



December 2021

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Victory Village Christian Academy Celebrates 50 Years

Victory Village Christian Academy was founded by Bill and Carole Cowell. The mission of Victory Village Christian Academy, a subsidiary of Heart Ministries, Inc., is to show God's love and compassion to wounded youth, seeking to bring them into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, as we minister to their spiritual, social, intellectual, and physical needs.

Bill and Carole both grew up in Kansas. Bill studied Agriculture at Kansas State University, and while there was heavily involved in InterVarsity, Campus Crusade and other ministries. Through this campus involvement, his love for people and desire to do full-time ministry grew. Answering this call of God at 21, he went on to earn his Master of Divinity at Wheaton College, near Chicago.

Meanwhile, Carole was attending Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, and studying Christian Education and Missions. Bill and Carole met at Moody during a campus visit from Bill, and they were married in 1963. Carole later received her Bachelor's degree from Liberty University.

After Bill's graduation from Wheaton in 1965, they returned to Kansas and began pastoral ministry in Hoisington. Later, while pastoring a church in Marion, they found a young boy in jail for not going to school. They took him into their own home and cared for him. After he left, they took in two girls, and later three more. As their ministry to wounded youth grew, they started looking and praying for property, and also for individuals who would be interested in supporting this new work. In May of 1970, they found a beautiful piece of land, covered with grass and trees near Hutchinson. In November, Heart Ministries was incorporated and the land was dedicated and named Victory Village. Work was begun on a girl's dormitory and school, and the ministry of showing God's love and compassion to teen age girls has continued.

"Many American teenagers are in serious trouble. Statistics show increases in delinquency cases, suicide, teen pregnancy, and drug and alcohol abuse. There are many young people who have become disheartened and are losing their way in life. Dreams are dashed, parents are frustrated, while many times even contributing to and causing the confusion in their children's lives. There are hundreds of teens from good homes that get involved in harmful behavior through peer pressure and exposure to negative forces they are not yet prepared to handle."

"At Victory Village, we believe we must not point fingers at youth and blame them for the mess many of them are in. Instead, with genuine Christ-like compassion, Christians and Churches should reach out a loving and helping hand and minister to those who are hurting. Youth do not need to be condemned or criticized. They need to be loved and helped to find genuine fulfillment in their lives."

This is the work of Victory Village Christian Academy, a subsidiary of Heart Ministries Inc.

Victory Village Christian Academy is 100% dependent on charitable giving.

Throughout the years, over 1,200 struggling girls have been shown God's love and compassion. It is through the commitment of our sponsors, volunteers, and staff that many of these girls have a chance at a new beginning and are able to gain spiritual encouragement, social experiences, intellectual growth, and physical needs met.

Daily care and education involves considerable expense. It costs \$2,000 a month to care for a resident at the Village. Sponsors are at times the main contributors and enable Victory Village Christian Academy to continue to keep its doors open to hurting youth.

On Saturday, November 13th, 2021 many joined together at Victory Village to celebrate 50 years of God's goodness and faithfulness. Their gym was transformed into a beautiful banquet. A home cooked meal was prepared by staff and students at Victory Village. Students, board members, and faithful sponsors shared together in a meal and singing; hearing speakers and testimonies and enjoying fun together.



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Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation

Planned Giving

A Ministry of American Baptist Churches of the Central Region

Why Do We Give Gifts at Christmas?

Usually we give gifts to someone we love in recognition of a special event or maybe just because we love them. Christmas has become one of those times when we lavish our loved ones with special gifts (especially our children). It's great to show our love in whatever way we can, but who is the one who deserves it the most? (And I don't mean who's your favorite child)

Jesus became human on the day we celebrate as Christmas with a single purpose in mind – to save humanity from their sins so that they could be in fellowship with God our Father. Jesus demonstrated a love we cannot begin to understand when he came to earth, knowing that He would have to die for our sins so that we could be forgiven and be able to spend eternity with God.

