

# Yavapai Baptist Association

September 2009



## ON TARGET

In Arizona summer doesn't really end with the beginning of September. In many areas of our state, summer weather lasts until October or early November. But for all intents and purposes summer is over and we are beginning to plan for the fall and winter. As you begin to make plans, please consider 3 questions:

**First, what is your God-given vision for your church?** Did you notice that the question wasn't "What is *your* dream for your church?" Frankly, we need God's vision, which only comes when we spend time with the Father and allow the Holy Spirit to reveal God's vision to us. Pastors, this question is especially important for you to consider. The Bible says, "Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained... (NAS Proverbs 29:18a)" In other words, when the people don't know what God's vision is for their church, they may wander off or fall prey to predators. Oh, they may stay with you at church, but they will wander off in their hearts and minds. You need to be able to articulate the vision you have first to yourself and then to your congregation.

A vision from God will be connected directly to the Great Commission (you know Matthew 28:18-20) and it will be God sized. A true vision from God will be much larger than you and your church. Why? If you only dream of doing things you can accomplish on your own, God will not get the glory. If, on the other hand, your vision requires you to really trust God for the resources and the results, God is the only one who can get the glory. A God sized vision will also capture the hearts of your people. God's people want to be a part of something important. Young adults, for example, want to be a part of something that will change the world. Puny visions receive puny commitments.

**Second, what are your plans to accomplish the vision?** Having a vision is great, but if you don't have any plans to accomplish the vision, you and the members of your church will be frustrated. Begin by outlining the steps to accomplish the vision God has given you. You have to begin at the beginning (well, duh) and then see what the second step is; then the next and the one after that. Before long, you will have a full blown plan to accomplish the vision God has given you.

**Here's the third question: How can we help you in the process?** The three ministry teams of the YBA and I stand ready to assist you in your ministry. Remember that your plans need to be God sized. That means you will not likely have the resources to accomplish your plans all by yourself. It may be that God wants to use the YBA to help you. Do your members need to be trained in some specific ministry area? Will you need some folks to help you with an evangelistic event? How can we help? It may be that you need some help making the plans in the second question. Call me. It may be that you need some additional resources to accomplish some of the steps in question 2. Call me. We are here to help.

Your Brother,  
Rik Danielsen

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM

One definition of "leadership" is: *Equipping and motivating others to be all that God created them to be in Christ.* I love this definition because it recognizes that pastoral leadership is God-given and God-orchestrated. One of our jobs as pastors is to know Jesus so well that we can help our members know what the "Jesus-answer" to their life questions would be. This brings to mind John 15. Jesus tells us to "abide in him" and he will, at the same time, be "abiding" in us. "Abide" means to "live with" or "dwell with." Sometimes the demands of ministry are such that we end up living for everyone but Jesus. Yet, if we don't spend time with Jesus, we don't have what we need to fulfill our purposes in the lives of our people. Overwork is self-defeating. One thing we've learned this year is that we all face the same stresses as pastors. Don't be discouraged. Take the time to "abide" with Jesus. Far from "not doing your job", your personal walk with the Lord is *essential* to success in your job. Let him give you what you need, so that you can give the souls under your care all that they need. Remember to pray for one another; we're all in this together.

**Brian LeSturgeon**

## ASSOCIATION CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

- 7 Labor Day - Association office closed
- 10 YBA Pastor's Fellowship lunch 11:30 at Robert Rd. Baptist
- 10 Administrative Council 1:30 at Robert Rd. Baptist
- 19 ASBC Hispanic Lifeway Update, Phoenix

### OCTOBER

- 2-3 ASBC New Challenge Seminar
- 8 YBA Pastor's Fellowship lunch 11:30 at Robert Rd. Baptist
- 8 Administrative Council 1:30 at Robert Rd. Baptist
- 17 VBS Jumpstart, Glendale
- 24 YBA Annual Meeting 10:30 at Beaver Creek Baptist Church

## GREAT COMMISSION TEAM

### We Have Not Because We Ask Not

How do we pray for the broken lives within our communities that need the gospel? Needs are so diverse, and so many lives are fractured... we often struggle... As Paul expresses,

*"... the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray, but the Spirit intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express..."* Roman 8:26

The Great Commission team wants to help equip your church to pray for your community and enlarge the dream of your church to reach them.

