



North Star Update

A Publication of the Minnesota Baptist Association

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August 31, 2018

Trial By Fire: Report on 2018 Annual Meeting of the MBA

By: Stuart Weist

The 159th annual meeting of the Minnesota Baptist Association was held June 24 -25th 2018 at Grace Baptist in Owatonna. This year the annual meeting committee wanted to try something a little different with regards to the meeting days by meeting on a Monday and Tuesday instead of the more normal Friday Saturday Format. The meeting was well attended with 45 messengers attending representing 23 churches in the association. This year's conference speaker was Dr. David Saxon from Maranatha

Baptist University. Dr. Saxon spoke from 1 Peter 4 regarding the trials that we all experience during our Christian walk. He commented that we as believers must remain steadfast in our faith as a faith that is consumed by a fiery trial was no real faith at all (1 Peter 4:12). He further noted that if we are to lead a full and upright Christian life we must expect that trials will come as "faithfulness will lead to friction" in our Christian lives (1 Peter 4:16). It was an extremely encouraging and challenging discussion about the trials and difficulties we all face in our Christian walk. Dr. Saxon's full messages are available for you to view via the MBA Facebook page and I would strongly encourage all to listen.

As for the actual busi-

ness of the association, President Jerry Stephen's called the meeting to order and seated messengers from the various churches. We elected new officers with Pastor Steve Brower from First Baptist



of St. Frances being elected as the new MBA President and Dr. Robert Fuller, Jr. as Vice President. The MBA also said thank you to Dr. Fuller for his years of service as the state missionary and had a special gift presented as a thank you for all he has done. The Board has elected not to continue to fund the

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Calendar

September 7-8, MBA State Men's Meeting, St. Francis, MN

November 12, Full MBA Board Meeting

December 3, Pastors' & Wives' Christmas Banquet

March 15-16- MBA State Ladies Retreat, Brainerd, MN

Special Prayer

Please be in prayer for Normandale Baptist Church, First Baptist Church of Marshall, and First Baptist Church of International Falls. These churches are currently searching for pastors.

Grace Baptist Virginia Vacation Bible School

By: Todd Williamson

On August 3, thirteen teens and leaders from Heritage Baptist Church in Roscoe, Illinois descended on Virginia, MN. On Saturday the group passed out flyers in the area. They were also a part of the worship service at Grace Baptist Church on Sunday morning. Monday through Thursday they conducted the church's vacation Bible school.

Throughout the week, the school had a high attendance of 24 children. Each night the attendance was over twenty. A total of 29 children attended through the week. We have had contact with many of the children through our weekly and monthly kids' activities.

Pray with us that something said about God this week will

have an impact on their hearts.



Officers, Board Members, 2018-19

President: Steve Brower	Rob Adams
Vice-President: Bob Fuller, Jr.	Todd Williamson
Secretary: David Rogers	Kyle Jensen
Treasurer: Brian Veth	Reed Owens
	Wayne Erickson

Class of 2019	Nominating Committee
David White	Sam Choi
Lee Ormiston	Brian Boldt
Loren Bjokne	Bob Fuller, Jr.
Jim McLeish	Loren Bjokne
Stuart Weist	Dave Rogers
Mark Fish	Richard Riley
Rodney Golightly	Shad Vork
	Jerry Stephens

Class of 2020	Resolutions Committee
Joshua Huang	Bob Fuller, Jr.
Joe Haynes	Loren Bjokne
Tim Riley	Richard Riley
Sam Choi	Phil Siefkes
Rich Riley	Rob Adams
Phil Siefkes	Joe Haynes
Tim Graham	Todd Williamson
	Julian Suarez

Class of 2021
Mike Verway
Jim Snow

Pastors' & Wives' Christmas Event

The Pastors' & Wives' Christmas Banquet is coming up. The date is Monday, December 4. This year it is being held at Lighthouse Baptist Church in Cottage Grove.

This year's theme is "The Glory of God". Missionary Lee Peterson is scheduled to be the speaker. Pastor & Mrs. Tim Graham will be catering the meal for the night. Brother Graham is pastor at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Pine Island, MN.

The evening will start at 6:00 pm with a time of fellowship. The meal will begin at 6:30 pm. There is no cost for the evening. The address for Lighthouse Baptist Church is: 9979 80th St. S, in Cottage Grove Minnesota.

Be sure to come. **Set this date aside** on your calendar.

Here and There

By: Dr. Robert Fuller, Jr., State Missionary



Jacquie and I wish to thank the churches of the Minnesota Baptist Association for their very generous monetary gift and for the beautiful plant as an expression of the association's appreciation for our ministry as State Missionary. When we began this ministry it was for three years. Our

service as State Missionary came to a close on July 8, 2018. We have enjoyed ministering to people, churches, and pastors all over the state.