No matter how hard we try, we can't begin to love Jesus/God as much as He loved us, but shouldn't we try to show how much we love Him? He gave us a command to go make disciples of all nations. We can't all physically go, but we can support those who can. We have many ministries within Central Region that are reaching out into communities with the love of Christ – churches and other ministry organizations. Although you may regularly support with your tithes, could you give a little extra to show how much you love your Lord? Expenses have been increasing faster this year than we've ever seen, and all of our ministries are struggling to try to keep up. They need your help!

If you are over 70 ½ you can give up to \$100,000 directly to a ministry and not have to pay taxes on it as income. This could be your required distribution. I'd be glad to explain how, if you need help. You can donate to the Foundation in a Charitable Gift Annuity and receive a charitable deduction this year as well as income from it for life. Rates vary depending upon your age. Contact me and I'll let you know what it would be for you. Upon your death, monies go to the ministry that you have chosen.

We need to show our love all year long, but this Christmas why not give less material gifts to our families and more to spread the Gospel of Christ to those who have not yet accepted His saving grace?

Remember, God is the creator of everything and He actually owns everything. He just allows us to be the stewards over His property, so we are actually just showing our love by giving Him back what He already owns. Have a blessed Christmas and years to come as you share His love with the world.

Rev. Wilma E. Engle, Director of Planned Giving
cell: 316-644-2069
E-mail: wilmaengle10@gmail.com

Rev. Timothy Schwartz, Assistant Director of Planned Giving
Cell: 913-424-9939
E-mail: timmans39@gmail.com

Central Region Life 117 Years

of Continuous Publication

CENTRAL REGION LIFE

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Executive Minister: Gregg Hemmen
Associate Executive Minister: Jennifer Schneider
Editor: Morgan Bandy

Prayer Emphasis: Tim Schwartz
Planned Giving: Wilma Engle
Women's News: Janet Crowl

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Send communications to: morgan.bandy@abccr.org or
Morgan Bandy, 5833 S.W. 29th, Ste. A, Topeka, KS 66614-5505
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Sr. Adult Retreat to have Central Region pastor, Joel Grizzle as Keynote Speaker



Originally from Georgia but transitioned to Dallas, Texas to attend Dallas Seminary in his mid-twenties. Married to a fiery Texas redhead named Kendra, who baptized him into ways of Texas A&M. Together they have 3 children: Kennedy 14, Jace 13, Gage 10. He has served at churches in North Atlanta, Dallas and has been in Lyons, Kansas since 2009.

"Handshakes, Hugs & Hallelujahs"
April 27-28, 2022

MIDDLE SCHOOL WINTER WEEKEND

"CRAZY FRIENDS"

JANUARY 28-29, 2022

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

410 S HICKORY ST, OTTAWA, KS 66067

SPEAKER: ERIC MOSHER, LIVING A LEGACY CHURCH, NEWTON, KS

\$35 A STUDENT IF REGISTERED BY JANUARY 14TH
\$50 LATE REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 6:30PM ON FRIDAY.
DEPARTURE IS AT 5:30PM ON SATURDAY.



And then you came...

Dr. Gregg L.J. Hemmen, Executive Minister

As I write this, I'm sitting in an airport in Spokane, Washington, waiting for a flight back to Kansas City. As I scan the faces of people who are waiting to board their planes, I wonder about their stories. While everyone sitting here is a stranger, I'm betting I know their stories.

Sitting two seats away is Logan. He's new to his faith in Jesus and is so excited about what God is doing. He can hardly contain himself and he looks like he's itching to share that faith with anyone who would listen. Then there's Brittny. She sulks in her seat. She's an angry teenager sitting there in quiet protest. Even saying, "hi" to her might ignite a confrontation. There's Hannah on one end of the row of seats and Bill on the other. Their three children separate them, creating a buffer zone between the two parents. Everyone is prim and proper and nothing seems out of place. But their simple seating arrangement tells you much about the family. Hannah and Bill are married, but in a very detached kind of way. They've grown apart from one another and do their best to keep up appearances. They don't want to slip up and reveal the true emptiness in their relationship. By contrast, there's Lillian who sits alone in this airport. Her eyes are tired, red, and she dabs at the corners of her eyes with a Kleenex. Very few thought that her husband, Andrew, would ever be the first one of them to die. He was so fit. She fights with her emotions as she waits for her flight. I could go on with more stories but you get the idea. You either know someone I've described or feel like you've just been put in front of a mirror because one of these stories might describe you.

