood lost its power? Is Christ no longer interested in saving the lost? Has the great commission expired?

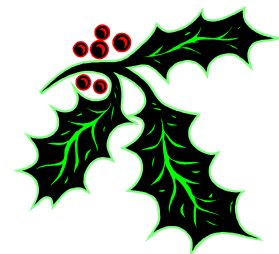
Is the gospel no longer the dynamite of God? Does the Holy Spirit no longer convict and draw people to salvation?

The answer of course is No! So what's the problem? Why aren't these the good ole days for many churches? We could spend weeks talking about this, but bottom line, in my opinion, is we are missing "IT". Duke Ellington, the famous jazz musician was asked to define rhythm. He replied, "If you got it, you don't need no definition. If you don't have it, ain't no definition gonna help." What the "IT" we need in our churches? The "IT" is vision.

Someone defined vision as "foresight with insight based on hindsight." To me, it is simply understanding what God wants to accomplish through you to build His kingdom. Many churches and believers struggle because they don't understand God's purpose for them. We need to reclaim a Biblical understand of who God is and what He has called us to do.

But remember its God's vision, plan, and agenda NOT OURS.

"It" is what God wants to accomplish through you. Our biggest downfall is attempting to do God's work in our strength and ability. No wonder we struggle. We are building our Kingdoms through our power instead of God's Kingdom through God's power. Until that changes we will struggle along striving to maintain or survive and we miss God's best for us. Got "IT?"





The second annual MPBA WorldCraft Party was held at Roland Manor on October 22. Eleven churches participated in the event by hosting displays and serving samples of food from the country they represented. WorldCrafts is a ministry of WMU that gives an outlet for items made by artisans in 33 countries. The artisans are some of the poorest of the poor world-wide. Men and women receive job training. Women find a safe haven as they leave the sex industry. Families and communities discover the abundant life. And it offers an income with dignity and the hope of everlasting life.

All of the proceeds from the sales go into the WorldCraft ministry. This year sales totaled \$2,258, surpassing sales of \$1,920 in 2010. The party is open to the public. Churches participating this year included: Dayton Avenue, Elmridge, First Baptist Washington, Harvard Hills, Laramie Street, Liberty, Richland, River Terrace, Roland Manor, Temple and Trinity. If your church hasn't been able to participate, please consider hosting a table representing one of the 33 countries next year. The date will be October 20, 2012.

For more information please contact Judy Rinkenberger at 444-8826 or e-mail djrink@comcast.net.

Thailand and Cambodia Mission Report By Jennifer Ferguson I am so blessed and thankful to have

had this opportunity to go on the Worldcrafts Tour to Thailand and Cambodia. This was my first international mission trip—I had never been on a plane before!! I have now been on 10 different flights in 14 days. We saw and experienced so many things in two weeks. Throughout this trip we were faced with the spiritual darkness in these countries due to centuries of false religion (Buddhism is the dominant religion in both countries). However, we also had the opportunity to see how the love of Jesus can penetrate this darkness. We met with missionaries on the field who share the love of Jesus everyday with those they come in contact with. We met Thai, Cambodian, and Vietnamese people who testified of lives totally changed by Jesus. We met with leaders of enterprises aided by Worldcrafts—these leaders help teach and guide the artisans toward a new way of life. A life filled with hope not only because of earning a steady income, but also a chance to have a new life with Jesus. Not all artisans have accepted Christ, but many already have. The artisans hear about Christ's love every week. These artisans have all different kinds of struggles. Some have come out of the sex trade. Some have HIV. Some are the poorest of the poor. Lives are being changed by these micro-businesses...businesses Worldcrafts helps to support. Worldcrafts is a ministry of our national WMU-- to help develop fair-trade businesses that provide sustainable income and offer eternal hope for impoverished people throughout the world. When we purchase through Worldcrafts, we are helping to change lives---spiritually, physically, and emotionally.



METROPOLITAN PEORIA BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION

Dr. Joe Gardner-DOM

Diana Morris-Executive Assistant

5112 W. Smithville Rd.

Bartonville, IL 61607

Phone: 309-633-5440

Fax: 309-633-5460

Email:mpba5112@att.net

Website: metropeoria.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

Paid

Peoria, IL

Permit No. 582

STAFF BIRTHDAY PRAYER CALENDAR



NOVEMBER

06 CINDY MOONEY

12 KEN KLEIN

16 DORA MCAFEE

20 J.T. HAYCRAFT

25 CHRISTINE GREENLEAF

29 MICHAEL MILLER

DECEMBER

05 MELVIN MCAFEE

12 LINDA MOSS

17 MARGARET BAKER

STAFF ANNIVERSARY PRAYER CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

10 J.T. & CONNIE HAYCRAFT

14 CHRIS & SARAH BIGGER

DECEMBER

21 BOBBY & CAROLYN BARNHILL

22 CURT & VICKI LIPE

22 BILL & BEVERLY WILLIAMS

27 DICK & BETH ROSEBUSH

28 KEN & CATHY KLEIN