We are excited to present Linda Phillips, a career missionary in Taiwan, to offer encouragement to each church in the area of prayer equipping: prayer walk training, prayer ministry development, and mutual support.

Linda spent 30 years in the field in Southeast Asia helping to equip ministry leaders. She is open for sharing her testimony on Sunday morning, working with your leadership to prayer walk, and she is willing to come alongside your church to offer support.

Prayer walking is reconnaissance to help your church more deeply understand the spiritual needs of your community. How can we engage our communities without getting to know who they are? Don't be shy!

She can be reached first at [lphilips@writeme.com](mailto:lphilips@writeme.com) or at 928.445.8227.

Dave Arden

## **CHURCH EVENTS**

### **SEPTEMBER 2009**

- Tuesdays Willow Hills has a Knitting Class at 2:30. All are welcome.
- 12 Blue Grass and Country Gospel Music Festival 10 am to 4pm at Mountain View Baptist Church
- 12 Sky Daddy and the Pop Rocks at the World Art Festival 1:00-2:00 at the Civic Center
- 12 Bost Family Traditions concert 6:00 at Mountain View Baptist Church
- 18 Family Fun Night at Chase Field, 6:40 tickets \$10-30, Mercy Me in concert . For more info call the Ridge at 775-4331

## **CHURCH NEWS**

### **From Pastor John Ott, Mayer 1st So. Baptist Church**

Mayer First Southern Baptist - We will begin a new Bible study on August 30, 2009 titled 'Critical Decisions'. This study is from LifeWay. Pray the folks that will come out will be touched by this study, and that it may have an impact on their lives, and decisions, that all might be to honor God!

### **From Pastor Brian LeSturgeon, Camp Verde Baptist Church**

Camp Verde Baptist women's group, S.A.S., has organized a "sundries drive" of essential household items (such as toothbrushes, tissues, etc). They have invited the unemployed in the community to attend Sunday morning services during Labor Day weekend, after which S.A.S. will hand out boxes of the items to households in need.

CVB is also hosting an "Undie Sunday" on September 13 to collect new children's socks and underwear to donate to the local school for small children who have accidents during class.

### **From Wade Mansfield, The Ridge**

We are collecting ink cartridges to recycle for youth ministry, so please bring in empty cartridges to the office.

Newsboys & Seventh Day Slumber, Bread of Stone, and MelnMotion October 29th Tim's Toyota Center contact church office 775-4331.

### **From Tomas Green, Cordes Lakes**

Community Garage Sale September 12<sup>th</sup>, contact church for details. It is time to start planning for Operation Christmas Child. Save those shoe boxes!

Arizona Woman's Missionary Union  
Annual Meeting and  
Missions Celebration  
November 13, 2009

## "Called to Love"

Emmanuel Baptist Church  
1825 N Alvernon Way  
Tucson

9:15 AM Brunch with Missionaries,  
Pastors/Wives, and DOEMs/Wives

10:00 - 12:00 Missions Celebration

Featuring Arizona Missions  
and Ministries

Visit our website: [www.azwmu.com](http://www.azwmu.com)

### **VBS Jumpstart Reminder...**

Advance information for VBS Directors and associational VBS teams

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2009 10am-2pm

First Southern Baptist Church at Sahuaro Ranch, Glendale  
10250 N. 59th Ave., Glendale

Association VBS Teams: No Charge Church VBS Directors: \$10 (includes lunch)

**Register through Corrin Conway by Monday, October 12th**

Register with Corrin at the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention

480.945.0880 or 800.687.2431 or [corrin@azsobaptist.org](mailto:corrin@azsobaptist.org)

For more information about our Association please go to the website [yavbaptists.com](http://yavbaptists.com).

Please forward this email to all of your Christian friends and church members.

Rik Danielsen