As I sit in this airport waiting to travel, I think about Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem, shepherds in the field, and angels singing. William Willimon, a Methodist pastor that I have a great deal of respect for, says, "People want to have their lives caught up in something greater than themselves," and so those of us who work in the Church will do the best we can to share this story of God's love to people who feel like strangers no matter where they are.

The angels said to the Shepherd, "Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." Can I get an "Amen!?" This is cause for great celebration. This news is greater than any single one of us and exceeds all of us combined! Yet so many of us inside the Church, outside of church life, and even those sitting in the Spokane airport live with the weight of the world on our shoulders.

Some of you may know Larry the Sad Boy. He's an unforgettable character in Garrison Keillor's book, "Leaving Home." Keillor describes those who came to church one Christmas at the little Lutheran church in Lake Wobegon. Here's how Keillor describes Larry:

Larry the Sad Boy was there, who was saved twelve times in the Lutheran Church, an all-time record. Between 1953 and 1961 he threw himself weeping and contrite on God's throne of grace on twelve separate occasions - and this is a Lutheran church that wasn't evangelical, had no altar call, no organist playing, no one played "Just As I Am Without One Plea," while a choir hummed and a guy with shiny hair took hold of your heartstrings and played you like a cheap guitar. This is the Lutheran Church...these are Scandinavians, and they repent in the same way they sin: discreetly, tastefully, at the proper time, and they bring Jello-O salad for afterward. Larry Sorrenson came forward weeping buckets and crumpled up a the communion rail, to the amazement of the minister, who had just delivered a dry sermon, and who now had to put his arm around this limp, soggy individual and pray with him and see if he had a ride home. Twelve times! Granted, we're born in original sin...but twelve conversions are too many. God didn't mean us to feel guilt all over our lives. of use, but Larry kept on repenting and repenting.

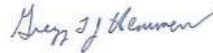
Don't you think that a little celebrating is in order because of this good news even as we continue to try and emerge from this pandemic? I'm all for repentance of sin. But even for those of us who keep our emotions in check and our problems to ourselves, shouldn't the news that Jesus has come to be the savior of the world be enough reason to enjoy the best gift that has ever been given?

Song writer Pierce Pettis has written a little song with an important message to celebrate. He puts it this way:

When you're so ashamed that you could die, God believes in you.
And you can't do right even though you try, God believes in you.
Blessed are the ones who grieve, the ones who mourn, the ones who bleed.
In sorrow you sow, but in joy you'll reap. God believes in you.

As I scan the faces of people waiting for their flight, I wonder how many of them know the good news of Jesus as their Savior. I'd love to tell my traveling companions that if they feel estranged, forgotten, lonely, or misunderstood, God believes in them enough to send them a Savior. For those who have a story with more holes in it than solid parts, I want to tell them, "Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

Thank you for the privilege of serving among you.



Gregg L.J. Hemmen



As we walk through the Advent and Christmas seasons, let us consider the prophecy of Zacharias in Luke 1 as we pray and wait in joyful hope for the birth of our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ.

Despite all of the joy, activities and celebrating, this season can be difficult for many who are suffering, grieving, battling illnesses and just trying to survive. Let us pray that our hearts might be full of God's tender mercy so that we might extend it to those in these difficult situations.

If you, even as a beloved member of the body of Christ, are going through any of these battles, I pray that you will be easy on yourself and ask God to bring you comfort and help. Let us pray that you will reach out to someone who can bring support to you during this time.

Let all of us pray too, that we can share the Light of Christ to those who sit in the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual darkness in these days to come. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to give us wisdom and knowledge as we help bring the Light of Christ to the hungry, poor, sick, homeless, imprisoned and lonely.