We deeply appreciated the financial gift. However, it reminded us of so many other blessings that have been ours while serving the Lord with the churches of the MBA. Probably the greatest blessing afforded us was simply the opportunity to serve, both the churches and the Lord. That God has graciously given us this opportunity was a continual blessing. We have met many of the pastors and people who labor for the Lord in our churches. Along with that, we have been privileged to serve with churches and pastors outside of the state of Minnesota.

Every pastor recognizes that it is often the times of trouble that yield the greatest encouragement in the pastorate. It is much the same when working with churches. Even when churches are struggling with conflict, issues of existence, or questions of significance for them, being able to help them see God working in it has been a joy for us.

It has also been a privilege to serve with the MBA Board of Trustees. It is especially so, now that the MBA Board is working to chart a direction for the future of the Association. We are thankful to still have a part to play, in God's will, as the Vice president of the MBA. It is our prayer that the MBA will continue to raise up and strengthen churches in the upper Midwest for years to come.

As for our future, we trust the Lord for His guidance. We are not entirely sure if another ministry is awaiting us. We remain available to churches and pastors who need Bible conferences, pulpit supply, interim ministries, and counsel.

Thank you for the years of service among the churches, at all levels. As always, if we can be of service to your church, contact us at (507) 218-9249 or drjfr@gmail.com.

2018 State Men's Meeting

By: Joel Albright

The 2018 MBA Men's Fellowship, September 7-8, will be held at First Baptist Church, Saint Francis. We are privileged to have Dr. Jim Tillotson, President of Faith Baptist Bible College, as featured speaker. His preaching will be a tremendous blessing and challenge for those who come. Included in the schedule will be some time for informal fellowship around coffee and snacks. We anticipate having a great group in attendance from various churches

around Minnesota. First Baptist Church is excited to serve you at this event. They look forward to preparing and serving great food, snacks, and beverages throughout the week-end. Please save the date on your calendar. We would love to have you come!

MORE INFORMATION:

Date: September 7-8, 2018

Location: First Baptist Church of Saint Francis, MN

Speaker: Dr. Jim Tillotson, President of Faith Baptist Bible College

Cost: \$25 per person (**Teens are half price**) – All payments will be received upon arrival.

Accommodations: The First Baptist Church facility will be available for those who desire to stay. Showers are available. Area hotels within 20-25 minutes of St. Francis (Coon Rapids, Elk River)

Ages: Teen and Adults

Registration: Online registration HERE (Register here so we can count on you coming)

Questions?: Please email Joel Albright at jalbright35@gmail.com

SCHEDULE

Friday

3:30 PM – Registration Open

4:00 PM – Pre-session (optional for those that can make it early)

5:00 PM – Registration Open

5:30 PM – Evening Meal Served

6:45 PM – General Session #1

8:00 PM – Fellowship and optional games

Saturday

9:00 AM – Coffee and Fellowship

9:30 AM – General Session #2

10:30 AM – Small Group Discussion and Prayer

11:00 AM – Coffee and Fellowship

11:30 AM – General Session #3

12:30 PM – Depart with lunch to go

MBA Annual Meeting Wrap-Up, cont from page 1

position of State Missionary. Dr. and Mrs. Fuller are looking forward to the Lord's leading for the next chapter of life and ministry.

Following the election of officers, the reviewing of the financials and the establishment of the 2019 budget, Dr. Fuller read proposed changes to both the constitution and bylaws of the MBA. The changes would greatly reduce the number

of members on the board and consolidate the organization to make future decisions more streamlined. A copy of the proposed changes is available by contacting Dr. Fuller or Pastor Steve Brower. The changes were not voted upon this year as constitutionally the changes must be read one year prior to being voted upon. So please plan to join us next year as we will be

celebrating 160 years of the Minnesota Baptist Association at Bryant Avenue Baptist Church and voting on these changes.

The meeting was great and Grace Baptist was a wonderful host church this year. The MBA is changing and we sincerely hope you will choose to be

part of those changes. Make plans now to attend next

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Wrap-up, from p.3

year's meeting and let your voice be heard. In recent years there has been declining participation by our association churches both in financial support and at the annual meeting. I would

encourage you to consider how you can help the MBA to succeed for another 160 years and how the MBA can better serve your church. We want to be an association of churches that helps churches

for the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ in the state of Minnesota. So please join us and we will see you next year!



2019 State Ladies

Ladies, plan on attending the Ladies Retreat on March 15-16. The speaker will be Jeannie Vogel, an author and retreat speaker. In addition, the ladies will enjoy a concert with violinist Jamie Jorge.