Let us pray that Jesus would guide us and direct us in these situations to know that sharing our resources, our talents, our time and especially our presence can be the greatest gifts that we offer to one another in this season of waiting and hope.

Finally, let us pray that God would Inspire us to share God's tender mercy and Christ's light in new, ingenious and creative ways so that many might hear and experience the joy of Jesus' birth anew or for the first time!

As the scriptures say: " Because of the tender mercy of our God, With which the sunrise from on high shall visit us, To shine upon those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace."

Luke 1: 78 - 79 (NASB)



How To Handle Difficult Church Members

By Rev. Dr. William Hendricks; ABCCR Director Interim Ministries

Dr. Hendricks spent 5 years studying conflict as part of his D.Min. He created the seminar, "How to Handle Difficult People" that was presented in 5 countries and to more than 100,000 people.

Continued talk about the Dirty Dozen

The two difficult types we'll discuss this month are the **Stubborn Member** and the **Henny Penny Member**. You'll likely recognize these characters in church most Sundays. In this article, we will consider ways to live with these characters, but more important is the fact that if you do not manage them, they will manage you.

Two important things to remember when dealing with **The Stubborn Member** and the **Henny Penny Member**:

1. These two difficult members have a well-defined world view. If (I repeat if) you can get them to adjust their perspective, it will only be helpful in the moment. They will freeze in the same manner on the new perspective, whatever it may be. Their new perspective concretizes quickly. Incremental change will always be painful with these two types.
2. When these two characteristics enter any congregational discussion, other parties know them and their habits. They bring baggage and significant frustration, although most church members will be kind they do not have much sway in decision making. They bring attitude, but little else.

THE DIRTY DOZEN

Angry Members	Stubborn Members	Clueless Members	Deal Maker Members	Shy & Passive Members	VIP Members
Henny Penny Members	Skeptic Members	Frazzled Members	Debbie Downer Members	Drippy Sweet Members	Misinformed Members

With both these characters, consider your response carefully. Reason and logic do not work with initial conversation. Often they launch negativity. With both the Stubborn and Henny Penny members, you must know your perspective before dealing with them, which can make open conversation somewhat subjective. You have three different Zones to launch public conversations. Go to one of these Zones to buy time, gain self-control, or to de-escalate the moment.

Zone One – The Neutral Zone. You have no commitment or public perspective. This zone allows you to ask either the Stubborn or Henny Penny Member to provide their information, but you will not respond. You make them one of many voices. No debate. You will get back to them as things emerge. And then, work very hard to make sure you have a positive voice that follows them. This may be slightly manipulative, but the negative force from the Stubborn and Henny Penny members can be overwhelming. Many will recoil or drop out when these two characters show up.

Zone Two – The Action Zone. You ask them for a quick point of view and then ask, "What do they want to happen? and 'What they are willing to do?" Once that is identified, you know where or what can be moved. Likely they will have little desire to take action, which gives you permission to say, "Thanks for the input let's look for a team to start addressing this issue."

Zone Three – The Debate Zone. In this Zone you state that you will play Devil's Advocate with all they say and then exaggerate either positively or negatively what they say. Possibly to the point of absurd. Look for their reactions and potential movement. (Extremes create movement toward the middle.) You may want to tell them what you are doing is a technique and nothing personal.

Let's talk difficult church members...

The STUBBORN Member

The Stubborn Member is locked in and locked up. Whatever energy and thought they are willing to invest is exhausted. They've given their all but some get to all very quickly. It is important to remember logic, ratiion and reason are nearly useless. Your task is to get them to move. Here are four challenges:

1. The quality of their information, the amount of time they have invested and the willingness to consider anything other than their position becomes problematic. They may lock in on one Bible verse, or one previous incident and make them universally true. The best way to get this character to move is to exaggerate their point to the absurd – create mental dissonance and see if they will move.
2. This character may have established their identity around being stubborn, i.e., Stubborn Swede, Old German, Calvinistic Baptist. When this vein of self-centered permission, surfaces a simple statement should be made: "We are all growing in the Lord, let's start by realizing there will not be a 'Stubborn Swede corner in Heaven." Let them know that this is not an acceptable reason for their action! Create a problem statement that reminds them that this is not about them. Do not veer or debate this position. Just keep repeating something like 'How do we make this about Jesus Christ?' Or 'Remember this is not about you.'
3. Create space immediately. Make the statement, 'I understand where you are. I do not want to negate or tell you what to believe. We each have one vote (or point of view). We will look at this from all angles to find the mind of God.'

The Henny Penny Member

"The sky is falling; the sky is falling." Usually, the Henny Penny Member drops in with fear and panic in full view. Often, they reached the conclusion that things are bad, and destruction is immanent. For Henny Penny, the assurance you offer is ignored. They may feel some comfort that you listened, but they tell everyone, and their brother, how bad things are. Exaggerating their perspective does not work. Often, they have exaggerated to the extreme. If you can push them toward a cliff, their concern is validated. Here are three things you must know as you deal with the Henny Penny member:

1. They have a difficult time protecting confidentiality and they will broadcast their fear, repeating the same thing to everyone they meet. The best approach to dealing with the Henny Penny member is helping them seek out information that supports or refutes their position. But when you introduce anyone new into the issues, that will likely provoke Henny Penny to go back to their initial point. Pray for patience.
2. Henny Penny is a pessimist by nature, but they can be motivated to help. Ask them to take notes, organize materials, create/post information or even become the voice of this issue, but you get assurances that Henny Penny only communicates what you provide them in writing.
3. To adjust the behavior of Henny Penny, ask them to create some boundaries. Limit the time they dedicate to their concerns. Suggest they really fret between 2:00 – 2:30. If their concerns start to increase ask them tell themselves that they will address that at 2:00 tomorrow.

I will discuss the tactics for the rest of the Dirty Dozen in subsequent articles. If one of the Dirty Dozen is knocking on your door right now, and you would just like to talk through it, please feel free to give me a call.

Bill Hendricks
(913) 558-3311



JOIN US AT THE
CAMPFIRE
 COLLEGE WINTER RETREAT
 January 14-16, 2022

Free college retreat at Camp Horizon in Ark City, Kansas
 Sponsored by American Baptist Churches of the Central Region

**American Baptist Women of the Central Region
 MGA Scholarship Students 2022 Spring Semester**

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting” (Psalm 118:1). There is so much to be thankful for this time of year! We’re joyful with sincere thanks to God for this month’s 2021 Christmas/Advent Season, celebrating the birth of the Savior of the world! We’re excited about the 2022 New Year’s celebration of new beginnings and renewed hope and peace in Christ Jesus! We’re also equally delighted to share with you once again our four Mary Gates Atkinson (MGA) Scholarship students as they continue their educational journey into the spring 2022 semester. The MGA Scholarship provides assistance to students who have a passion to serve the Lord in whatever vocation God leads them to pursue. These students must be active members of an American Baptist Church in the Central Region, an approved international student, or an active member from an American Baptist Church National Mission. Similar to when we welcomed our four new students at the beginning of the academic year during fall semester back in August 2021, we welcome them once again as they prepare for a new semester beginning January 2022 and we praise God for their accomplishments thus far! Please continue to pray for them, their families, their Central Region church congregations, community partnerships, and college administration and professors. Brief biographies and updated contact information for our current students are below. Thanks for staying connected and sharing the following information about our scholarship recipients with our Central Region ABW Ministries’ Associations, Region Churches’ Leadership, and Christian Education Ministries:

<p>*Jordan Fritz Telephone: 785-342-0539 Birthday: September 1 School Address: 1601 S Hickory St., Apt. G8, Ottawa, KS 66067 Home Address: 311 Maple St., Gypsum, KS 67448 Email: jordyfritz5@gmail.com Jordan is a member of Gypsum FBC and a Co-Coordinator with ABW-CR Board of Directors GIRLS’ Ministries. She is a senior at Ottawa University majoring in Accounting.</p>	<p>*Laura Deware-Jones Telephone: 816-714-4884 Birthday: August 8 Home Address: 1602 N 7th St., Atchison, KS 66002 Email: ldewarejones473@USuniversity.edu Laura is a member of Atchison FBC. She is a senior online student of the San Diego, CA United States University studying to become a Family Nurse Practitioner.</p>
<p>*Jessamine Greuter Telephone: 785-215-4588 Birthday: April 6 School Address: 1001 S Cedar St., Ottawa, KS 66067 Home Address: 2211 SW 33rd St., Topeka, KS 66611 Email: tacogreuter@gmail.com Jessamine is a member of Topeka West Side Baptist Church. She is a junior at Ottawa University majoring in Secondary Education with an emphasis in English Language Arts.</p>	<p>*Rev. Paul Kyaw Myint Birthday: June 11 Home Address: No. 290/49 Ward Payintnaung Road North Dagon, Yangon 11421 Email: paulkyaw@gmail.com Rev. Paul is a Doctor of Ministry online student at Central Baptist Theological Seminary. He is currently serving with Bethel Harvest Mission and lectures in Believers Church Theological Seminary.</p>

We pray that they will, “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). We unite in prayer for our Christian churches and American Baptist Women’s Ministries, our scholarship students’ spiritual nourishment and well-being, their college life and studies, and all families in need this season. May we share God’s love with our students during Christmas and other special holidays! May we also remember their birthdays with encouraging messages and greeting cards! Believing in the power of prayer, we pray for God-given wisdom, knowledge, and understanding for the students to focus on God’s Word during an upcoming new year of uncertainties in the second semester of their 2021-2022 college journey. Thank you for all your faithful support and celebrate “Jesus is the Reason for the Christmas Season” and throughout the New Year with God’s gifts of blessings to the world!

Linda Callaway
 Scholarship Associate & Student Concerns
 lkjhcall@aol.com 831-224-6245



Meaningful Gift Ideas for Your Older Loved One

Here at Prairie Homestead, we often hear our residents telling families “You don’t need to get me anything for Christmas.” And although we are thankful they have no needs, we do know that giving meaningful gifts bring joy to all.

Because it is often very difficult to know what to buy, we thought we’d share our resident’s top 5 gift suggestions in case you are looking for ideas for your loved one as well.



1. “Time together is what I really cherish.” Plan a lunch date (in or out). Buy tickets to an event you can attend together. Give an IOU coupon book for visits to help with errands or simple projects. Buy family friendly games or brain games for seniors and play together. Can’t be together in person? Schedule a video chat or facetime.

2. “It’s not about things, but family memories that warm my heart.” Digitize home movies, slides, and photos so they won’t be lost over time. Make a personal book with photos and fun memories (several easy options to create your own book online). Put together a Memory box filled with pictures and mementos of significant events and spend time going through those together. Make a “Family Memory” video that can be shared with all family members.

3. “I love the gift that keeps on giving.” Consider a flower subscription or devotion box that will arrive monthly. Pay for monthly bill (newspaper subscription, cable subscription, even phone bill.) Pre-pay for something they enjoy (gift certificate to barber/hairdresser, Coffee Club, Tea of the Month subscription, or even Book of the Month Club.)

4. “I appreciate the gifts that help keep me safe and healthy.” Suggestions might include home safety items that might need replaced (smoke or carbon monoxide detectors). Outlet covers that have nightlights that come on when dark. Gel or foam seat cushions. Stable quad cane to prevent me from falls.

5. “Money is tight for everyone now. I appreciate small items.” Create a basket of health or beauty items (vitamins, soaps and lotions, etc).

Gift cards to favorite restaurant or place they regularly purchase items. Books or magazines that share events, cars, fashion from the 50s, 60s or 70s. Above all, residents and staff of Prairie Homestead Senior Living pray that you and your families keep the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ at the center of all that you do this holiday season.

Blessings and Happy New Year!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CENTRAL REGION?

Churches in Action



High school students helping harvest garlic and sending year end letters at Bethel Neighborhood Center.

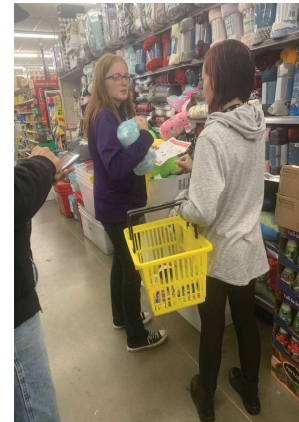


Hanging of the greens at First Baptist Church of Topeka

Pastor Nate Marsh, wife Cosette, and son repping their ugly/ not so ugly Christmas sweaters.



Thanksgiving Fellowship Lunch at First Baptist Church of Lawrence



The youth group at First Baptist Church of Horton spend time shopping for items for Operation Christmas Child.

ABCCR Search and Call Process

Asking Good Questions



Questions are a critical aspect of the Search & Call Process. This is the first in a series that answers the question, 'How do we ask the right questions during the Search Process?'

The Best Question- The one that shines the light of Christ into the Search process.

The Worst Question... The one we did not ask but needed to.

The Useless Question... The one we know the answer to.

The Worthless question... The one that tells us nothing.

The Litigious Question... The one that's illegal.

Since questions are the primary way we gather information in everything we do, this series applies to the broader congregation's need for asking questions as well as how a Search & Call Committee formulates its' questioning approach.

How To Ask A Question

Every question starts with your intent. Far too many questions a Search & Call Committee asks do not have an end purpose. The answers tell us little because our we have set no expectation. This month's article will tackle one question as an example. We'll tackle other questions and look at the process of asking good questions.

Bad Question: What do you wear when you are in the pulpit?

A Better Question: Why do you dress as you do when you preach?

A Good Questions-: Based on what you wear in the pulpit, please explain your approach to worship.

The answer to each question provides significant information based on your intent. For example:

Question	Possible Answers
What do you wear when you are in the pulpit?	It depends. Or, whatever I am comfortable in. Or, the same thing I wear all week.
Why do you dress as you do, when you preach?	I want to be seen as one of the people. Or, I want to project a priestly voice. Or, I'm not comfortable in a coat and tie.
Based on what you wear, please explain your approach to worship.	I don't think what a person wears affects worship. Or, I represent the priestly in worship. My clothes set the tone for worship. Or, I want worship to be authentic, come as you are.

Notice the difference in information with each question?

In seminary, we spent a whole semester reading one book, 'How to Read a Book' by Alfred Adler. At the time it seemed boring and redundant, but by the end of that class, I knew how to read a book! In the articles that follow we are going to learn 'How to ask a Question.'

This month let's look at how a question shines the light of Christ onto our reason for asking questions. When you get simple 'Yes' or 'No' answers, they provide little information about whether the individual is the right person to lead your church.

All people tend to draw conclusions based on what is familiar and comfortable. Possibly, God may want change. When we make each question an approach to see how the candidate answers (or dresses) we may discover new, critical perspectives.



Plain Black Robe



Suit and Tie



Liturgical Vestments



Clerical Collar



Business Casual



Informal

Dr. C. Jeff Woods Elected as General Secretary for 2022- 2023



The Board of General Ministries of American Baptist Churches USA, during its November 5-7 meetings in King of Prussia Pa., reviewed and adopted two documents to further the progress made on the Interim Proposal timeline, which will continue to guide the work of ABCUSA over the next two years. The Board also unanimously voted to elect Dr. C. Jeff Woods to serve in the role of General

Secretary of American Baptist Churches USA from January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2023. Over the past year, Woods, as Interim General Secretary, led a process with input received from the ABCUSA Office of the General Secretary staff leadership team, Regional Executive Ministers, the National Executive Council, and the Board of General Ministries Executive Committee, which resulted in the development of the two documents that were forwarded to the Board for action this fall.

Central Region Life

American Baptist Churches of the Central Region
5833 S. W. 29th St. Ste. A, Topeka, KS 66614-5505

Yes, I wish to subscribe to

NEW RENEWAL GIFT SUBSCRIPTION — \$12.00 per year

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Mission Conference Schedule

Friday evening - January 14, 2022 (ZOOM Only)

7:00 - 7:05 PM - Welcome

7:05 - 7:50 PM - Dr. Ray Schooler.

7:50 - 8:10 PM Question and answer period.

Saturday morning - January 15, 2022 (ZOOM and In-Person)

9:00 - 9:09 AM Welcome

9:10 - 9:40 AM - America for Christ - Dr. Christine Roush

9:44 - 9:45 AM - Introduction of Lisa Rothenberger-Winter

9:45 - 10:15 AM - One Great Hour of Sharing - Lisa Rothenberger-Winter

10:15 - 10:40AM - Schedule Break

10:41 - 11:11 AM - World Mission Offering - Rev. Sharon Koh

11:15 to 11:45 AM - Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering - Rev. John Williams

CENTRAL REGION

ANNUAL
MISSIONS
CONFERENCE

JANUARY 14-15

HAVE YOU HEARD?



TODAY, we're launching the 2022 Missions & Evangelism Annual Conference, and we don't want you to miss out on all the features and tools that can help your church grow.

Regardless of COVID, this conference will be in-person and simulcast.

This is not just about missions. You will receive tools that make missions relevant and practical. The tools you need to grow your church!

We'll see you there!

Central Region
Annual Missions Conference
It's LIVE and It's ONLINE.

JANUARY 14-15
MARK YOUR CALENDAR



MISSION & EVANGELISM ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

January 14-15

Name: _____
Church Name: _____ City: _____
Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

\$25.00/Person

The Mission & Evangelism Committee has \$750 in matching funds. For every dollar the region receives above your \$25 fee, up to \$750, will be matched. The monies received will be divided equally between the four special offerings: America For Christ, One Great Hour of Sharing, World Mission Offering, and Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering. Can you help us reach our goal of \$1500.00?

Check One:				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - I'll Be there!	My Registration Fee	\$25.00	Additional Offering
<input type="checkbox"/>	No - I can't make it.	But I Still Want to Give		
			Total Due	\$

Conference Details

FRIDAY JANUARY 14 - The 2022 Mission & Evangelism Conference kick-off with a mission challenge from Ray Schooler our Zoom Keynote speaker. Mark your calendar- Friday Evening January 14, 2022 Keynote 7:00 pm. When we receive your registration, a link will be sent to you.

SATURDAY JANUARY 15 - COVID Pending, we will have 'Watch Parties' in 8 locations across the Region. Our theme is TOGETHER - when we put our Missions Money, 'Together' we can do better! If we are under COVID restraints and cannot meet, you will receive a link. Please check the location where you will come 'Together' in ABCCR mission learning, and development.

Check One: I will attend the following Watch Party. A light lunch will be provided.

- Garden City FBC
 Great Bend FBC
 Hiawatha FBC
 Humbolt FBC
 KC Victory Hills
 McPherson FBC
 Topeka FBC
 Wichita Faith Renewal

Return this Registration Form to Wilma Engle - wilmaengle10@gmail.com or mail to: Wilma Engle; 6745 Interurban St.; Wichita, KS 67204-1323. Please make checks payable to: **Mid-Winter Missions**

Registrations Due By: January 1, 2022

Host Churches:

- Garden City, FBC
- Great Bend, FBC
- Hiawatha, FBC
- Humboldt, FBC
- KC, Victory Hills
- McPherson, FBC
- Wichita, Faith Renewal
- Topeka, FBC

Speakers:

- Rev. Dr. Ray Schooler
Senior Director of Development
International Ministries
- Rev. Dr. Christine Roush
Associate Director of Discipleship
American Baptist Home Mission Society
- Lisa Rothenberger-Winter
ABCUSA World Relief Office
- Rev. Dr. John Williams
ABCCR Retired Executive Minister
- Rev. Sharon Koh
Executive Director
International Ministries